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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2015

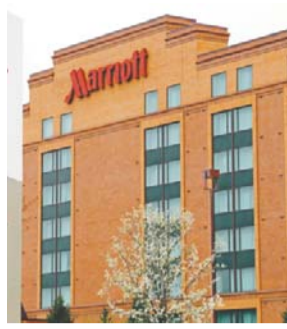
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Govt health insurance for expats to stop in three years?



Marriott buys Starwood Hotels for \$12.2 billion



Veteran Indian-British actor Saeed Jaffrey dies



No pay, less power: Bahrain sheikh's FIFA presidency pitch



150 FILLS  
NO: 16700  
40 PAGES

## CIA CHIEF EXPECTS MORE IS ATTACKS IN 'PIPELINE'

### US STATES SHUN SYRIAN REFUGEES AFTER PARIS CARNAGE



Min 12°  
Max 25°  
High Tide 01:48 & 16:20  
Low Tide 09:27 & 21:27

## HOLLANDE OUTLINES FIGHTBACK AGAINST IS

PARIS: President Francois Hollande unveiled France's riposte to Islamic State yesterday after its atrocities in Paris, vowing tough new anti-terror measures and intensified bombing of Syria in a historic speech to parliament. Describing the coordinated attacks that killed 129 people as "acts of war", Hollande urged a global fightback to crush IS and said he would hold talks with his US and Russian counterparts on a new offensive.

Friday's "acts of war... were decided and planned in Syria, prepared and organised in Belgium (and) perpetrated on our soil with French complicity," Hollande told an extraordinary meeting of both houses of parliament in Versailles. "The need to destroy Daesh (IS) ... concerns the entire international community," he told lawmakers, who burst into an emotional rendition of the La Marseillaise national anthem after his speech - only the second time in more than 150 years a French president has addressed a joint session of parliament.

On the domestic front, Hollande called for an extension of the state of emergency by three months and announced 8,500 new police and judicial jobs to help counter terrorism. France and Belgium staged dozens of raids on suspected extremists as the manhunt continued for an eighth jihadist, including in a known radical hotspot in Brussels where some of the attackers are thought to have lived. With emotions running high, thousands paused in the streets of Paris for a minute's silence to remember those killed at nightspots and at the national stadium in the worst-ever attack on French soil.

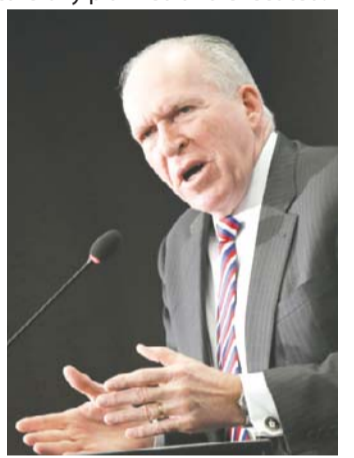
Continued on Page 13



VERSAILLES: French President Francois Hollande and members of parliament sing the French national anthem during an exceptional joint gathering of parliament yesterday. — AFP

WASHINGTON: CIA director John Brennan warned yesterday that the attacks in Paris were likely not a "one off event" and that he expects the Islamic State group has more operations in the pipeline. "Security and intelligence services right now are working feverishly to see what else they can do in terms of uncovering it," he said at a Washington think tank. The CIA chief said Friday night's attacks by gunmen in suicide vests in the heart of the French capital were carefully planned and executed.

"This was not something done in a matter of days. This is something that was carefully and deliberately planned over the course of several months in terms of whether they had the operatives, the weapons, explosives, suicide belts. I would anticipate that this is not the only operation ISIL has in the pipeline," he said, using an alternate acronym for IS, the militant group that has seized large areas of Syria and Iraq.



John Brennan

At least 129 people were killed in the attacks carried out by at least eight gunmen nearly simultaneously at a stadium, a concert hall and restaurants as throngs of Parisians were enjoying a night out. The attacks were the latest in a burst of horrific attacks attributed to IS - following the apparent bombing October 31 of a Russian airliner over the Sinai with 224 people aboard and twin suicide bombings that killed 44 people in Beirut on Thursday.

Continued on Page 13

## News

in brief

### US approves \$1.29bn sale of bombs to Saudi Arabia

WASHINGTON: The US government has approved a request from Saudi Arabia to buy more than 19,000 bombs and smart bombs for its air force, the State Department said yesterday. Congress will have to green light the deal, but the \$1.29 billion sale is likely to go through, with Saudi jets in action against rebel forces in Yemen. The Defense Security Cooperation Agency said the Saudi air force's arsenal is low "due to the high operational tempo in multiple counter-terrorism operations". The order includes 5,200 Paveway II laser-guided bombs in their GBU-10 and GBU-12 variants, along with 1,100 of the more modern, longer range GBU-24 Paveway III. There are 12,000 general purpose bombs weighing between 500 and 2,000 pounds and 1,500 devastating 2,000-pound "bunker busters", the BLU-109 penetrator. These are designed to smash hardened concrete structures. In addition to the bombs themselves, the Saudis will receive thousands of "tail kits" to convert dumb munitions into satellite-guided smart bombs.

### Some Saudi schools close ahead of rains

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia's Civil Defense crews have raised their preparedness levels ahead of expected heavy rains and thunderstorms as some schools suspended classes in some areas along the kingdom's Red Sea coastline. The schools were closed yesterday and today. The US Embassy in Riyadh also warned American citizens that heavy rainfall, high winds and rough seas are expected to last until tomorrow. The statement said dust storms could make for dangerous driving conditions. Areas most likely to be hit by significant rainfall include the western regions of Makkah and Madinah and the northern regions of Tabuk and Jawf. Severe thunderstorms are also expected in southwestern Iraq and eastern Jordan.

### 40 Islamists on trial in UAE linked to Nusra

ABU DHABI: Forty Islamists charged with attempting to overthrow the Emirati regime are linked to Syrian Islamist militants and have smuggled in weapons for attacks, a court heard yesterday. The defendants include 38 Emiratis, the English-language Gulf News daily reported in its online version, without giving other nationalities. The trial of the group known as Al-Manara opened in August at the state security court in Abu Dhabi, but the international press is barred from attending. The group smuggled in weapons, ammunition and detonators "obtained in collaboration with Syria's Al Nusra Front", an Al-Qaeda affiliate, as well as militants in Iran, witnesses told the court, quoted in the daily. They said the suspects planned to overthrow the government, assassinate leaders, attack malls and hotels and to declare an Islamic state in the Gulf country.

## IS TAKES WAR TO FOES AFTER SETBACKS

### TOP COURT AFFIRMS CLOSURE OF WATAN MP ASKS ABOUT SURPLUS FUNDS

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: The cassation court yesterday upheld the rulings of the lower and the appeals courts upholding the government decision to shut down Al-Watan newspaper for failing to fulfill financial requirements. The ministry of commerce and industry revoked the commercial license of the newspaper in January after it lost more than 75 percent of its capital. The action was followed by the information ministry withdrawing the media license of the newspaper after it lost its commercial status.

The lower court supported the government's decision and this was confirmed by the court of appeals. Owners of Al-Watan then challenged the rulings at the cassation court, whose rulings are final. The newspaper is owned by former oil and finance minister Sheikh Ali Al-Khalifa Al-Sabah, a member of the ruling family. Since its closure in January, the daily stopped publishing its print edition and has been

updating its electronic website after substantially reducing its content. Authorities in June also shut down Al-Watan satellite TV, which is part of the same organization, citing similar reasons.

In another development, National Assembly Speaker Marzouk Al-Ghanem said yesterday that the grilling filed by MP Saadoun Hammad against Minister of Public Works and Electricity and Water Ahmad Al-Jassar is constitutional. He said the grilling has been placed on the agenda of the Dec 1 session for a possible debate. Jassar has tendered his resignation to the government, which has not yet made any decision on it, but the minister has been away from office. Ghanem said the government has three options to deal with the issue. It can either accept his resignation and the grilling ends, the minister ends his holiday and comes back, or he can ask for the grilling to be delayed for a certain duration.

Continued on Page 13

BEIRUT: Facing military setbacks in its self-declared caliphate in Syria and Iraq and intensified air strikes from a US-led coalition, Islamic State may have decided in September to take the fight to France and elsewhere. The ultra-hardline group has frequently threatened to strike inside Western countries since it established itself amid Syria's civil war and then spread to northern Iraq last year, but one fighter reached inside Syria said its spokesman Abu Mohammad Al-Adnani had issued an instruction to act abroad.

"He sent a written order to all sectors

and security brigades to start moving, including in Lebanon and Turkey," the Syrian IS fighter said via social media from northern Syria. "Lebanon and France and other places are all part of the operations ordered two months ago." Islamic State has said it was behind Friday's killings of at least 132 people in Paris in revenge for France's air strikes against it as well as twin suicide bombings which killed 43 people on Thursday in a Beirut stronghold of Lebanon's Shiite Hezbollah, which is fighting the group in Syria.

Continued on Page 13



This undated image from the Islamic State's English-language magazine Dabiq shows Belgian national Abdelhamid Abaaoud, who was identified by French authorities yesterday as the presumed mastermind of the terror attacks in Paris. — AFP

## MORE THAN \$1BN IN 'SKIPS' HIT UAE BANKS

DUBAI: Banks in the United Arab Emirates are working together to try to stem the number of small business owners fleeing the country with unpaid debt, a trend that has already reached around 5 billion dirhams (\$1.4 bln) this year, a senior banking official said. Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) have come under pressure in recent months amid a gradual drying up of liquidity in the banking system due to the weak oil price and slowing economic growth.

As a result, some business people have chosen to "skip" the country, leaving behind unpaid debt, a situation that bankers say has grown significantly from last year, although they did not provide precise figures. In a country where under existing legislation, a bounced cheque risks landing the issuer in jail, many

of those absconding fear the consequences if they stay.

"We want to take coordinated action on risk management," UAE Banks Federation chairman Abdul Aziz Al-Ghurair told reporters on the sidelines of a banking conference yesterday. "The idea is to allow the customer to pay for his debt and stay in town if they have a good intention. If they don't have a good intention, then it is no good (the bank) spending time (with them), it doesn't help."

In recent years, the UAE government has been keen to encourage banks to lend to SMEs, which account for around 60 percent of the country's gross domestic product. But third-quarter earnings from some of the smaller lenders pointed to problems in

these loans. UAE central bank governor Mubarak Rashid Al-Mansouri, at the same conference earlier yesterday, said the government was keen to press ahead with a new bankruptcy law to help support SMEs.

Current bankruptcy rules are considered by lawyers to be outdated and largely untested, with few struggling companies using the legislation. The cabinet approved a draft law in July but it still needs the support of the Federal National Council, the country's legislative body, and the president. Mansouri also said the UAE would set up a credit guarantee scheme to help reduce the risk of default for potential lenders. He didn't elaborate on the specific details of the plan. — Reuters

# MICROSOFT, DIYAR UNITED OUTLINE GAME CHANGING TECHNOLOGIES FOR GOV'TS, ENTERPRISES DURING EGOV3

**KUWAIT:** For the third consecutive year, Microsoft was a key participant of the E-Government Forum (EGOV3). Microsoft was Platinum Sponsor of the forum, held from 15th to 17th November 2015 at Arraya Ballroom, Courtyard Marriott hotel, Kuwait.

During EGOV3, the Microsoft team showcased how Microsoft is helping clients plan for, endorse, and benefit from the trends affecting the way business is done and phenomena's like cloud computing, big data and analytics, mobility, and social networking alongside its technology partner Diyar United Company.

Commenting on this participation, Charles Nahas, General Manager, Microsoft Kuwait, said, "Microsoft's commitment to EGOV3 stems from our commitment to Kuwait, and the fact that we see ourselves as business enablers to the government, businesses, and individuals in the nation. EGOV3 is a trigger for many information technology initiatives and programs that will aid the Kuwaiti government's transformation plans into the digital era. At Microsoft, we are proud to participate with our best technical and leadership teams, are excited about our partnership with CAIT to make EGOV3 a success."

He further added: "This is by far one of the most notable IT event in Kuwait. We hope that we can make EGOV3 a knowledge sharing platform where we, as an industry, can exchange ideas and build connections. Our customers are the key drivers of our innovation, and it is our responsibility to showcase technology advances and educate each other on trends and industry directions."



Sanjay Jacob is awarded during the event.

During the Forum, Diyar United Company showcased its cloud computing services including disaster recovery, device management (on mobiles, tablets and PCs), and backup solutions using Microsoft platforms. Diyar also showcased a selection of its self-services kiosks using smart civil ID, which can enable innovative, safe, easy-to-use services for all segments of society. Apart from the showcase, Diyar conducted a session focused on Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) for E-Government Services and its benefits.

### One step ahead

Bashar Atout, CEO, Diyar United Company said: "Along with Microsoft, we at Diyar United Company are very proud



Charles Nahas, General Manager, Microsoft Kuwait

to be a part of this EGOV3 Forum for the third consecutive year. In order to adapt to changes of technologies' fast-paced environment, leaders of technological



Sanjay Jacob, Global Head, Cloud and Enterprise, Worldwide Public Sector at Microsoft

industries and entities must stay a step ahead. The forum is an event we look forward to every year as the value of knowledge gained cannot be taken for granted. Our sponsorship demonstrates our committed support to help develop and progress national information and communication security in Kuwait. We are looking forward to continue our successful partnership with the government of the state of Kuwait through identifying the trends that are evident in the IT industry now."

EGOV3 tracks Information management and Information Security which are the two essential ingredients of e-government programs and any automation practice. Microsoft has a strong legacy of robust technologies, consulting services, and business practices around informa-

tion management and security to help governments and enterprises. Microsoft is proud that Kuwaiti government agencies have endorsed Microsoft technologies for e-government programs being developed by the Central Agency for Information Technology. A number of government departments in Kuwait already use Microsoft Cloud Azure and Office365 platform as their office collaboration and messaging systems. Though this step is aligned with future technology trends, it only came after rigorous due diligence exercise through which the government departments could ascertain the robustness and relevance of Microsoft's cloud offering, and that it negates any IT security uncertainties that have traditionally accompanied cloud implementations.

## '#KUWAIT' CONFERENCE UTILIZES SOCIAL MEDIA TO SERVE SOCIETY

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait's first social networks conference '#Kuwait' will be an excellent opportunity to allow prominent experts in the field of social media to shed light on the growing importance of social media on day-to-day life, Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah said yesterday.

Sheikh Salman told KUNA that the conference will take place on December 6-7 under a sponsorship of his Ministry and a support from the public sector. The conference will be the avenue for discussing the positive utilization of social media and technology to serve the society

The event will include workshops and interactive seminars on electronic media role in dealing with crises, social networks



Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah in marketing, online volunteerism, and extremism, electronic crimes and freedom of speech. — KUNA

## KUWAIT FORGING AHEAD TOWARDS BUILDING INFORMATION SOCIETY: PRIME MINISTER

'KUWAIT WELL-PLACED FOR OPTIMAL PROVISION OF E-SERVICES'

**KUWAIT:** As the modern states are growingly reliant on information technology to provide better and timely services, Kuwait is intensifying efforts to build its information society, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah said.

Building information society paves the way for significant development in different aspects of modern life and helps states secure decent life for their citizenry, so Kuwait is forging ahead with its plans for the development of the information sector, Sheikh Jaber said in a speech read out on his behalf by Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and the Chairman of the Central Agency for Information Technology Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Sabah at the inaugural session of the Third E-government Forum (EGOV3 Forum).

He went on to say that e-government programs are one of the main tools of modern states to upgrade their services. He added that the forum, held under the patronage of His Highness the Prime Minister and themed "Information Management and Security," focuses on the security threats facing the information society due to the growing information systems hacking and piracy problems.

Any breakdown or hacking of the information systems of the security and border crossings or the wiretapping of the phone calls is a major threat to the whole state and should be prevented, he stressed. The forum provides a great chance to put in place and develop Kuwait's e-government programs, he said. He promised that the government would offer support and meet all the requirements to materialize the forum goals. He urged participating agencies to do their best to help make Kuwait's future more secure and prosperous.

### Information society

Meanwhile, the Forum Chairman Abdullateef Al-Suraie said that working to build an information society is one of the main signs of the real development in modern states. Information security is an important element for securing Kuwait society and the state development march, he said, stressing the need of beefing up efforts to counter the piracy and hacking operations. The e-government programs focus on information management and availability of information in the required time which have a great impact on the decision-making process in any institution, he said. He reiterated that information security is important for the state national security as well as economic and social stability. It is of a great importance to address systems loopholes to avoid any hacking and stealing of personal, banking, health information or the state secrets, he said.

Suraie underlined the need for cooperation and coordination among all state agencies to address the growing challenges in this regard.

### World-class services

Mike Weston, CISCO's Vice President and Middle East Regional Director also spoke at the event. He said that Kuwait is well-placed and qualified for achieving the optimal benefit from the internet in providing world-class services to various domains.

Kuwait also is able to take effective initiatives to use the new generation of internet services, he said in a speech. Weston pointed out that the use of smart technology would help the Kuwaiti government cut spending, increase productivity, diversifying income resources and providing distinguished services to citizens. Weston also advised government agencies to develop software applications to provide better, time and cost-effective services.

Meanwhile, EMC Vice President and Gulf and Pakistan Regional General Manager Habib Mahakian said the cloud service and big data are the main pillars of the smart cities across the globe as they boost efficiency and availability of e-government services.

EMC is a global leader in enabling businesses and service providers to transform their operations and deliver information technology as a service (ITaaS). Mahakian noted that the e-government services help create job opportunities, harness the skills of human resources and boosting economic development plans.



Youssef Al-Marzouq, General Manager of NoufEXPO, the event's organizers (center), honors Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah.

General Manager of IBM Middle East and Pakistan Amr Refaat said that the investment in cloud computing, big data analysis, and social networking systems would improve efficiency and creativity of public and private companies. He pointed out that the world is undergoing a programming revolution that necessitates huge efforts to cope with.

### Manpower development

Meanwhile, General Manager of Microsoft Kuwait Charles Nahas stressed that Microsoft is



KUWAIT: Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah delivers a speech on behalf of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah at the inaugural session of the Third E-government Forum. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat and KUNA

committed to cooperation with Kuwaiti government to develop information technology infrastructure and encouraging invention and creativity through the technological solutions it offers. He stated that Microsoft help Kuwait develop the skills of national cadres in charge of information technology sectors.

In the meantime, Regional Vice-President-ME Fortinet Alain Penel said that the information security threats to the government agencies is one of the major challenges facing the government around the world. He underlined the urgency of finding effective solutions to such threats.

Penel cautioned that these threats are no longer accidental, but rather deliberate and smart as many are trying to infiltrate into the stored data for different purposes. Failing to discover such hacking operations at the appropriate time has grave ramifications, he added.

The three-day forum, themed "Information Management and Security," focuses on the security threats facing the information society due to the growing information systems hacking and piracy problems. It lured a large number of information management and security experts and representatives from diverse government agencies to mull range of information management and security technologies and solutions to help governments provide leading-edge, thought-leadership, and a valuable information-sharing opportunity on Big Data, Data Warehousing, business Intelligence.

The conferees will also explore new information management and information security developments that will impact E-Government program development and deployment; means to improve productivity, efficiency and effectiveness with current technologies and best-practice solutions, and the best practices to protect information assets; and present new approaches and solutions for information management and security. — KUNA



KUWAIT: This file photo shows an activity from Kuwait's Fifth Heritage Festival held last year at Sabah Al-Ahmad Heritage Village. — KUNA

## KUWAIT'S SIXTH HERITAGE FESTIVAL KICKS OFF TODAY



Mohammad Dhaifallah Sharar

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait's Sixth Heritage Festival, patronized by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, kicks off today at Sabah Al-Ahmad Heritage Village, with participation of heritage devotees from Kuwait and other Gulf states.

The General Supervisor of the festival, Amiri Diwan Advisor Mohammad Dhaifallah Sharar, in press remarks yesterday, expressed pride of His Highness the Amir's sponsorship for this event, expressing gratitude to His Highness the Amir for the great support and care "to one of the most important rallies of heritage admirers in Kuwait and the Gulf region."

The festival witnesses this year a quantum leap with diverse activities and competitions of beauty and endurance of goats, horses, falcons, besides the marine heritage held at fishermen "diwans", he added.

Vice Director of the Festival's Higher committee and head of the festival's competitions committee, Sheikh Sabah Fahad Sabah Al-Sabah, said the jury of each competition were chosen according to high qualifications of efficiency and integrity. — KUNA



Sheikh Sabah Fahad Sabah Al-Sabah

## VIVA SPONSORS THE 51ST NUKS UK, IRELAND ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**KUWAIT:** VIVA, Kuwait's fastest-growing and most developed telecom operator, announced its sponsorship of the 51st annual national conference of the National Union of Kuwaiti Students (NUKS) - United Kingdom and Ireland branch (UK), under the patronage of Prime Minister, His Highness Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. The event will be held at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, Southbank Centre in London on 20 and 21 November 2015.

VIVA sponsors the national annual conference of the NUKS - UK and Ireland branch, for

the third year in a row. This event gathers young Kuwaitis studying abroad in various British and Irish cities in a fun academic, cultural, and social atmosphere. VIVA endeavors to support and sponsor various events and initiatives that interest students and enrich their experience and knowledge."

Kuwaiti celebrities and public figures will attend the annual conference working in culture, sport and art domains that gathers more than five thousands students in UK and Ireland.



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

## CABINET CONDEMNS PARIS, BEIRUT ATTACKS

KUWAIT: The cabinet yesterday sharply condemned recent attacks in Paris, which left 129 people killed and 352 others wounded. At its weekly meeting chaired by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, the cabinet offered sincere condolences to French President Francois Hollande and the people of France over the victims of the attacks that targeted several sites in Paris, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah said in a press statement following the meeting.

The cabinet denounced such criminal acts that run counter with all heavenly religions and human values, while reiterating Kuwait's support to France's measures to maintain its security and stability. It also condemned recent attacks in Beirut, and supported all measures taken by the Lebanese government to ensure the country's security and stability. It reaffirmed Kuwait's condemnation of all forms and manifestations of terrorism, wishing those injured in the attacks swift recovery.

### Amir's visit

At the onset of the meeting, the ministers welcomed His Highness the Amir's return following his recent official visit to Russia where he had held official talks with President Vladimir Putin. In this context, First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah briefed the ministers on the outcomes of talks which focused on existing economic, investment, oil and military cooperation, the Middle East and anti-terrorism efforts.

The cabinet lauded mutual understanding, friendship and existing good relations between Kuwait and Russia, voicing willingness to raise them up to the level that could fulfill the ambitions of both countries' people.

His Highness the Prime Minister then apprised the cabinet of the outcomes of the fourth Arab-South America summit recently held in Riyadh, noting that bilateral relations have been largely developed over the last 10 years in all realms. He said bilateral economic, cultural, educational and technological cooperation had been discussed during the Riyadh summit. His Highness the Premier thanked Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz for hospitality and the proper and successful organizing of the summit.

### Jaber Stadium

Afterwards, First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah briefed the cabinet on a recent inspection tour made by a ministerial committee he leads, to the Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium in order to check on preparations for the opening of the stadium officially. He hailed the stadium as a sports edifice that fulfills world development specifications and standards, and appreciated the efforts of the Amiri Diwan, Public Authority for Sports and other concerned state bodies in this regard.

The cabinet congratulated Omani Sultan Qaboos bin Said on the occasion of his country's National Day, hailing the distinguished achievements accomplished under his leadership in all fields. — KUNA

## HEALTH MINISTRY CONTINUES TO SEND PATIENTS TO FRANCE DESPITE ATTACKS

KUWAIT: The Health Ministry will continue sending patients to France to receive medical treatment despite the latest Paris attacks, Ministry of Health Undersecretary Dr Khaled Al-Sehawi stressed yesterday. The Ministry of Health has not received any instructions for stopping sending patients to France, Sehawi told the press, after attending a parliamentary committee for social and health affairs, noting that there are still patients receiving treatment in France at the moment.

On the spread of swine flu at schools, Sehawi clarified that according to World Health Organization (WHO) swine flu is merely a seasonal flu. He added that it is normal that flu swiftly spreads among students, reassuring that there is nothing to fear. The committee meeting also discussed health insurance for retirees, pointing out that there are two insurance companies that will take over this file and it will be completed within the next few months. — KUNA

## PARLIAMENT SPEAKER RENEWS CONDEMNATION OF PARIS ATTACKS

KUWAIT/ABU DHABI: National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem yesterday reiterated his strong condemnation of the terrorist attacks that targeted Paris on Friday. He said that His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah was one of the first world leaders to condemn the terrorist attacks.

Ghanem added in a press statement at the Assembly that he was among the world's first parliament speakers who condemned the attacks, disapproved by all faiths, not only as a National Assembly Speaker, but also as a President of the Arab Inter-parliamentary Union (AIU). The speaker pointed out that it is 'unfair and unacceptable' to link terrorism to the religion of Islam.

Most leaders are certain that the Paris attacks had nothing to do with Islam and that Muslims, especially in France, will bear the brunt, the speaker said, noting that "Zionist media" is promoting lies and allegations throwing responsibility of the terrorist

attacks on Islam and Muslims. Islam decries such acts, he said, stressing the necessity of further global cooperation to counter terrorism. Failure to combat terrorism in the region will lead to explosions that will be felt in world capitals, Ghanem said. Terrorism is a cross-border industry and nowhere around the globe is safe from it. A series of concurrent attacks hit the French capital late on Friday killing 129 people and wounding 352 others.

### UAE visit

Later yesterday, Ghanem met with Abu Dhabi Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan in Abu Dhabi yesterday. During the meeting, they discussed several regional issues of mutual interest and Kuwait-UAE relations, the assembly's secretariat said in a statement. Ghanem arrived in the UAE earlier in the day for a short visit. — KUNA



ABU DHABI: National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem meets with Abu Dhabi Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. — KUNA

# PARIS ATTACKS PROVE 'ALL OF US ARE TARGETS FOR TERRORISTS' - JARALLAH

'VIENNA TALKS REACHED SOME SORT OF AGREEMENT OVER SYRIA'S FUTURE'

KUWAIT: Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah said that the series of terror attacks that rocked the French capital Friday have proved that terrorism is a global phenomenon and innocent people anywhere are targets for terrorists.

"Paris terror attacks vindicated our conviction that all of us are targeted and that terrorism is a global phenomenon," Jarallah said in a statement to reporters on the sidelines of his participation in the Palestinian Embassy's celebration of Palestine's 27th Declaration of Independence.

"The world is in an open war with terrorism and that war will not stop till defeating it," he said, pointing out that Kuwait has expressed its heartfelt sympathy over the tragedy and solidarity with the friendly country France.

"Such attacks will only increase French people's resolute and determination on combating terrorism," Jarallah said. He recalled that His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud have underlined the need to intensify international efforts to eradicate terrorism in their cables to the French President Francois Hollande following the attacks.

### Vienna talks

Meanwhile, Jarallah said that Vienna-hosted talks on Syria have reached some kind of compromise over the future of Syria. "What was leaked about the outcome of the talks indicates that there was some sort of joint vision among participants on the future and solutions of the Syrian crisis," Jarallah told reporters. He, however, said that resolving the conflict requires more consultations to persuade various parties of any compromise. He pointed out other meetings would be held to build up on the achievements of the two previous ones.

On His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's recent visit to Russia, Jarallah said that it was "historic and an important step in the Kuwait-Russian relations." "The Russian side was 'eager to listen to the view and vision of His Highness the Amir regarding the developments in the region, and they indeed lis-



KUWAIT: Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah (right), Palestinian Ambassador to Kuwait Rami Tahboub (center) and the ambassador's wife Rima Al-Khaledi attend the Palestinian Embassy's celebration of Palestine's 27th Declaration of Independence. — Photos by Fouad Al-Shaikh

tened very carefully to this view," he said, adding that "the Kuwaiti side also listened to the vision of the Russian side which was headed by President Vladimir Putin."

Jarallah said Kuwait and Russia shared the view that the Syrian conflict should be resolved peacefully. He said last week's visit to the Russian resort city of Sochi was "constructive and fruitful," resulting in the signing of cooperation agreements in diplomatic, military, oil, cultural, investment and transport domains. The visit was an opportunity to exchange views over the threat of terrorism, said Jarallah.

### Palestinian cause

During the event, Jarallah reaffirmed Kuwait's firm support to the fair cause of Palestine, and the legitimate struggle of Palestinians for self-determination and statehood. "Kuwait always stands by the Palestinian peo-

ple in their political struggle, supported the Palestinian revolution and contributes to the efforts being made to revive the Middle East peace process and reach a fair, permanent and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian cause," he said.

"The leaders of the Palestinian revolution started their drive from Kuwait and continued their legitimate struggle for liberation over the last decades," he pointed out. He added that preparations are underway for holding the session of the Kuwaiti-Palestinian joint commission which will discuss a host of political issues, including the Arab lobbying for Palestinian statehood. The Palestinian Declaration of Independence was proclaimed by late president Yasser Arafat during the 19th Palestinian National Council - the legislative body of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), on November 15, 1988. — KUNA

## BIG SPORTS EVENT TO BE HELD AT JABER STADIUM BY YEAR'S END: CABINET MINISTER SHEIKH SABAH AL-KHALED COMMENDS STADIUM



KUWAIT First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah (fourth from right) and senior government officials are pictured during a tour at Jaber Stadium Sunday night.



Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah drives a golf cart carrying senior government officials during a tour at Jaber Stadium Sunday night. — Photo by Fouad Al-Shaikh

KUWAIT: Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah said yesterday that a big sports event would be held at Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium by year-end at the behest of His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Crown Prince.

Speaking to KUNA on the sidelines of yesterday's cabinet meeting, the minister said: "We are planning to hold a sports event at Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium by year-end."

A ministerial committee, chaired by First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah inspected on Sunday the international stadium, which fulfills high specifications and technology and is supplied with sophisticated equipment, facilities and safety and security systems.

The committee said a grand ceremony would be organized for the opening of the Kuwaiti stadium. The committee comprises Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, Director-General of the Public Authority for Sports Sheikh Ahmad Mansour Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and senior authority officials.

### Latest technology

On Sunday, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled said Jaber International Stadium was built in line with international standards and was equipped with latest technology. Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, who chaired a ministerial committee inspecting the stadium, told reporters that he was happy with what he has seen in the venue, which was equipped with modern safety and security systems. He thanked the Amiri Diwan, Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Al-Sabah and the Public Authority for Sports (PAS) for contributing to the Jaber stadium.

Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah said meanwhile that the political leadership was keen on supporting the sport sector through the development of sport facilities. He thanked all authorities for their efforts to make Jaber stadium, named after late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, ready to host sport events.

Sheikh Salman said that Kuwaitis "can be proud that the stadium was among the best in the Middle East technically wise." He said the stadium encountered some technical and administrative problems "but this chapter is over now." Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Sabah said "once the international ban on Kuwait sport is lifted, we will

seek to host international teams to play in this stadium."

### 9 out of 10

PAS Director General Sheikh Ahmad Mansour Al-Sabah expressed gratitude for His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Crown Prince and His Highness the Prime Minister for their relentless support for sport and sport projects. He said a delegation from the world's football governing body (FIFA) rated the Jaber stadium nine out of 10. PAS Deputy Director General Dr Hmoud Fulaiteh said the authority's sport facilities sector completed the maintenance of the Jaber stadium which has thus become ready to host games. Jaber International Stadium, 12 kilometers southwest of Kuwait City, is built over 400,000 square meters and can house 60,000 fans. The stadium, which looks like a sail ship from the outside, is equipped with LED screens and spider cams, and is the only stadium in the Middle East with a Goal Control technology.

Fans will be able to select their seats when they buy the tickets, and the stadium is equipped with screening machines for bags, monitoring cameras of parking lots and seating areas, as well as special rooms for firemen, policeman and paramedics. The stadium has 300 seats for the disabled, rooms for the press and news conferences. — KUNA

## PARLIAMENT SPEAKER EULOGIZES FORMER CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY MP

KUWAIT: National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem expressed yesterday deep sorrow and grief over the death of the iconic parliamentary personality Yousef Khaled Al-Mekhled Al-Mutairi, the former member of the Constituent Assembly-the first legislative body to be formed in the country.

The deceased was one of prominent Kuwaiti figures who loved their country and served it sincerely, Ghanem said in a statement, emphasizing Mekhled's unforgettable services for Kuwait. History will always remember Mekhled's persistent efforts between 1962 and 1963. When the National Assembly (the Parliament) was established replacing the council, Mekhled served as member in the 1963-1967, 1967-1970, 1971-1975, 1975-1976 and 1985-1986 legislative terms. — KUNA



The late Yousef Khaled Al-Mekhled Al-Mutairi

tors, passed away yesterday. The deceased was an iconic parliamentary personality who had worked with fellow activists, many years ago, for laying the country's basis of democracy and 'constitutional life.'

One of his major initial political activities was his participation in the formation of the "constituent council," following Kuwait's Independence. He had served in up to five legislative assemblies. Mekhled, born in Sharq in 1923, was a member of the first legislative body, the "constituent council" between 1962 and 1963. When the National Assembly (the Parliament) was established replacing the council, Mekhled served as member in the 1963-1967, 1967-1970, 1971-1975, 1975-1976 and 1985-1986 legislative terms. — KUNA

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# MANPOWER AUTHORITY, INTERIOR MINISTRY DISCUSS LABOR MARKET

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** Acting director of the Manpower Public Authority Ahmed Al-Mousa said that he had recently met Interior Ministry's Assistant Undersecretary for Passports and Residency Affairs Major General Sheikh Mazen Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah, adding that they both agreed on a number of suggestions to organize the labor market. Mousa explained that the suggestions included allocating police detective offices at some labor departments with the aim of having more control over visa issuance and detecting any violations. He added that the suggestions also included following up on suspended companies to set special mechanisms to deal with the workers registered with them, in addition to absconders.

In another development, informed sources said that on instructions from Minister of Social Affairs and Labor, Minister Hind Al-Subaih, Kuwait Municipality's Acting Director Ahmad Al-Manfouhi visited the Hawally labor department to handle the problem of lack of staff, by transferring some employees from other over-staffed departments.

### Court order

The criminal court yesterday acquitted former MP Mubarak Al-Duwailah in a state security case and charges of slandering Egypt. The court also decided abstaining from punishing Nasser Al-Duwailah and Dr Tareq Suwaidan over the same charges. Meanwhile, lawyer Mutlaq Al-Jed'ee recently filed a case against journalist Bader Al-Musa'eed, accusing him of slander.

### Camping sites

Kuwait Municipality's Acting Director Ahmad Al-Manfouhi said that four new camping locations would be open for camping after coordinating with relevant authorities to make sure they were not close to any oil, military or power facilities. Notably, the municipality had stressed that camping was open for both citizens and expats according to regulations.

### Municipal Council

The Municipal Council once more reduced the number of its committees' members from nine to seven in order to achieve the quorum needed for each committee to convene, especially in view of the withdrawal of some members.

## CITIZENSHIP WITHDRAWAL COULD HAPPEN TO ANYONE: BARGASH

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** Protesters held a sit-in at the diwaniya of former MP Abdullah Al-Barghash on Sunday night to express solidarity with him and protest the withdrawal of Kuwaiti citizenship from him and his family members. The sit-in was attended by a number of former MPs who stressed that withdrawing Barghash's citizenship was unlawful. "Somebody claimed that our citizenships were fake... I am ready to be executed or go to jail, but my family has nothing to do with it," said Barghash, noting that what happened was the result of a dispute and that this means that any citizen could lose his citizenship because of disputes. The appeals court last week overturned a lower court verdict ordering the government to reinstate Barghash's citizenship and ruled that it was not competent under the law to handle sovereign issues. The government revoked the citizenship of the former Islamist lawmaker along with 56 members of his family.

### Investing in co-ops

The Fatwa and Legislation Department approved a request by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor to allow private sector companies to invest in some co-op stores. Informed sources said that once the needed procedures are completed, the new project would be experimentally put into practice at Jleeb and Dasma co-ops that were already having financial problems and are indebted by millions.

### Jabri in Yemen

Speaker of the Arab Parliament MP Mohammed Al-Jabri visited the Arab coalition troop headquarters in Aden in Yemen after it was liberated from the Houthis. "We are here today to express full support to the 'Restoring Hope' operation led by Saudi Arabia to help subject all Yemeni territories to Yemeni sovereignty," he said, expressing strong belief that Yemen would come out this dilemma victorious.



**KUWAIT:** The picture shows a fourth-storey apartment heavily damaged following an explosion yesterday.



**Firefighters tackle a blaze reported in Jabriya yesterday.**

## EXPLOSION FORCES TENANTS OUT OF SALMIYA BUILDING TWO PEOPLE INJURED IN FIRE

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** Two people sustained burns and bruises after an explosion shattered their apartment in Salmiya. Their conditions were later described as stable. A preliminary investigation indicated that a gas leak caused the explosion. The tenants had reportedly switched the lights on, which provided the spark that set apartment on fire, according to investigations. The building was evacuated before firefighters managed to extinguish the flames. A team of specialists later arrived to the scene and determined that the building needs to

remain evacuated for at least a month for safety reasons, saying that the explosion may have damaged its foundations. Based on that, all tenants were told to stay away from the building until further notice. In a separate incident, Hawally and Salmiya fire centers responded to a call about a fire in a Jabriya apartment. The fire was put out quickly and no injuries were reported.

### Vice crimes

Electronic crimes' combating police arrested an Iraqi man for uploading video clips on YouTube that include insults and urging the commitment of vice crimes.



## CORRECTION

**KUWAIT:** The picture above was published in Kuwait Times' November 16th issue under 'Photo of the day,' and the caption mistakenly referred to Jamal Abdul Nasser Road shown in the picture as 'Jahra Road.' We apologize for the error.

## KUWAIT RED CRESCENT CONTINUES DELIVERING AID TO SYRIAN REFUGEES

**BEIRUT:** Kuwait Red Crescent Society has continued delivering relief aid to Syrian refugees settled in the country. Ahmad Al-Fegaan, an envoy of the society, told Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) yesterday that 250 food rations and 250 cartons filled with detergents have been distributed to Syrian families in the town Hasbaya, located in southeastern Lebanon.

The society has provided the refugees with various kinds of assistance including, dialysis for kidney patients. The number of Syrian refugees in Lebanon has reached more than 1 million-most of them in northern Lebanon. There are no official Syrian refugees in Kuwait, which has decided not to open its borders to accept them.



**RIYADH:** KRCS' Deputy Chairman Anwar Al-Hasawi attends a workshop on determining relief needs for Yemen, organized by the GCC General Secretariat. —KUNA

## KUWAIT KEEN ON SUPPORTING GULF RELIEF EFFORTS IN YEMEN: KRCS

**RIYADH:** The State of Kuwait is so keen on supporting the efforts exerted by relief organizations and Red Crescent societies in GCC States in providing humanitarian and relief aid in Yemen, the Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) affirmed yesterday. "The aid reflects the keenness of His Highness the Amir and the Kuwaiti government and people on backing the Yemeni people," KRCS' Deputy Chairman Anwar Al-Hasawi stated to KUNA.

Hasawi made his remark after the conclusion of a workshop on determining relief needs for Yemen, which was organized by the GCC General Secretariat with participation of various Gulf relief and Red Crescent bodies. He also commended the efforts exerted by Deputy Premier and Defense Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah in organizing and sponsoring relief trips to Yemen.

Kuwait has provided a number of donations and relief projects to Yemen under the supervision of the Kuwait Relief Society, including food baskets, medical relief, and water, in addition to urgent aid in facing Chapala hurricane. —KUNA



**ABU DHABI:** Kuwait's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah meets Kuwaitis studying in different universities in the UAE. —KUNA

## INTERIOR MINISTER MEETS KUWAITI STUDENTS IN UAE

**ABU DHABI:** Kuwait's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah met with Kuwaitis studying in different universities in the UAE. During the meeting late Sunday, Sheikh Mohammad conveyed the greetings of His Highness

the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah to the Kuwaiti students.

Sheikh Mohammad called on the

students to exert huge efforts to achieve success in their studies, adding that students in military schools have a higher responsibility in representing Kuwait in the best ways possible. Moreover, the minister also discussed the difficulties facing students and

means of resolving them.

Sheikh Mohammad is visiting the UAE to participate in the second international summit on protecting children against cyber abuse held on Monday and Tuesday with the participation of representatives of about 50 countries. —KUNA



**KUWAIT:** The attendees at the 6th Islamic and Financial Institutions Conference are pictured in a group photo. —KUNA

## 6TH ISLAMIC FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS CONFERENCE UNDERWAY

**KUWAIT:** The 6th Islamic and Financial Institutions Conference kicked off here on Monday, seeking to restore the leading role of Islamic economy, President of the event Dr Ojail Al-Nashmi told the opening session. The conference will also try hard to counter the challenges facing the application of Islamic financial tools as a "top priority," he added.

According to Nashmi, Islamic economy has transcended the introduction and the social entry stages, as well as that of rivalry with traditional banks to attract accounts. It has reached an area of coexistence and competition.

He referred to several leading world economists who consider the crisis of the global economy, led by wild liberalism, puts it on the "brink of a volcano." Thus, the economy is likely to collapse under the brunt of a doubling crisis, namely debts and unemployment.

The two-day conference is co-hosted by Shura Sharia Consultancy Company and the Islamic Development Bank, under patronage and attendance of Governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait Dr Mohammad Al-Hashel. The event is attended by a multitude of sharia scientists and experts of

Islamic financing. Addressing the conference, Hashel reiterated the CBK's keenness on playing its control and supervisory role objectively and professionally, in line with the world's best practices. Hashel referred to the comprehensive manual for Islamic banks the CBK had issued, comprising detailed policies, criteria and disciplines that embody the application of advanced control methods. He said that estimates suggest that the global market for Islamic financial services, as measured by sharia compliant assets, has exceeded \$2 trillion by the end of 2014, compared to \$1.8

trillion a year earlier, marking a rise of 16.6 percent. Total value of Islamic banking assets hit a growth rate of 17.9 percent over the period 2009-2013, reflecting a rising strength of Islamic finance worldwide, he said. He also underlined the prior importance of sharia control and monitoring for promoting the business and activities of the Islamic financial and banking institutions so that they could achieve their goals and deliver their message. The CBK Governor emphasized the fact that Kuwait guarantees independence of the sharia control and monitoring bodies, by law. —KUNA

## 'SECURITY PERSONNEL CAPABLE OF MAINTAINING SECURITY NATIONWIDE'

**KUWAIT:** Interior Undersecretary Lieutenant General Sulaiman Al-Fahad said Sunday security personnel were capable of maintaining security and stability nationwide, and were vigilant vis-a-vis any threat. Fahad, in a meeting with senior Ministry officers, urged importance of cooperation among different sectors within the ministry, as well as providing full services for the citizens and expatriates, a ministry statement said. He said the public should be encouraged to interact more with the security institution and to feel free to report anything to the operations room. —KUNA

# GOVERNMENT HEALTH INSURANCE FOR EXPATS TO STOP IN THREE YEARS?

## INSURANCE HOSPITALS, PRIVATE SECTOR TO COVER FOREIGNERS' TREATMENT

By Ahmad Jabr

**KUWAIT:** Nearly 3 million expatriates may face difficult healthcare challenges in three years' time under a proposed government plan to close access to public health services. Government officials recently suggested that a timetable has been established for the creation of expat-only hospitals accessible by higher-cost private health insurance. The shift would create a cascade of consequences for expatriates and citizens in Kuwait as well as the local public and private health sector.

### Plans on paper

The Health Ministry is already making plans for a possible eventual ban on expats using public health facilities. "There are two categories of expatriates in Kuwait," said Dr Khaled Al-Selehi, the ministry's undersecretary who was quoted in a local Arabic daily yesterday. "The first includes nearly 2 million foreigners working in the private sector. If the current health insurance is canceled, they will be treated at the health insurance hospitals that will be built within three years." Already there are plans in the works to establish expat-only hospitals. In 2014, the government established a shareholding company to build three 700-bed hospitals and 15 polyclinics to provide integrated medical services to foreigners in Kuwait. The company was estab-

lished according to the public-private-partnership (PPP) model with a KD 230 million capital. The government owns 24 percent of the company's shares, while 26 percent are owned by strategic investor, Arabi Holding Group. The remaining 50 percent will be offered in an initial public offering. A second class of foreigners, those who work in the public sector as well as domestic servants, will possibly fall under an alternative health plan. This group, approximately 1 million foreigners in Kuwait fall into this category, would be treated in private medical facilities. The exact mechanism for providing them health insurance coverage, however, is unclear. Last week's news also raised questions regarding the capability of the private health sector in Kuwait to absorb the large number of expatriates expected to be shifted there once health insurance is canceled. Selehi reassured that the private medical sector is 'well prepared' for that task.

### Timetable

The three-year timetable that Selehi mentioned seems to give an indication of when the government might seriously consider closing access to the public health services to expatriates. When the new hospitals are established, expatriates' annual health insurance fee is expected to triple to not less than KD 150 compared to the current KD 50. Furthermore, the current plan indicates that foreigners will have to purchase the health insurance policy from the same company in

order to have access to medical services at the three hospitals, unless plans change. Whether buying this specific policy would be mandatory or expatriates would be given the choice to purchase policies from other insurance companies is not yet known.

The recent developments come as the cabinet has reportedly assigned the finance ministry, oil ministry, commerce ministry, General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development, Fatwa and Legislation Department and the privatization bureau to study a recommendation made by the Supreme Council for Planning and Development (SCPD) to cancel subsidization of health services for expatriates.

The recommendation came in a recent study for the SCPD on ways to reduce the government budget in light of the drop in oil international prices. The report has described expats' health insurance as 'harmful subsidies' to the state budget, and suggested imitating an example followed in the 1990s when the Kuwaiti government scrapped free education for expatriates, thus banning foreigners from studying at public schools and forcing them to enroll in private schools.

The action led to a boom in the private sector and the skyrocketing of private school tuition fees. The consequence of this, however, impacted both locals and expats as many citizens also send their children to Kuwait's private schools.

## JUSTICE MINISTER AFFIRMS APPROACH TO CUT PAPERWORK

**KUWAIT:** Minister of Justice and Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Yaqoub Al-Sane has affirmed his quest to minimize time wasting paper work, on basis of relevant legislations and executive resolutions. The laws regulating judicial disclosures, along



**KUWAIT:** Minister of Justice and Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Yaqoub Al-Sane speaks at the event. —KUNA

with signing the regulating rules for electronic announcements as well as other legislations related to the disclosures, would be made in the coming days, Minister Sane said on the sidelines of a ceremony to inaugurate the litigation center of the Ministry of Justice at headquarters of Kuwait Society of Lawyers, late on Sunday. He affirmed that the judicial disclosures, in the conventional methods, have been time consuming. The newly-erected litigation center will provide services to all litigators through their representatives at the courts, namely lawyers. "Slow justice is one of the worst injustices," he said, affirming the approach to use all possible and available electronic means in the sector, following enactment of the necessary legislations. Litigators and lawyers, with the new improvements, can now use SMSs for inquiries and applications. —KUNA

## FOUR ARABS, FOUR KUWAITIS WIN KUWAIT, SCIENTIFIC PRODUCTION PRIZES 2015: KFAS

**KUWAIT:** Four Arab researchers and four Kuwaiti ones have been awarded the 2015 Kuwait Prize and Scientific Production Prize, the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) announced yesterday.

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah has endorsed recommendations of KFAS board of directors on winners of the two prizes 2015, KFAS Director General Dr Adnan Shehab-Eddine told KUNA.

Four Arab researchers were awarded the Kuwait Prize this year; Syrian Huda Fakher Akel, Syrian, Basic Sciences; Egyptian Hesham Mohammad Al-Tuni, Applied Sciences (water); Palestinian Sari Abdulrahman Hanafi, Economics and Social Sciences, and Mona Al-Said Baker, Art and Literature, Shehab-Eddine said.

Four Kuwaiti researchers were offered the Scientific Production Prize 2015; Abdulazem Mohammad Marafi, Engineering Sciences; Dina Musa'ed Al-Maim, Biological Sciences; Fahd Rashed Al-Mullah, Medical Sciences and Osman Humoud Al-Khedr in Social Sciences and Humanities.

The Kuwait Prize was established in 1979, in line with KFAS goals to support scientific researches in various fields, and to encourage Arab scholars and researchers. KFAS are dedicated prizes in five fields; four are

announced annually - Basic Sciences, Applied Sciences, Economics and Social Sciences, Art and literature- while the fifth field, Arabic and Islamic Scientific Heritage, is announced every three years. The topics of



Dr Adnan Shehab-Eddine

the fields are subject to change annually.

As for the Scientific Production Prize, it was established in 1988 in response to an initiative by His Highness the Amir to honor distinguished Kuwaitis holding a doctorate degree in various fields of knowledge. It is

intended to encourage the elite of the Kuwaiti scientific community to further pursue research for the benefit of the society.

KFAS offers the Prize in each of the following six areas in accordance with the require-

ments approved by its Board of Directors: Physical Sciences and Mathematics, Engineering Sciences, Biological Sciences, Medical Sciences, Social Sciences and Humanities, and Administration and Economics. —KUNA

## REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON PRIMARY, FAMILY HEALTH OPENS IN YARMOUK

**KUWAIT:** In collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), Abdullah Yusuf Al-Abdullah Health Center is organizing a training workshop for leading officials of the family medicine and primary health centers in the Middle East.

Addressing the opening ceremony at the center - based in Al-Yarmouk Area - on Sunday, Assistant Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health Dr Mohammad Al-Khashti voiced joy for the WHO selection of the center as a model provider of primary healthcare service in the region. He said the Ministry of Health is looking forward to organizing similar workshops at other primary health centers in the future.

Meanwhile, Director of the center Dr Huda Al-Duwaisan the hosting of this regional event materializes the care of the political leadership of Kuwait to healthcare as backbone of human development. "Kuwait has always been a main contributor to sustainable development at the regional and international levels," she said.

Dr Duwaisan noted that the workshop will see the launching of a new program of cooperation between WHO and Al-Abdullah Health Center geared to organize training courses for leading officials of the family healthcare and primary health

centers in the Middle East.

"The new program will open new horizons for cooperation with WHO meant to realize the common goals, give quantum leap to primary health services in the Arab countries, ensure high quality of healthcare and build the capacity of medical personnel," she revealed.

Meanwhile, Director of the Primary Health Dept. of the Ministry Dr Rehab Al-Watyan said the workshop followed the endorsement of the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda by the world leaders at the UN in last September.

"The agenda set forth 17 goals for global sustainable development until 2030 among which 16 goals focus on health," she said, noting that the Kuwaiti Ministry of Health played a clear role in identifying the third target relating to quality health and welfare for all.

Dr Watyan urged developing a new vision for primary and family healthcare for 2015-30 in keeping with the UN Development Goals with emphasis on the improvement of maternal health and child health, and the sixth goals which is to combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases. —KUNA

## CEF, ARAB FUND TO HOST SEMINAR WITH NYT'S THOMAS FRIEDMAN

By Ben Garcia

**KUWAIT:** Thomas Friedman, Pulitzer Prize winning author and columnist at the New York Times, will visit Kuwait tomorrow to attend an economic symposium. This was announced by Oussama Kanaan, Director of the IMF Middle East Center for Economics and Finance (CEF), at an event held at the CEF headquarters at Symphony Mall yesterday. Kanaan said this year's symposium, titled 'The World is Fast: How to Understand it and Thrive in it', will tackle economic and social implications of economic reforms in Arab countries.

The symposium, which is the second part of a new series organized by the CEF, will be jointly presented by the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development. Friedman was invited since he is the most prominent economic writer in the world today and his opin-

ions matter in many countries. He has been tasked to discuss issues related to economic challenges in the world today.



**KUWAIT:** Oussama Kanaan, Director of the IMF Middle East Center for Economics and Finance (CEF), speaks at the event yesterday. —Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyatt

"With Friedman, we want to encourage a debate on many economic issues at hand. We want to have somebody here with us to discuss issues which will benefit us and share with the people in the region," Kanaan said. Discussing the role of CEF, Kanaan noted the institution has been providing education and training in economics and finance to officials from all Arab countries since 2011.

"We don't make any recommendations, but what we want is to get something from our speakers and ignite a debate that will enrich ideas. We do not go to governments in the Arab world and tell them that this is best for their countries - CEF is more into research," Kanaan explained. The CEF curriculum continues to provide great benefits with courses in areas to which Arab policymakers are according greater attention, such as health and education.

## BAYT ABDULLAH CHIEF: AWARD FRUIT OF EFFORTS OVER 25 YEARS

**DUBAI:** Head of Kuwait Association for Children in Hospital (KACCH) at Bayt Abdullah Dr Hilal Al-Sayer said Sunday winning the 'award of excellence' in health and children was fruit of efforts, and persistence, exerted over 25 years.

In a news conference held for the winners of the 'Takreem Arab Achievement Awards' distributed in a ceremony held late Saturday attended by UAE's Minister of Culture, Youth, and Social Development Sheikh Nahyan Al-Nahyan, Sayer said Margret Al-Sayer, his wife and the association's director, contributed greatly to establishing Bayt Abdullah and winning the award of excellence. Sayer, who is also Board Chairman of the Kuwait Red Crescent Society,

added that Bayt Abdullah started its work with one room in a hospital and evolved until it has become a matchless institution in the Middle East. He earlier added that His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah provided a plot of land on which the house (or bayt in Arabic) was built and inaugurated under his patronage in 2012.

Bayt Abdullah is specialized in alleviating suffering of children patients and providing them with medical care in their last days. Bayt Abdullah consists of wards to help mothers stay with their sick children, and offers 24 hour medical care including in-home services. —KUNA

## OIL REVENUE MANAGEMENT CHALLENGE FACING KUWAIT'S ECONOMY: EXPERT

**KUWAIT:** The main challenge facing the Kuwaiti economy lies in "how to manage oil revenues and prepare for the post-oil era," an international economic expert said in remarks published on Monday.

The budget deficit for the current and next years is not a real problem, but the real challenge is in the post-oil period that "we must prepare for with a clear vision," Shanta Devarajan, Chief Economist of the World Bank's Middle East and North Africa Region, told the Kuwaiti Arabic-language daily newspaper Al-Qabas, which published his remarks in its yesterday's edition.

Kuwait's economy needs further reforms in the infrastructure, as the local market is dominated by monopoly, he said, and stressed the need for "opening wider prospects in the market, leading to diversity in different sectors."

The business environment in Kuwait is relatively limited where the "solution is similar to what some of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries are doing to open the doors for competition and give small and medium companies the opportunity to grow," Devarajan said.

Kuwait's economy needs to re-direct the national labor where 90 percent of the jobs are concentrated in the government apparatuses, "which is not correct," he said, noting that Kuwait has to create a competitive economy for the involvement in the private sector rather than the public.

He also called for matching graduates' specialties with the national economy requirements, adding that "Kuwait spends more on education but should look at the efficiency of the output for enhancement of the economy with skilled employees."

The banking sector needs more real competition with allowing foreign banks to open several branches instead of one branch, which will reduce competition in the market, he said, calling to facilitate the procedures for obtaining adequate funding for small and medium projects. —KUNA

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Al-Qabas

## GOD BLESS KUWAIT

By Ahmad Shamseddien

I went to Marina Mall in Salmiya on Friday. This beautiful commercial complex faces, rather cradles our magnificent blue sea and the fantastic panoramic scene on which the marina sits on, where there are restaurants and ships and seagulls fly amidst the clear skies, screeching with a beautiful sound whenever they touch the seawater with grace and beauty that add to the images of pleasure and happiness that are apparent on the faces of many patrons who fill the place and restaurants that stretch all over the place.

It was 4:30 in the afternoon, when I took a place, like others, next to the fence that separates the beautiful lake, so I was happy for the amount of smiles on all faces (citizens and expats) during those wonderful moments while the sun was about to set, and telling us goodbye with the hope of another meeting in the country of love, security and peace.

Such locations like Marina Mall, and the fantastic panorama attached to it, the wonderful sea view and towers, must be used as touristic and entertainment areas, as much as they are commercial, frequented by the lovers of shopping and spending great hours with their families who inhale the clean breeze that is free of impurities and smell of killer smoke.

We, at the beautiful juncture, propose to Minister of Information and State Minister for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud, who is concerned with tourism issues in the country, to include the Marina lake and the area facing the sea as a touristic destination, so small steamships get active and make family sea tours for those wishing to spend a few minutes or hours in the sea, going out of the Marina Mall to Kuwait Towers, for example, or even to Kuwaiti islands here and there. We also propose that his excellency create a touristic program in the same locations to seek opinions and views, through meeting Marina Mall patrons, especially in such a beautiful atmosphere.

We also propose to Sheikh Abu Sabah, with the agreement of the Marina administration, to create sites near the lake for lovers and keepers of Kuwaiti heritage and antiques in general to display them for the crowd at the weekend, then we will hit more than one bird with just a stone, your excellency the minister.

This is Kuwait, may Allah keeps its pride, and keep it always shrouded with peace and security, and may He keeps the evils of the lovers of division among citizens of the country. May He protect our dear Amir, Crown Prince and the ruling family. — Translated by Kuwait Times

## Crime

Report

### MAN ARRESTED FOR MAKING FALSE POLICE REPORT

**KUWAIT:** Rumaithiya police arrested a man after making a false police report. The man who just finished processing a transaction at the service center found his car blocked by another, so he called the police. Police called a tow truck to remove it, but it was late in arriving, so the man ran to the police station and told them his car was on fire. Policemen rushed with their fire extinguishers but found out that there was no fire. The man told them he acted this way to draw their attention.

#### Body found

A man was found dead in his apartment recently. The man was identified as a 27-year-old Jordanian national. His body was taken to the coroner, and an autopsy was ordered to determine the time and cause of death.

#### Phone stolen

A man who works for the information ministry told Farwaniya police that two men on a motorcycle approached and hit him on the neck, causing his iPhone 6 to fall on the ground. They snatched the phone and sped away. Meanwhile, a bedoon man who works for the defense ministry told police that two unidentified persons stopped him at dawn. One of them stabbed him with a sharp object, while the other took two phones in addition to KD 30 before escaping.

#### Insult

A Hadiya detective accused two brothers of insulting him although he showed them his ID. In Mubarak Al-Kabeer, a female citizen accused a woman of beating her after a domestic dispute. Another citizen in Jabriya accused an Arab male nurse of insulting her at Mubarak Hospital. Meanwhile, a Kuwaiti housewife told Khaitan police she was threatened by phone at the gas cylinder branch of Khaitan co-op. She said the threat came through WhatsApp Thursday evening.

#### Public drunkenness

Jahra police sent a Gulf national and an Arab girl to Qairawan police station for public drunkenness. Police noticed a car being driven erratically and was stopped, and the two were arrested.

#### Family feud

Jahra police received a call about firing in Nahdha, and when they arrived, the caller, a Kuwaiti citizen, said he had differences with his father-in-law, who fired two rounds in the air from a pistol. Investigations are underway.

— Al-Anbaa and Al-Rai



Al-Jarida

## التنبؤ

Al-Anbaa

### CAUSE, NORMALIZATION AND REMOTE FREEDOM FIGHTERS

By Sami Al-Nisf

In a recent TV interview, my interviewer Ammar Taqi insisted on asking me whether I was for normalizing relations with Israel based on an article I wrote a few days earlier about China and Taiwan, in which I compared the ways the Chinese treated Taiwan to that of the Arabs with Israel. In the article, I argued that although China possesses mighty powers, nuclear weapons, a population of over a billion and the fact that those who recognize Taiwan are only a handful, China never thought of invading the island of Formosa that won its independence from China in 1949, nor threatens to throw its people in the sea. It never allowed a 'freedom fighter' like Abu Ammar to embrace the cause then pass it down, along with millions collected in its name, to his wife in inheritance.

As usual, it is difficult to comment on part of an article. What is even harder is to comment on a comment made according to how the commentator perceived what he read. To start with, I would like to point out that I have paid several visits to Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza over the past few years. Therefore, I am talking according to firsthand experience with the changes taking place in the occupied Palestinian territories. An experience that those wishing to 'remotely' fight Israel until the last drop of blood in the last Palestinian child's veins and to the last stone in a house inhabited by a wretched Palestinian family know nothing about.

The disaster about the Palestinian cause is that some politicians have been addressing our emotions and openly demanding to wage war only to make personal gains, but they would secretly confide to some people

that they are incapable of achieving what they say and call for. Actual visits and mingling with the people there enables one to see for himself that destructive victories they had been declaring were cursed by Palestinian citizens who lost their houses without the least hope to restore or repair them.

Citizens who have lost family members and cannot speak about it because they would be accused of treason and executed. Those citizens wonder if that was 'victory', what would 'defeat' look like. They eventually keep silent because silence is gold.

On the other hand, due to being neighbors to our countries for long enough, the Israeli people shifted from liberalism, secularism, communism and leftism of the Israeli Labor party to supporting more radical religious parties that elect more radical leaders, making Netanyahu seem moderate compared to them. Some Israeli thinkers and politicians argue that the Israeli people lean to moderation and elect moderate parties that call from withdrawal from Palestinian territories, establish an independent state in return for having an embassy there that could be closed down at any moment or in return for a peace paper that can be annulled or torn by some angry slogan-focused leaderships.

Those Israeli peace advocates see normalization as the only alternative to shift public opinion and elect moderate parties instead of repeatedly electing radical ones that call to Judaize the state and transfer Arabs to the lands between the river and Jordan and Sinai!

— Translated by Kuwait Times

## OOREDOO KUWAIT CONTRIBUTES TO THE GLOBAL AWARENESS CAMPAIGN ON WORLD DIABETES DAY

**KUWAIT:** Ooredoo Kuwait, a member of the international Ooredoo Group, has organized an internal initiative to contribute to the global awareness campaign on World Diabetes Day, offering its employees complementary diabetes testing and consultation, in collaboration with Salhiya Clinic and Kuwait Medical Lab.

In collaboration with both organizations, Ooredoo Kuwait has arranged for diabetes testing for all employees in its headquarters in Kuwait city on Sunday, 15 November 2015, as well as special rates on dentistry, dermatology, general medicine, dietitian services and one to one consultation and fat analysis from Salhiya Clinic for Ooredoo employees, and discounted rates on all blood tests and lab work for them from Kuwait Medical Lab.

Mijbil Alayoub, Director of Corporate Communications at Ooredoo Kuwait stated: "Pleased to support such a vital global initiative which is the World Diabetes Day, aiming at raising awareness of diabetes around the globe. We do care about our employees and feel responsible for their well-being; we believe that this session created the needed awareness on diabetes and the right lifestyle everyone should follow in order to live a healthy life."

Ooredoo's support to the event comes in line with its continuous contribution to international causes which come in line with its corporate social responsibility towards the community.



An Ooredoo employee at the blood testing session



**KUWAIT:** The Interior Ministry held a cerebation recently to mark the International Day for Tolerance, attended by senior ministry officials.

### KD 6.2 BILLION SPECIAL DEFENSE BUDGET PROPOSED

**KUWAIT:** The government plans to present a proposed law to withdraw KD 6.2 billion from the state's general reserve in order to create an exceptional budget for 10 consecutive years allocated for defense. The budget would cover the defense ministry's needs of arming and equipment, provided

that the annual allocations agree with the country's financial status, Al-Qabas daily reported yesterday quoting sources.

The Higher Defense Council authorizes the necessary amounts for each fiscal year for a period of 10 years starting with the 2015/2016 fiscal year. — Al-Qabas

### CHILDREN WITH REVOKED CITIZENSHIPS ALLOWED TO ENROLL IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**KUWAIT:** The education ministry decided to allow children of people whose nationalities were revoked to register in public schools and receive education until the end of high school. An educational source said the ministry followed the legal procedures in this matter before making its decision, and sought the opinion of the Fatwa and Legislation Department which allowed them to

complete all school stages. Education Ministry's Undersecretary Dr Haitham Al-Athari had issued a circular in which he said that children of Kuwaiti women will be allowed to register in public schools and complete all stages. But in case the mother was not Kuwaiti, then her registered children will be allowed to complete their school stages. — Al-Qabas



Al-Jarida

## EXPATS WERE RAISED BY US

By Mudaffar Abdullah

Various officials have recently made statements about expats living in Kuwait and massively insulted them. The last of these statements was the one about 'free dinners at wedding halls' which was made in an even worse way by pointing such 'accusations' only to marginal laborers. Test balloons occasionally announcing increasing fees and stiffening penalties against expats are no less insulting, at least when approaching them in a way that claims those people have been 'devouring' Kuwait's wealth and calls to deport masses of them as if they had appeared in Kuwait out of the blue!

Most officials have been using insulting phrases that indicate Kuwait has been supporting both expats and bedoons for free. A few days ago, a news story about cancelling health insurance was denied. Earlier, there was dreadful talk about allocating Jaber Hospital only for Kuwaitis. A year ago, some weird instructions were given to deport expats molesting women. Things even went as far as restricting camping to citizens.

Sweden has a population comprising of people belonging to over 200 nationalities who all receive clear written and printed instructions about the favored and most desirable conduct they ought to follow in Sweden, including taking a number to be served on doing certain transactions so that they could learn some patience and undergoing the SFI course to learn Swedish. Such measures seem to have slipped the minds of our immigration officials here in Kuwait, and consequently, we see that many newcomers act like 'Kuwaitis' do in terms of wasta, violating traffic rules and forgery, which are all phenomenal indicators of weaknesses in law enforcement. Some Kuwaiti sponsors also contribute to breaking laws if they are imposed on laborers working for them like drivers and others. That is why they are 'raised by us', after all!

Some people might argue that I have gone too far in the comparison with Sweden. Well, I have every right to do so because my government always describes itself as 'wise' in all public addresses. We have been complaining about the growth of some communities forgetting that they are 100 percent Kuwaiti-made. Expats do not get into Kuwait by force. They come in accordance to its laws with documents signed by its officials. Nowadays, Indians and Egyptians alone form 48 per cent of manpower in Kuwait (454,000 Indians and 419,000 Egyptians). These huge numbers are not matched with other nationalities and pose both demographical and security threats. Despite such facts, we are still the ones to blame because of the many illusionary companies, the enslaving sponsorship system and forging stamps and visas.

Expats' role in building modern Kuwait has been so essential since the beginning of the oil era. We cannot do without them as long as Kuwaitis refrain from doing certain jobs. Any talk about being fed up with their growing numbers should be directed to visas traffickers and forgers instead. They are the ones behind flooding Kuwait with laborers we do not actually need. So, let us stop talking with racial discrimination about them! — Translated by Kuwait Times



**Needing 'clean cash,' mobsters hungry for Rome's eateries**

## ISRAELIS KILL 2 PALESTINIANS IN CLASHES TO RAZE HOME



ANTALYA, Turkey: A family photo, signed by the leaders, is displayed at the Group of 20 (G20) summit yesterday. — AFP

## WORLD LEADERS TO STEP UP EFFORTS TO FIGHT IS

### G20 BACKS DRIVE FOR PARIS CLIMATE DEAL

**ANTALYA, Turkey:** World leaders yesterday committed to join forces to bring peace to Syria and destroy the Islamic State jihadist network, hoping to curb the extremist menace after the Paris attacks. Leaders of the Group of 20 top economies meeting in Turkey described the Paris gun and bombing assaults as an "unacceptable affront to all humanity", according to a rare separate statement accompanying the final communique after their annual summit.

Concretely, they will share intelligence to crack down on the movement of foreign fighters across borders, the statement said. They also urged "all states" to come to share the burden of refugees, with hundreds of thousands pouring out of war-torn Syria to take the often dangerous path to Europe. Western leaders sought in particular to narrow important differences with Russian President Vladimir Putin on resolving the conflict in Syria and fighting the Islamic State group.

G20 leaders showed "our resolute stance in the fight against terrorism," said host Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan at a news conference wrapping up the summit. The urgent need to coordinate action on Syria after the Paris attacks that killed 129 people dominated the summit's agenda, but leaders also pressed ahead with a drive to stave off catastrophic climate change.

#### 'Still a Big Gap'

British Prime Minister David Cameron said the split between the West and Russia on Syria narrowed during talks in Vienna this weekend but more work needed to be done to unify positions. "There is still a very big gap but I think there is still some hope that this process could move faster in the future than it has in the past," he said after a bilateral meeting with Putin. But he lamented how the "body count had piled up in Syria" over the course of several international summit meetings since the start of the war. "The faster we can degrade and destroy (IS) the safer we will be," he said.

Russia has refused to abandon its support for Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad in the four-year civil war, which has claimed more than a quarter of a million lives and displaced millions. Moscow recently stepped up its involvement in Syria with a bombing campaign of its own that has been welcomed by the regime but

greeted with suspicion in the West.

#### Coffee Table Summit

US President Barack Obama on Sunday held one of his most intimate discussions yet with Putin, both men seen hunched over a coffee table in animated, impromptu talks on the sidelines of the summit. US officials said the two leaders agreed on the need for a political transition for Syria that would be set up by a ceasefire and UN-brokered talks. The Kremlin said the two sides shared the same goal of fighting Islamic State but differed on tactics.

The stepped-up diplomacy came after world powers agreed in the Vienna talks at the weekend on an outline for political transition for Syria, but crucially not on what should happen to Assad. Erdogan on Monday reiterated his tough stance against Assad "who massacred his own people", saying the Syrian leader had "no place" in the country's future. In the special statement at the end of the G20 gathering, world leaders raised the alarm over an "acute and growing flow of foreign terrorist fighters". They vowed to share intelligence, track border crossings and boost aviation security to halt the movement of jihadist fighters.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel called for "intensive cooperation" between intelligence agencies as well as the military in the fight against terror. Britain is to host a major donor conference in London in Feb 2016 to rally aid for Syrian refugees, she added in comments confirmed by Cameron. Despite the heavy shadow cast by the attacks in Paris, world leaders pressed on with their original agenda, pledging in a draft to agree legally-binding goals on climate change at a conference in Paris later this month but making no mention of whether they will help developing countries meet the targets.

Negotiators haggled into the early hours as Saudi Arabia and India initially refused to include specific goals such as limiting global warming to less than two degrees Celsius above pre-industrialised levels, sources said. France, backed by the European Union, is working furiously to make the climate talks a success and Paris officials bristled at the reluctance of some countries to include its basic objectives in the statement.

"Climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time," said the communique marking the end of the

summit in Antalya. "We reaffirm the below 2C degree climate goal," it said, underlining a "determination" to adopt a deal with legal force. The blockbuster climate meeting will assemble 195 countries outside Paris from Nov 30 to Dec 11 in a bid to reach a post-2020 pact to try to stem global warming. The 2C goal has guided the long-running talks - held under the auspices of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change - since 2009.

#### 'Elephant in the Room'

France is eager to avoid the fate of the Copenhagen talks in 2009 that also sought to craft a world climate rescue pact, but ended in near-fiasco amid splits between rich and emerging countries. "At a certain point there was a feeling that we were not living on the same planet," an exhausted European negotiator told reporters after more than 20 hours of talks with his G20 counterparts. "The idea was to just state that the G20 countries will be committed to a regular process, to get to the numbers of the target, with regular steps, that was the idea. This is common sense," he said.

Activists said the statement still offered nothing new and criticised a worrying lack of leadership just two weeks ahead of the Paris talks. "They have done nothing to bring the 20 most powerful countries in the world closer to consensus," said John Kirton, co-director of the G20 Research Group at the University of Toronto. Observers denounced the failure of the G20 leaders to offer details on financing for developing countries to make the transition to clean energy.

Developing nations are looking to rich countries to show how they intend to meet a promise made in 2009 to mobilise \$100 billion per year in climate finance from 2020. The funds will help poorer economies make the shift from cheap and abundant fossil fuels to renewable energy sources, and shore up national defences against climate change-induced superstorms, drought, floods and sea-level rise. France insists this will be key to getting an agreement in December. It is "difficult" to see success in Paris "without climate finance on the table," said Tristram Sainsbury, analyst at Lowy Institute in Sydney. "That is the big elephant in the room for the G20," he said. The G20 summit next year moves to China, followed by Germany in 2017. —Agencies

Burgan Bank would like to advise all our esteem customers that the instructions stated by the Central Bank of Kuwait with regards to "Furnishing of supporting documents" for the purpose of Loan(s) facilities aren't new, but were in effect since 12/12/1995 as per the circular issued by the Central Bank of Kuwait and its following amendments.

**In order to avail a loan facility, customers are requested to furnish the following documents:**

- Latest Salary certificate/ certificate from the Public Institution for Social Security stating the monthly pension
- Bank Statement
- Purpose of the loan and supporting documents for end usage of the loan. (In line with Loan purpose)

#### Type of Loan Facilities & guidelines:

##### Consumer Loans:

- Medium term personal loan.
- Max Tenor: 60 months
- Max Amount: KD 15,000
- Purpose of Loan
  - Education
  - Treatment Expenses
  - Personal consumables and durables
- Debt Burden Ratio
  - Employed Customer(s): 40% of the net monthly salary (after deductions) - or continuous monthly income
  - Retired Customer(s): 30% of the net monthly salary (after deductions) - or continuous monthly income

##### Installments Loans:

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



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(Left) Cameramen stand in front of the great pyramid of Khufu illuminated with the French, Lebanese and Russian flags in Giza on the outskirts of Cairo on Sunday. (Right) The world's tallest tower, Burj Khalifa, is lit in the colors of the French flag in Dubai on Sunday. —AFP/AP



## GREAT PYRAMID BATHED IN NATIONAL COLORS OF VICTIMS

**CAIRO:** The Great Pyramid in Egypt was bathed Sunday in French, Lebanese and Russian colours in homage to the victims of attacks in Paris and Beirut and the Sinai plane crash. The Great Pyramid of Khufu, the only one of the Seven Wonders of the ancient world still standing, was illuminated by projectors reproducing the flags of France

and Russia and the green cedar of Lebanon. Young Egyptians were staging an overnight candle-lit vigil at the foot of the more than 4,500-year-old giant monument on the Giza plateau on the outskirts of Cairo.

The tourism and antiquities ministries organised the ceremony to "mourn the innocent lives lost around

the world", paying tribute "to the victims of the crash of the Russian airplane and attacks in Lebanon and France". Late Friday, gun and bomb attacks in Paris claimed by the Islamic State group killed 129 people and wounded 350. On Thursday in Beirut, twin bombings claimed by IS killed 44 people in southern Beirut, a stronghold of the Shiite

Hezbollah organisation that backs the embattled Syrian regime.

The jihadist group has also said it was behind the Oct 31 crash in the northern Sinai of a Russian Metrojet Airbus A-321, killing all 244 people on board. London, Washington, Moscow and many experts believe the disaster was caused by a bomb, but Cairo has

refused to rule on the cause until the investigation is complete. In Dubai, meanwhile, the world's tallest building the Burj Al-Khalifa was lit up Sunday in the colours of the French national flag. Elsewhere in the Gulf, Kuwait City's landmark towers were also illuminated in the red, white and blue of France. —AFP



**SANAA:** Director of the United Nations Office for Humanitarian Affairs John Ging attends a meeting with Yemeni officials and human rights organizations in the Yemeni capital yesterday. —AFP

## YEMEN, ALLIES IN TAEZ OFFENSIVE

**ADEN:** Yemeni loyalists and Saudi-led coalition forces launched an offensive Monday to retake the key battleground province of Ta'ez from Iran-backed rebels, as uncertainty surrounded the fate of UN-brokered peace talks. At least 30 fighters were killed yesterday, including 16 soldiers after their vehicle hit a landmine, military sources said. Ta'ez is seen as a gateway to the capital Sanaa, which has been held by the Shiite Huthi rebels since September last year. It is located at the crossroads between Sanaa, Yemen's second city and main port of Aden and Mocha on the Red Sea coast.

Forces loyal to President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi have been pressing to recapture parts of Yemen seized by the Houthis and their allies, including forces loyal to ousted ex-president Ali Abdullah Saleh. They have been backed by a Saudi-led coalition that launched air strikes in March and began a major counter-offensive in July that has since reclaimed five southern provinces.

"The military operation to liberate Ta'ez has begun after the arrival of military reinforcements from the Arab coalition, resistance forces and the national army in the south and west of Ta'ez province," General Ahmed Al-Yafie, commander of the fourth military region, told AFP. The region includes Ta'ez as well as Aden in the south. Clashes in Waziaa, southwest of Ta'ez, left nine rebels and five loyalists dead, while pro-Hadi forces advanced backed by air strikes, military sources said.

The rebel-controlled Saba news agency said the insurgents repelled attempts to

advance on four fronts towards Waziaa. Military officials have said the coalition sent major reinforcements before they advanced towards Ta'ez, Yemen's third-biggest city. Armoured demining vehicles and other reinforcements arrived in the Shurajia region, between the loyalist-controlled Lahj province and Ta'ez in the southwest, said the officials based in Aden. Dozens of coalition armoured vehicles were taking part in the three-pronged offensive, the sources said. Arab coalition planes carried out several strikes against rebel positions and checkpoints in the regions of Rahida, south of Ta'ez, and Mocha to facilitate the advance of the ground troops.

### Uncertainty over Peace Talks

Sudanese forces from the strategic Al-Anad airbase in Lahj were taking part in the Ta'ez operations, according to the sources. Ta'ez has seen heavy fighting in recent months between the Houthis and forces fighting for Hadi's internationally recognised government. Loyalist forces are inside Ta'ez, where they have been besieged by rebels who control the main roads into the city.

Along the coast, coalition troops deployed in Dhubbab in a bid to advance onto rebel-held Mocha, which also lies in Ta'ez province, the sources said. On Sunday, military officials spoke of major coalition reinforcements of troops and equipment arriving in Ta'ez from Aden. A 400-strong Sudanese force arrived in Aden this month in support of loyalist forces, joining 500 who arrived in October. —AFP

## SYRIAN REFUGEE POLICY TAKES FOCUS IN US RACE

**WASHINGTON:** The bloody attacks in Paris are putting the Syrian refugee crisis at center stage in US politics as migrants from that war-torn country surge toward the West and security concerns rise. Republican presidential contender Marco Rubio on Sunday said the United States should no longer accept Syrian refugees because it's impossible to know whether they have links to Islamic militants - an apparent shift from earlier statements in which the Florida senator left open the prospects of migrants being admitted with proper vetting.

"It's not that we don't want to, it's that we can't," Rubio said Sunday on ABC's "This Week." "Because there's no way to background check someone that's coming from Syria. Who do you call and do a background check on them?" The question of admitting Syrian refugees has for months been part of the national security discussion among 2016 candidates that cuts to the heart of the American identity as a refuge. Former Florida governor Jeb Bush on Sunday told NBC's "Meet the Press" that

the US should admit Syrian Christians, after proper vetting. Other Republican candidates have called for a ban on allowing Syrians into the US. All three Democratic presidential candidates have said they would admit Syrians but only after thorough background checks.

But Friday night's mass killings in Paris, which left at least 129 people dead, offered evidence that may have backed up what many, including Rubio, had been warning: People with secret ties to Islamic militants could flow across borders within the waves of refugees. Authorities said a Syrian passport found near one of the Paris suicide bombers had been registered last month and traveled through three European countries along a busy migrant corridor known for lax controls. It was not clear whether the document was real or forged, or whether it belonged to the suicide bomber. Officials on Sunday were still trying to identify people involved in the conspiracy. They said as many as three of the seven suicide bombers who died in the attacks were French citizens. —AP

## ISRAELIS KILL 2 PALESTINIANS IN CLASHES TO RAZE HOME

### UN SLAMS PUNITIVE DEMOLITIONS

**QALANDIYA:** Israeli forces shot dead at least two Palestinians when heavy clashes erupted yesterday during an operation to destroy the West Bank home of an alleged attacker, the latest in a series of punitive demolitions. In a bid to halt a wave of knife, gun and car-ramming attacks since the start of October, Israeli authorities have moved to expedite demolitions of suspects' homes, a controversial measure meant to act as a deterrent.

Confrontations and clashes have erupted in the past over such demolitions, but they have rarely been as deadly as yesterday's at the Qalandiya refugee camp, just beyond a checkpoint leading from east Jerusalem to the occupied West Bank. According to the Israeli military, hundreds of Palestinians threw rocks and fire-bombs at security forces, while some opened fire. A resident who gave his name as Abu Amr said he heard noises at around 2:00 am and opened his window to check. "There were hundreds of soldiers everywhere," he told AFP. "I told my children not to move. Later there was an explosion, then afterwards there was shooting. The shooting lasted about 30 minutes."

Israeli forces shot three Palestinians, with two confirmed dead by Palestinian hospital sources. Israeli military spokesman Peter Lerner spoke of a third death, but Palestinian hospital sources had not confirmed it. Palestinian medics identified those killed as Ahmed Al-Ayesh, 28 and a father of three, and Laith Manasrah, 21. Residents said those in the building were forced to leave to allow for the demolition, which went ahead despite the clashes. The home on the top floor of a three-storey building was destroyed with explosives, residents said, causing damage to the other floors and nearby residences.

### '15 Minutes to Get Out'

The home targeted was that of Mohammed Abu Shahin, accused of shooting dead Danny Gonen, a 25-year-old Israeli hiker, in June. His wife and two daughters were living there, residents said. Crumbled concrete was later piled on the ground and onlookers arrived to view it along Qalandiya's densely populated and narrow streets. Hundreds also gathered for the funeral for the two Palestinians killed nearby. The brother of the alleged attacker who lived in the next building said that "after midnight Israeli forces came and told my family we have to leave immediately because of a court decision to destroy (the house)". "They gave us only 15 minutes to get out," said the brother, who gave his name only as Abu Shahin.

The camp, established in 1949 in the wake of the creation of Israel and which has grown into a town, includes 11,000 registered refugees. The UN says nearly one in five residents is unemployed and around 60 percent are under 25. Adnan Al-Husseini, the Palestinian governor of Jerusalem, blamed Israel's occupation for the violence. "I am sure if they are continuing with these processes, there will be reactions like this," he said.

The shooting dead of Gonen, in an attack that also wounded another Israeli, led to outrage among Israelis. The two victims were not settlers but hikers who had come from Lod in central Israel. Shahin's arrest was announced in July, with Israel alleging he belonged to an armed group linked to Fatah, the party of Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas.

### Deterrent or Collective Punishment?

The shooting occurred before the current wave of violence that began in October, but Israel has sought to expedite demolitions for a range of attacks on Israelis. Violence since the start of October has killed 83 people on the Palestinian side - including one Arab Israeli - and 12 Israelis. Many of the Palestinians killed have been alleged attackers, while others were shot dead during clashes with Israeli forces. Israel argues that the demolition policy is effective as a deterrent, but critics say the main victims are relatives forced to pay for others' actions.

On Saturday, Israeli troops razed the West Bank homes of four Palestinians accused of attacking Israelis, hours after an Israeli father and son were shot dead near the flashpoint city of



**QALANDIYA:** Palestinians carry the bodies Ahmed Abu Al-Aish, 28 and Laith Manasrah, 21, during their funeral in this refugee camp on the outskirts of the West Bank city of Ramallah yesterday. —AFP

Hebron. Those operations also sparked clashes in which nine Palestinians were wounded.

"I am distressed by reports of punitive demolitions carried out by Israeli security forces of five homes in the Jerusalem, Nablus and Ramallah governorates in the last few days," Robert Piper, UN coordinator for humanitarian aid for the occupied Palestinian territory, said in a statement. "We recognize Israel's serious security challenges today, but any law enforcement response must be consistent with international law.

Punitive demolitions are inherently unjust, punishing innocent people for the acts of others."

Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Yaalon defended the demolitions yesterday and said they would continue, adding that "our forces acted professionally" during the operation in Qalandiya. He cited the case of a Palestinian arrested over Friday's murders, after Israeli security forces said the suspect's father and brother turned him in, fearing their home would be razed. —AFP

## US SENDS 5 GITMO DETAINEES TO UAE

**WASHINGTON:** The United States has transferred five detainees from Guantanamo Bay to the United Arab Emirates, the Pentagon said Sunday, another step in a long-delayed plan to close the controversial military prison. The move means that 107 detainees remain at Guantanamo Bay, the Pentagon said in a statement, adding that it was "grateful to the government of the United Arab Emirates for its willingness to support ongoing US efforts to close the Guantanamo Bay detention facility."

The men were "lower-level" Yemeni detainees and each had been held for nearly 14 years without charge, The New York Times said. The UAE had previously taken in just one former Guantanamo detainee - a citizen of its own - in 2008, the newspaper said. The Pentagon named the five as: Ali Ahmad Mohammed Al-Razihi, Khalid Abd-al-Jabbar Mohammed Uthman Al-Qadasi, Adil Said al-Hajj Ubayd Al-Busays, Sulayman Awad Bin Uqayl Al-Nahdi and Fahmi Salem Said Al-Asani.

The United States opened Guantanamo to hold terror suspects following the Sept 11, 2001 attacks, and photos of shackled men in orange jumpsuits became a defining image of US foreign policy in the early 2000s. Inmates were called "enemy combatants" and denied standard US legal rights, meaning many were held for years without charge or trial. The Guantanamo population has dwindled, and prisoners no longer deemed a risk have either been repatriated or sent to a host country.

The Guantanamo prison costs the US taxpayer around \$400-450 million annually, according to estimates. "The United States coordinated with the government of the United Arab Emirates to ensure these transfers took place consistent with appropriate security and humane treatment measures," the

Pentagon added, saying the five had been cleared for transfer after thorough security reviews.

The US keeps a "very close eye" on those who have been released, but some figures have estimated that up to 30 percent return to militant groups with the aim of carrying out attacks on Western targets. But a US official has said that figure includes both confirmed and suspected cases. He said 16 percent of freed inmates were confirmed to have returned to the battlefield, while about 12 percent are suspected of having done so.

### Election Pledge

The latest transfers come with the Pentagon poised to release a much-anticipated report on shutting down Guantanamo Bay, even as Congress battles to block the transfer of the military prison inmates from eastern Cuba to US soil. President Barack Obama made closing Guantanamo a key election pledge, but lawmakers have repeatedly thwarted him. The report's findings are sure to fuel debate on the fate of dozens of longtime captives from America's "War on Terror" who may well spend the rest of their lives behind bars.

The Pentagon this year sent a team of experts to review US sites that could house dozens of the most dangerous detainees following the closure of the prison. Guantanamo still houses five accused plotters of the Sept 11, 2001 attacks. Among them is the self-proclaimed mastermind, Khalid Sheikh Mohammed. Guantanamo is also home to the man accused of masterminding the attack on the USS Cole in 2000, Abd al-Rahim Al-Nashiri. He was captured in 2002 and transferred to Guantanamo in 2006. All six face the death penalty if convicted. —AFP



## US ADDS FOREIGN STUDENTS, BUT FEW AMERICANS STUDY ABROAD

**BOSTON:** The number of international students studying at US colleges increased by 10 percent last year, marking the largest single-year gain in 35 years, according to new federal data. Meanwhile, the number of Americans studying abroad grew by only 5 percent, falling short of expectations. The findings were released yesterday from an annual study by the nonprofit Institute of International Education and the US Department of State.

Of almost 1 million students that came to the US in the 2014-15 school year, about a third came from China, the most from any country. But much of last year's growth is credited to a surge in the number of students who came from India, drawn by strong research programs, experts say. In all, the number of Indian students in the US grew by 30 percent to more than 130,000, the biggest jump since the nonprofit started collecting data in 1954.

"That increase has been primarily at the graduate level, and we know that Indian students have always been very attracted to the availability of excellent science and research facilities on US campuses," said Rajika Bhandari, the nonprofit's deputy vice president for

research and evaluation. Numbers coming from Brazil spiked, too, from 13,000 to 23,000, but Brazilians still made up only 2 percent of international students in the US.

For the second consecutive year, New York University hosted the largest number of international students, at more than 13,000. It's followed by the University of Southern California, Columbia University and Arizona State University, which each hosted more than 11,000 international students last year. At the University of Southern California, the number of Indian students has gone from 1,300 to more than 2,000 since 2012. At other schools like Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, populations of Indian students have increased over time but held steady in recent years.

The Institute of International Education reported that international students contributed \$30 billion to the US economy last year. The US remains the top destination for international students, but relatively few Americans study abroad. About 300,000 US students left the country to study in the 2013-14 school year, the most recent year for which figures for Americans are

available, a number that has risen steadily but still accounts for less than 2 percent of all US undergraduate students. "This rate of growth is not good enough," Bhandari said. "We really do need to double or even triple this rate of growth."

To boost those numbers, the US Department of State said it's opening a new study abroad office offering information on programs and scholarships. "We are going to be working very actively on outreach to explain the benefits of study abroad and encourage more Americans to participate," said Marianne Craven, the acting deputy assistant secretary of state for academic programs. The office plans to launch its website this week, Craven said.

In particular, the office hopes to help more low-income and minority students. About 75 percent of US students who studied abroad last year were white, a number that has decreased only slightly over the past decade. Black students made up 6 percent of students who studied abroad last year. Top destinations for US students are the United Kingdom, Italy and Spain. European countries drew half of all US students who studied abroad.



**LONDON:** This March 12, 2012 file photo shows Timothy P White, Chancery of the University of California, Riverside, visiting UCR students who are studying abroad. — AP

Colleges, too, have been pushing students to study abroad for years, citing the benefits of cultural exchange. Dozens have signed on to a national campaign encouraging all students to get passports. Universities have also

ramped up efforts to recruit international students, especially in growing regions. "They know that attracting international students to their campuses makes for a better student body," Craven said. — AP



**ROME:** In this photo taken on Nov 4, 2015, Gianfranco Romeo speaks to AP as he sits at a table of Il Barroccio restaurant. — AP

## NEEDING 'CLEAN CASH,' MAFIA HUNGRY FOR ROME EATERIES

TOURISTS UNAWARE OF MONEY LAUNDERING MOVES

**ROME:** Gianfranco Romeo sits at a table at his trattoria off the Pantheon, casting scorn over the idea that he's a frontman for a feared mafia clan. "I always had a passion for restaurant work, I began as a dishwasher," Romeo told AP at Il Barroccio, as pizza-makers prepared to fire up the oven and shovel in the pies for the evening crowd of tourists. Romeo is among several people under investigation for suspected false property registration in one of a growing number of investigations in which mobsters are suspected of systematically buying up Roman tourist restaurants to launder cocaine profits, allegedly installing people like Romeo as figurehead owners.

Romeo contended bitterly that investigators were targeting him and others merely because they are natives of Calabria, the southern region that is home to the 'ndrangheta, one of the most feared global crime syndicates. In seizing restaurants from hard-working people like himself, he said, authorities are essentially alleging that all Calabrians in Rome are crooks. He's looking forward to his day in a court so he can ask prosecutors: "Why do you say I'm a figurehead when I paid with my own money?"

Prosecutors are confident they'll have the right answer. Along Rome's narrow Via dei Pastini, a street thronging with tourists in search of quaint restaurants, authorities raided three trattorias, including Il Barroccio, this year as alleged fronts for money-laundering operations for the 'ndrangheta. Authorities say the financially savvy 'ndrangheta is hungry for legitimate businesses to launder the billions it rakes in from cocaine trafficking. Elsewhere in Rome, the Naples-based Camorra is allegedly following a similar recipe, prosecutors say.

The restaurants and cafes targeted in the probes still operate. Many are near landmarks such as Trevi Fountain and Piazza Navona. As chefs dish out pasta and waiters pour wine, anti-Mafia investigators - huddled in their offices - scrutinize tax returns and property deeds and leases. Beyond mob-owned restaurants, tourists also stand a good chance of sleeping in hotels where more than sheets are being laundered. In one case, prosecutors alleged that a convent turned into a hotel was acquired by the 'ndrangheta just in time for the 2000 Holy Year - when millions of devout pilgrims poured into Rome. "We can seize 10 businesses a day," said anti-Mafia prosecutor Michele Prestipino. "And they can buy up 10 more in a day."

What's more, the restaurants don't suffer any hit to their business from the mafia taint, since most tourists are bliss-

fully unaware of the probes. Romeo recounted how police roused him from sleep the morning two Via dei Pastini restaurants were seized. Two days later, the doors reopened, and tourists flocked back. That, however, hasn't been the case with the lawmakers at parliament, a short walk away from Il Barroccio. "The politicians used to come here," said Romeo, his face glum. "Now they say they can't come any more."

### Connections

While a few lawmakers might be avoiding the trattoria, Romeo's status as the Italian political and administrative capital is an added attraction for the mob. "You make connections, important friendships," Prestipino, the anti-Mafia prosecutor, told The AP in his Rome office. And Rome offers the right ingredients for mobsters, being hundreds of kilometers from their centuries-old power bases. "It's a place where even conspicuous wealth blends in with other wealth," said Prestipino. Restaurants and hotels in Milan, Turin and other northern cities, including in the prosperous regions of Veneto and Emilia Romagna, are also becoming 'ndrangheta properties, according to Prestipino, who used to fight the 'ndrangheta on its home turf in impoverished Calabria, the toe of Italy's boot. Alfonso Sabella, a former Sicilian magistrate who battled Cosa Nostra, has urged Rome to create a mechanism to help spot anomalies like frequent ownership changes. Sabella recently served as Rome's first "legality commissioner" to help City Hall root out corruption and discourage infiltration by mobsters in the capital's economic fabric.

The lobby group for Rome's 15,000 restaurants is alarmed by organized crime infiltration, saying that mobsters - unlike honest restaurateurs - have nearly unlimited funds to make establishments successful as eateries, not just fronts for organized crime. "There are locales seized in the past years that were flourishing," Fabio Spada, president of the FIPE Concommercio Roma lobby, told AP. "They raked in a lot, independent of their vocation as money-launderers."

### Technique

Indeed, in recent years, organized crime has been increasingly aiming to "make clean money from dirty money" by investing illicit revenues into legitimate sectors of the economy, said Lt Col Gerardo Mastrodomenico of the organized-crime squad of Italy's tax police. The first two Via dei Pastini trattorias - La Rotonda and Er Faciolaro - were seized in March. Il Barroccio was seized in July.

Money for laundering is usually moved through several often sophisticated financial channels, to make it harder for investigators to keep up with the money trail. To sniff out possible frontmen, accountants and other financial experts who work for a special anti-organized crime unit of Italy's tax police sift through property sale and lease records, comparing the profession and income declared on tax returns.

That technique led to what so far has been the most high-profile anti-laundering seizure - the 2009 sequester of Cafe de Paris, a Via Veneto hangout made famous in "La Dolce Vita", Federico Fellini's classic film. The owner on property deeds was a modestly-earning barber from a tiny hamlet in the Aspromonte mountains of Calabria, an 'ndrangheta stronghold. Fanning out from that probe, investigators checked out friends, and friends of friends - anyone who had any connections with those thought to be really running the Cafe de Paris. One man who caught investigators' attention was a Calabrian-born Rome businessman, Salvatore Lania. Intercepted phone calls indicated that he has links to suspected members of a powerful 'ndrangheta clan, said Carabinieri Col Renato Chicoli, with a special anti-Mafia investigative unit in Rome. When police started looking into Lania's background, they found that his income tax returns declared "almost nothing", Chicoli said in an interview. So how, investigators wondered, could this man suddenly start snapping up restaurants, and even a building, along pricey Via dei Pastini?

Lania, 47, is being investigated for false registration of property ownership. But he isn't suspected of belonging to the 'ndrangheta, said Chicoli. According to court documents filed in connection with the first Via dei Pastini seizures, none of those under probe are suspected of actually being an organized crime member. In these documents, Romeo is described as being a "hidden" partner in running Er Faciolaro, while his shares are officially in the name of a brother-in-law. The court document ordering the seizure also describes Romeo as "physically representing Salvatore Lania inside the restaurant, in running the business activity, in which he's listed as an employee."

Lania, Romeo and more than a dozen others, including family members, are suspected of playing roles in the alleged scheme to hide the real owners of the restaurants. According to investigators, a 29-year-old Egyptian waiter and 22-year-old Ukrainian waitress agreed to be named as the owners of one restaurant, Chicoli said. — AP

## PROTESTS AFTER POLICE SHOOT BLACK MAN IN MINNEAPOLIS

**MINNEAPOLIS:** A Minnesota agency is investigating the shooting by a Minneapolis police officer of a black man suspected in an assault, an incident that sparked protests and prompted a community forum with the mayor and police chief. Accounts from some witnesses that the man was handcuffed when he was shot early Sunday morning led to outrage. Police said their preliminary investigation shows the man was not handcuffed, but the investigation is ongoing.

A large, agitated crowd gathered at the scene and demonstrations endured throughout the day. Witnesses said police used a chemical irritant to subdue the protesters. About 10 protesters spent a rainy and windy Sunday night outside a police precinct station not far from the scene of the shooting, and vowed to stay until the officer was arrested or indicted.

Jason Sole, chair of the Minneapolis NAACP's criminal justice committee, said Sunday that many black residents

of north Minneapolis are upset. "We have been saying for a significant amount of time that Minneapolis is one bullet away from Ferguson," he said, referring to the police shooting last year in the St. Louis suburb that prompted nationwide protests. "That bullet was fired last night. We want justice immediately," Sole told Minnesota Public Radio News.

The shooting happened after police said they were called to north Minneapolis around 12:45 a.m. Sunday for a report of an assault. When they arrived, the man had returned and was interfering with paramedics who were assisting the victim, police said. Officers tried to calm him, but there was a struggle. At some point, an officer fired at least once, hitting the man, police said. Authorities have not released any information on the officer, including name and race. Authorities have also declined to release the name of the man who was shot, but the Minneapolis NAACP cited family members and witnesses in

identifying him as Jamar Clark.

### Life Support

Martez McKnight, 22, told AP that Clark, his uncle, was put on life support after he was taken to a hospital. "The family is heartbroken and traumatized by the whole event," McKnight said. A statement Sunday night from state Rep Raymond Dehn, who represents the area, said Clark was on life support. Police and a spokeswoman for the Hennepin County Medical Center said they could not comment on the man's condition. Protesters organized by the group Black Lives Matter Minneapolis marched through the streets Sunday afternoon. Some beat drums and others carried banners. The group went to a police precinct, where they banged on the door and demanded to be allowed inside. Raeisha Williams with the Minneapolis NAACP told the AP protesters plan to stay at the precinct until the names of the officers involved are released. — AP

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## BELGIUM CONNECTION UNDER SPOTLIGHT AFTER PARIS ATTACKS

**BRUSSELS:** Prosecutors on Sunday disclosed a growing Belgian connection to the Paris attacks as Premier Charles Michel conceded that a Brussels neighborhood is a "gigantic problem" given its past links to international terrorism. Belgian prosecutors cooperating with their French counterparts said two assailants killed in Friday's attacks were Frenchmen who had lived in Brussels, that two cars tied to the attacks found in Paris were rented in Belgium, and Belgian police have detained seven people. At least one of the dead assailants and five of the people arrested in raids Saturday had spent time in the poor immigrant Brussels district of Molenbeek, officials said.

Belgium also issued an international warrant for the arrest of Salah Abdeslam, who lived in Molenbeek, while his brother Mohammed, who was arrested in this neighborhood while returning from Paris, is still in custody, officials said. A third brother Ibrahim died after having set off his explosives-laden suicide belt near a cafe in Paris' 11th district, investigators said.

The trail led to the three brothers following the discovery of two cars registered in Belgium, one of them near the Bataclan concert hall where 89 people were gunned down, and the other in a Paris suburb, Belgian prosecutors said. The results of the probe so far highlight how

Molenbeek has for two decades lodged Islamist extremists who have fought or supported wars in Algeria, Afghanistan and Bosnia as well as in Syria and Iraq, analyst Claude Monique told AFP.

### Jihadist 'hotbed'

"It's not the only one in Belgium, it is certainly not the only one in Europe, but it is a hotbed for jihadism," Monique said. Belgium as a whole has spawned nearly 500 jihadists for Syria and Iraq from a population of only 11 million—the highest figure per capita in the European Union, security services said. What is striking is that Belgium and more specifically Molenbeek remain a haven for extremists despite the toughening of anti-terrorist legislation as well as the dismantling of recruitment networks since the 1990s.

"Europe no longer has borders and it is therefore logical that (extremists) benefit too," Brussels mayor Yvan Mayeur said Sunday. "But we must stop being a base for those who make war in Europe," he said. Molenbeek, where a large Muslim community lives, including a radical minority, is more than ever in the eye of the storm.

"Among this small minority, there are figures known at the European and international levels," according to Monique, CEO of the Brussels-based European Strategic Intelligence and Security Center.



**ROME:** People mourn during a Europe-wide minute of silence to honor the victims of the terror attacks in Paris, in front of the French Embassy, in Rome, yesterday. — AP

They lure people online, he added, comparing the neighborhood's jihadist influence to that of Finsbury Park in London about 15 years ago. Part of the reason Molenbeek became such a hotbed is because local politicians failed for years to face up to extremism in order to keep "social peace" and continue getting elected, Monique said. Belgium's Premier Michel acknowledged the problem on

Sunday. "I have noticed there is almost always a link to Molenbeek, that there is a gigantic problem there," he said. "In the last few months, many initiatives have been launched in the fight against radicalisation, but there should be a greater crackdown," Michel added. "We are going to work more intensely with the local authorities. The federal government is ready to provide more means."

### 'Anonymity easier'

In 2001, it was in Molenbeek where the assassins of Afghanistan's anti-Taliban commander Ahmad Shah Massoud had stayed. It was also home for a while for Hassan El Haski, who was found guilty of being one of the masterminds of the 2004 Madrid train bombings.

Mehdi Nemmouche, the main suspect in the Jewish Museum attack in Brussels in May last year, also stayed there. Ayoub El Khazzani, the perpetrator of the foiled attack in August on the Paris-bound train from Amsterdam, stayed in Molenbeek with his sister before boarding the locomotive in Brussels.

Belgian authorities have also established links with the jihadist cell that police smashed in the eastern Belgian city of Verviers in January. "They do not all come from here, and most of the time, they are just travelling through," according to Molenbeek Mayor Françoise Schepmans, a member of Michel's liberal party MR. "In some districts, the population is very dense, with 80 percent of the people of north African origin. Anonymity is easier for people passing through with very bad intentions," she said.

"They also land in districts which are breeding grounds for radicalization," she said, before taking a dig at her socialist predecessor: "One should have been firmer from the start." — AFP



**MANILA:** A woman stands in front of police as Filipino laborers clash with police in the Makati section of Manila yesterday during protests to raise issues as world leaders arrive for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit this week. — AFP

## US-CHINA RIVALRY, PARIS ATTACK IN FOCUS AT APEC

LEADERS MEET UNDER EXTRA-HEAVY SECURITY IN MANILA

**MANILA, Philippines:** Tensions with China and the Paris attacks could upstage trade issues at the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation summit, being held under extra-heavy security in the Philippine capital this week. President Barack Obama and the leaders of China, Japan, Mexico and other nations in the 21-member APEC bloc are converging with 7,000 officials, CEOs and other participants at a convention center by Manila Bay.

The meetings culminate in a 2-day summit of leaders beginning tomorrow. Russia's president, Vladimir Putin, is skipping the Manila meetings, partly to focus on an investigation into the Oct. 31 crash of a Russian passenger jet in Egypt that killed all 224 people on board. He will be represented by Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev. Indonesian President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo will likely stay home to deal with domestic problems, according to Philippine officials.

Founded in 1989 in Canberra, Australia, APEC aims to demolish barriers to trade and investment through nonbinding accords. The unwieldy grouping of countries and self-governing territories that range from liberal democracies to dictatorships accounts for 3 billion people, half of global trade and 60 percent of world GDP. Critics say APEC, which has focused mainly on economic and trade issues, has few concrete achievements because of its non-binding status. They dub it a talk shop and joke the acronym means "A Perfect Excuse to Chat." But proponents believe those qualities are its strengths.

"That's exactly the beauty of APEC, you don't have to worry about committing yourself to anything because it's non-binding," said Philippine Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima. "It gives leaders the freedom to bounce ideas, new ideas."

Though members tend to shy away from divisive security and geopolitical issues, rifts and political strife often overshadow the annual show of unity that is symbolized by the photo-op of leaders dressed in quirky or traditional shirts provided by the host country. Friday's attacks in Paris that killed at least 129 people have already created a dilemma for APEC. The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the attacks on a stadium, a concert hall and Paris cafes.

Behind closed doors, senior diplomats were divided over whether to issue a statement on the attacks or let each leader speak on his or her own. The compromise: a paragraph on terrorism is being added to the APEC summit statement. One diplomat rejected any mention of the attacks in the statement, fearing it would draw the Islamic State group's attention to APEC, said a Southeast Asian diplomat who attended the meetings. The diplomat spoke on condition of anonymity because the conversations were not intended to be public.

The diplomat said the United States wanted a strongly worded response and APEC's response could still change when the leaders meet. They have a precedent: APEC leaders issued a statement in Shanghai in October 2001 to condemn the attacks in the U.S. the month before and vowed to help combat terrorism.

Including any security-related topic in APEC's formal talks is touchy for China, which fears that could pave the way for discussion of territorial conflicts in the South China Sea. Beijing says the disputes are an Asian problem that outsiders such as the US have no business dabbling in.

The Philippines has been the most outspoken among five APEC governments that have formal territorial disputes with Beijing in the South China Sea. Yesterday, as economic ministers met ahead of the summit, anti-Chinese protesters burned a Chinese flag to vent their anger over the territorial standoff.

"Boycott all China products," said a banner at the protest, which took place outside the US Embassy in Manila - not in front of the Chinese Embassy. China's top diplomat, Wang Yi, visited Manila last week and asked the Philippines not to raise such contentious issues during the APEC summit for the sake of the "political dignity" of Xi's visit, Philippine diplomats said.

China and the US are constantly jockeying for economic and political clout in the region, during APEC summits and other occasions, and at the moment Xi is battling headwinds given the friction over territorial spats. Massive Chinese construction work aimed at turning seven disputed South China Sea reefs into islands that could be used militarily have raised alarm. In contrast, two US military patrols in seas claimed by China, including flights



**MANILA:** Delegates attend Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Ministerial Meeting (AMM) in Manila yesterday. The Philippines put its military and police on full alert and vowed to upgrade security for world leaders meeting in Manila after gunmen killed more than 120 people in Paris. — AFP

last week by a pair of B-52 bombers near the artificial islands, were welcomed by America's allies in Asia.

"The US image in the region is again on the rise and China's has taken a bit of a battering due to its actions in the South China Sea, the slowing growth of its economy," said Malcolm Cook of the Institute for Southeast Asian Studies in Singapore. The recent success in wrapping up protracted talks on a free-trade deal called the Trans-Pacific Partnership has

also boosted Obama's prestige, said Ernie Bower, director of the Southeast Asia program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

The deal includes the US and 11 other Pacific Rim countries, but not China. "Obama and the White House have done everything they need to do to be well prepared for a strong Asia trip," Bower said. "Obama will be received in Manila as an American leader who 'gets Asia' and is emphasizing US long-term interests." — AP

## OBAMA TO VISIT PHILIPPINE NAVY FLAGSHIP

**MANILA:** US President Barack Obama will today visit the Philippine Navy's flagship, the White House said, seeking to highlight American commitment to regional maritime security.

Obama will board the US-made Gregorio del Pilar shortly after arriving in the Philippine capital of Manila for annual trade talks with Asia-Pacific leaders, including China's Xi Jinping.

"In the afternoon, the president will tour the BRP Gregorio del Pilar," a White House statement said on Monday as it detailed Obama's plans for his first of three days in Manila.

Obama's aides had earlier said the president planned an event that showcased "US maritime security assistance to the Philippines and the region". The White House statement detailed the venue, with the frigate a symbolic choice as it was formerly a US Coast Guard cutter that was acquired by the Philippines in 2011.

Obama's move risks irking China, which is embroiled in a bitter territorial row over the South China Sea with the Philippines and some of its other Asian neighbors. China had made clear it hoped the focus of the two-day APEC summit, which starts on Wednesday, would solely be on trade talks and not touch on the South China Sea.

But US National Security Advisor Susan Rice

said in Washington last week that the South China Sea would be a "central issue" during Obama's time in Asia. After Manila, Obama will travel to Malaysia for another regional summit. In the same briefing as Rice, national security aide Ben Rhodes said Obama's visit to the then-unmanned maritime facility was aimed at comforting nervous Asian allies.

"Clearly, in our alliance with the Philippines and our focus in the region, we have been committed to maritime security, to principles like freedom of navigation, and to the peaceful resolution of disputes," Rhodes said. "This event will be an opportunity for the president to showcase some of that maritime security assistance."

China claims nearly all of the South China Sea, even waters approaching the coasts of its neighbors. China's building of artificial islands in waters close to the Philippines, a longstanding US ally, prompted the American military to recently deploy a missile destroyer and B-52 bomber planes to the area.

China regularly insists the United States has no role to play in the territorial dispute. Washington says it takes no sides, but that freedom of navigation must be maintained in the sea, which is home to some of the world's most important shipping routes. — AFP



**LIVERPOOL:** The French flag flies at half-mast above the Town Hall in Liverpool, northwest England yesterday in memory of those killed in the November 13 Paris terror attacks. — AFP

## FRENCH MUSLIM LEADER CALLS ON MOSQUES TO PRAY FOR PARIS VICTIMS

**PARIS:** The rector of the Great Mosque of Paris called yesterday on all French imams to lead the faithful in Friday prayers for the victims of the country's worst ever terror attacks.

"I appeal to imams to take part in a solemn prayer to show our compassion and share in the families' sorrow," rector Dalil Boubakeur told reporters. He was speaking after a minute of silence was observed across France and Europe in honour of the 129 victims of the gun and suicide attacks that rocked Paris at the weekend.

Boubakeur voiced "horror" at the "unspeakable acts" which had targeted "absolutely innocent" Parisians. "We, Muslims of France, can only insist on the need for national unity in opposing this misfortune which has afflicted us and which

attacks indiscriminately," he said. "We are all victims of this barbarity," he said, repeating a call made by religious and political leaders after a series of jihadist attacks in January for people not to tar all Muslims with the same brush of extremism. The suicide bombers behind Friday's attacks on the national stadium, a packed concert hall and bars and restaurants were "people who call themselves Muslims but who should, by rights, be called barbarians," he said. Boubakeur observed the midday minute of silence on the steps of the Great Mosque, together with a handful of worshippers. Afterwards, they said a prayer before listening in silence to a rendition of the Marseillaise, the French national anthem. — AFP

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## PERSECUTED ROHINGYA SEE A RAY OF HOPE IN SUU KYI WIN

**SITTWE, Myanmar:** Noor Bagum would have liked to have voted for Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) but, like the majority of Myanmar's persecuted Rohingya Muslim minority, she took no part in the historic election the Nobel laureate won by a landslide.

Stripped of their right to cast ballots by the current government, many Rohingya now hope that, with the NLD able to rule largely on its own, a Suu Kyi-led government will work to restore their lives and many of the rights they have lost. "I hope that things will get a little bit better," said Noor Bagum, a 28-year-old mother-of-five, whose village was destroyed during violence between Buddhists and Muslims that swept through Myanmar's western Rakhine State in 2012.

Dealing with the Rohingya will be one of the most controversial - and unavoidable - of a long list of issues Suu Kyi will inherit from the current government. Feted by many in the West for her role as champion of Myanmar's pro-democracy movement during long years of military rule, she has been criticized overseas, and by some in Myanmar, for saying little about the abuses faced by the group.

When an NLD government takes power in March, she will come under mounting international pressure to take a definitive stance in their defense. But speaking out for the Rohingya would

carry a political cost at home. The group is widely disliked in Myanmar, where they are seen as illegal immigrants from Bangladesh - including by some in Suu Kyi's party. She risks haemorrhaging support by taking up the cause of the beleaguered minority.

### LOCAL RIVAL

The NLD also faces a powerful local rival - the Arakan National Party (ANP) - that has been accused of stoking anti-Muslim sentiment and has called for the deportation of Rohingya. The ANP won 22 of 29 national level seats in Rakhine and took 22 of the 35 elected seats in the state's regional assembly, one of the strongest showings by an ethnic party in the election.

"We'll be damned if we do, and we'll be damned if we don't," said Win Htein, a senior NLD leader, adding that standing up for the Rohingya would give the ANP "ample reason to criticize the NLD". Although many have lived in Myanmar for generations, the Rohingya are not one of the 135 ethnic groups recognized under the country's citizenship law and are thus entitled to only limited rights. Many Rohingya held temporary citizenship documents, known as "white cards", that allowed them to vote before they were nullified by President Thein Sein this year. "We won't be able to solve the problem as long as the international community is supporting and standing for the Bengalis," said ANP vice-chair-

man Phone Minn, using the government's term for the group, which insinuates they are illegal immigrants from Bangladesh. Phone Minn was elected to a Rakhine regional parliament seat on Sunday. Noor Bagum, and thousands of other Rohingya are now kept as virtual prisoners outside the state capital of Sittwe in refugee camps like Thae Chaung, a dusty sprawl of listing bamboo huts covered with patchworks of tarps and relief agency rice bags.

"This time, we would have voted for the NLD," she said, a sentiment widely reflected across the camp.

### CITIZENSHIP LAW

So far, the NLD has offered little in the way of concrete policy that would tackle Rohingya citizenship status or their resettlement and integration back into the communities they were forced to flee. But the first post-election comments by the party's senior leader Win Htein on the 1982 Citizenship Act that denied Rohingya full citizenship rights showed that their hope may be justified.

"It must be reviewed because it's too extreme...review that law and make necessary amendments so that we consider those people who are already in our country, maybe second generation, so they will be considered as citizens," Win Htein told Reuters.

Win Htein said that he wanted the NLD administration to allow the Rohingya to settle anywhere in the



**YANGON:** Novice Buddhist nuns line up after walking the streets to collect alms in central Yangon.—AP

country to "lessen the burden on Rakhine State". It was not clear if Win Htein, one of the most influential politicians in the party, was speaking on behalf of the party or giving a personal view.

ANP's Phone Minn has a different view. He said that the law was "the solution". "If they followed that law, the problem will be solved...if these Bengali people deserve citizenship according to the law, they can get it," said Phone Minn. Suu Kyi has never visited the

refugee camps that house some 140,000 people, mainly Rohingya. Still, many believe her government will be more sympathetic than the outgoing Union Solidarity and Development Party, which was created by the country's former junta and led by retired military officers.

Mohammed Solim, 32, who like many camp residents was angry at being deprived of the right to vote, said: "We hope that since the NLD won, we will get freedom."—Reuters



**YANGON:** Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi receives flowers as she signs on the registration book upon arrival at parliament to attend a regular lower house session yesterday.—AFP

## WINNERS AND LOSERS RETURN TO MYANMAR PARLIAMENT

ELECTION LOSERS CAN STILL MAKE LAWS FOR 21/2 MONTHS

**NAYPYIDAW, Myanmar:** Myanmar's Aung San Suu Kyi returned to parliament yesterday along with dozens of rivals freshly hammered by her pro-democracy party's landslide election victory as the legislature begins overseeing the country's delicate transition.

Suu Kyi is constitutionally barred from top political office but has vowed to rule "above" the next president, who she will select following her National League for Democracy's formidable win in the November 8 polls. The NLD bulldozed the current army-backed ruling party in polls set to dramatically reshape the country's political landscape.

But it will be the lawmakers from the military proxy Union Solidarity and Development Party-still smarting from their election drubbing—who will continue to dominate parliament as the pre-election legislature returns for a final session that will last until at least the end of January.

Suu Kyi was mobbed by dozens of journalists as she arrived at the parliament yesterday, but declined to make any comment as she takes a low profile approach to victory. She is banned from becoming president by the junta-era constitution because she married and had children with a foreigner. The Nobel laureate has nevertheless pledged to rule an NLD government through a puppet president, without revealing a candidate or setting out how the arrangement would work.

Suu Kyi has the power to select a president because of her party's parliamentary majority, with the candidate chosen in a vote of the new NLD-dominated legislature in February. Observers predict a fevered period of political horse-trading, centered on the uncertainty over the presidency as the country creeps out of the shadow of the military.

NLD spokesman Win Htein told AFP that the party was acutely conscious that the size

of its victory mirrors its success in 1990 elections, which were ignored by the then ruling generals who clung to power for another two decades. "This time, although we are quite glad that we won, we worry that history may repeat itself. We don't think the transition will be 100 percent perfect," he told AFP.

### Path to power

Suu Kyi, 70, has sought to take a conciliatory approach following the elections, dampening victory celebrations and requesting talks with President Thein Sein, army chief Min Aung Hlaing and parliament speaker Shwe Mann-heavyweights from the former junta.

All three have accepted the invitation but only Shwe Mann, whose eagerness to work with Suu Kyi made him enemies among the military elite, has already set a date for his meeting-Thursdays.

On Sunday Thein Sein, whose quasi-civilian government has opened the hermit nation to the world since taking power in 2011, said the elections were the result of his sweeping reforms and sought to reassure Myanmar's nervous populace that the handover of power would be smooth.

Myanmar's complex political system is the brainchild of the former junta, which has incrementally loosened its suffocating grip in recent years with stark changes, including releasing political prisoners and welcoming foreign investment. The army, which retains a quarter of parliamentary seats and other political and economic privileges, has also pledged to support the transition. Suu Kyi has criticized the long handover process, calling the constitution that proscribes it "very silly".

"This is quite incredible; nowhere else in the world is there such a gap between the end of the elections and the forming of the new administration and certainly it is something about which we should all be concerned," she told reporters ahead of the elections.—AFP

## SENT BACK FROM EUROPE, SOME AFGHANS PREPARE TO TRY AGAIN

**KABUL:** Last year, Hamid Rostami, a 28-year-old from Wardak in western Afghanistan, was expelled from Denmark after years trying to stay in Europe. Jobless and cut off from his family, he now sits in wintry Kabul wondering how to go back.

Jobless and unwilling to go home to a district where he says a dozen people from the Hazara ethnic minority to which he belongs have been killed by Taliban militants in recent weeks, his choices are bleak. "If I can get enough money I'll go again. It is hard to survive here," he said. "The situation is bad in Kabul. There is no security, no job. If you go out of your house it's unclear what may happen to you. You can't go anywhere."

Rostami's predicament underlines the problem for European countries that promised to send back failed asylum seekers in the face of growing public alarm at the numbers arriving.

"The truth is that most Afghans who are forced to return will try to leave again, whatever policy makers intend," said Ceri Oepen, from the University of Sussex in Britain, who has worked extensively on the problems of Afghan migrants.

Accurate statistics on the number of Afghan migrants and asylum seekers to Europe are hard to come by. But since the start of the year, almost 150,000 have arrived in Greece, the usual entry point to Europe, the second largest number of any country after Syria, according to the United Nations refugee agency.

Despite billions of dollars in aid to support Afghanistan over the past 14 years, in the first six months of 2015, around 40,000 Afghans applied for asylum in the European Union, according to EU statistics agency Eurostat.

"Aside from the very wealthy, the only ones who are not thinking of leaving are the destitute," said Liza Schuster, a migration specialist at City University in London, who has just completed three years' field-work at Kabul University.

"Part of it is driven by an unrealistic idea of life in Europe, but a huge part is driven by how difficult it is in Afghanistan," she said.

### BLEAK PROSPECTS

Even before Friday's attacks in Paris increased sensitivity around the issue, pressure was rising on European governments to limit numbers allowed to stay. Germany and Sweden, among the most liberal countries towards refugees, have signalled a tougher stance in the face of growing public disquiet.

The Afghan government has been torn between the need to satisfy aid donors that it is trying to keep citizens from emigrating en masse, and alarm at the prospect of having to resettle thousands of returnees sent back from Europe.

This week, Foreign Minister Salahuddin Rabbani and Sayed Hussain Aleml Balkhi, Minister for Refugees, met EU ambassadors

to plead for generous treatment of refugee applicants given unstable security and the approaching winter. Behind the requests lies a stark reality, said Abdul Ghafour, a former migrant who runs an information service in Kabul for Afghans thinking of leaving or returnees trying to adjust.

"Afghanistan is simply not ready to take all the returnees back," he said. "It's not just basic security, it's about work and prospects for the future."

The economy has been hit by a sharp fall in aid money, and jobs are in short supply. Security has also worsened since NATO allies ended combat operations, with the insurgency spreading to a point where the Taliban briefly seized the northern city of Kunduz in September.

Bomb attacks regularly hit Kabul, and according to United Nations figures from August, 1,592 civilians were killed and 3,329 wounded in fighting since the start of the year.

### KABUL OVERCROWDED

A large demonstration in Kabul last week, sparked by the gruesome execution of seven Hazaras by Islamist militants, underlined the fear and anger that President Ashraf Ghani has been unable to ease.

With more of the country under Taliban control, returnees end up stuck in an overcrowded Kabul, far from family networks essential to survival in Afghanistan. European governments have devoted major efforts to helping returnees resettle, providing travel assistance, cash bonuses and retraining opportunities for those willing to go back.

Many observers who work on Afghan migration say repatriation aid can go towards financing fresh efforts to leave, but Masood Ahmadi, who heads the resettlement program operated by the International Organization for Migration, said tight controls on how the money is used limit that risk.

"There are a lot of reasons for us to believe that reintegration support will not finance remigration," he said in his Kabul office. With the cost of a single trip around \$7,000-8,000, the price of migration is high, but the promise of a better life in Europe is a powerful attraction, despite well-known risks of the voyage and the grinding struggle that awaits those who make it.

Ahmadi said the expectations of many migrants were unrealistic and more effort should go towards persuading people there are better opportunities at home rather than accepting emigration is inevitable. "With \$7,000 or \$8,000, you can make a good business in Afghanistan."

For Rostami, however, the lure of Europe is already too strongly anchored and most of his friends have left. "If I tell my story about how I was deported to other people, they don't believe me. If you tell them that living conditions are very bad in Europe, they won't believe you."—Reuters



**MAZAR-I-SHARIF:** Afghan laborer Dawod, 7, harvests cotton as he works on his family's farm on the outskirts of Mazar-i-Sharif.—AFP

## S KOREA ON ALERT FOR SIGN OF NORTH'S MISSILE TEST

**SEOUL:** South Korea said yesterday it was "closely watching" for any signs of an imminent North Korean missile test after Pyongyang reportedly issued a no-sail zone off its east coast. The South's Yonhap news agency had quoted a government source on Sunday as saying the North had imposed the no-navigation zone off the coastal city of Wonsan from November 11 to December 7.

The Defence Ministry in Seoul said no formal notification had been filed with South Korea or the International Maritime Organization, suggesting that the advisory was for domestic shipping only.

The Japanese government also said it had received no official warning. Similar advisories in the past have not always been fol-

lowed by a missile test, but Seoul said it was remaining vigilant.

"We are closely watching the situation ... and closely monitoring related factors from a military standpoint," a defense ministry spokesman said, without elaborating. The isolated, nuclear-armed North regularly test-fires short-range missiles into the East Sea as part of scheduled military drills, or as a show of force at times of heightened tensions. The North is banned from tests using any ballistic missile technology under UN Security Council resolutions. The North claims it has developed long-range missiles capable of hitting the US mainland, but many experts say Pyongyang is still years away from obtaining a credible ICBM capability.—AFP



Emirati children practice a traditional dance for the celebrations of the upcoming 44th anniversary of the establishment of the United Arab Emirates in Sharjah yesterday. — AFP

## TOP COURT AFFIRMS CLOSURE OF WATAN

Continued from Page 1

Meanwhile, MP Askar Al-Enezi yesterday sent a series of questions to the finance minister about the size of surpluses amassed by Kuwait due to high prices of oil since the 2009/2010 fiscal year. The lawmaker asked the minister about the amount of the surplus in each year and what has the government done with it. He asked if the government has embarked on development projects utilizing the budget surplus when oil prices rose above \$100

a barrel. He demanded a list of those development projects if they exist, otherwise he asked the minister to provide him with an explanation about the fate of the funds.

The Assembly's health and labor committee yesterday gave the government two weeks to send answers on a number of questions on the proposed health insurance scheme for citizens and the medical insurance policy for expatriate visitors. Head of the committee MP Saadoun Hammad said the panel discussed the health insurance scheme for all citizens.

## CIA CHIEF EXPECTS MORE IS ATTACKS IN 'PIPELINE'

Continued from Page 1

"They are looking abroad to have these spectacular attacks to further their narrative that the caliphate is growing and is successful," Brennan said.

Intelligence services were aware that IS was planning attacks outside their strongholds in Iraq and Syria, particularly targeting Europe, Brennan said. "I can tell you it was not a surprise that this attack was carried out, from a standpoint that we did have strategic warning, we knew plans, plotting by ISIL was underway, looking particularly at Europe as a venue for carrying out these attacks," he said.

But the large numbers of individuals who have gone to Syria and Iraq and then returned to Europe, he said, has strained the capacity of European intelligence services to monitor them all. The fact that such a complex plot was carried out without being detected also shows IS has "gone to school on what they need to do in order to keep their activities concealed from the authorities," he said.

Brennan made a pitch for reviewing curbs placed in recent years on the intelligence services' surveillance capabilities, saying "unauthorized disclosures" and "handwringing" had made international efforts to track down terrorists "much more challenging". The Paris attacks show IS is shifting its sights to the West, raising questions about a US-led strategy that has focused on air strikes on its strongholds in Syria.

Brennan, however, argued that containing the group in the region remains the most effective strategy, and said there have been notable successes in disrupting the flow of people and material needed to carry out attacks. Likewise, he cautioned that closing borders either in Europe or the United States was inconsistent with western values and "not sustainable". "We don't want to have these terrorists succeed in taking away the freedoms and liberties that we pride ourselves on, whether it be here in the United States or in Europe." But he said no country was "immune from ISIL's touch".

Meanwhile, at least eight US states are seeking to block a program to resettle Syrian refugees within their borders, citing security fears in the wake of the Paris attacks. The movement swelled Sunday and Monday, prompting President Barack Obama to push back by urging the United States to "step up and do its part" to help those fleeing war-torn Syria. The discovery of a Syrian passport near the body of one Paris assailant, has revived Europe's debate on how hard a line to take on record migrant influx from Syria.

In the United States, Republican presidential hopefuls Marco

Rubio and Jeb Bush said outright America must not take in Syrian refugees because they might include Islamic State militants. And Republican state governors lined up to reject plans to resettle Syrians on US soil. "Given the tragic attacks in Paris and the threats we have already seen, Texas cannot participate in any program that will result in Syrian refugees - any one of whom could be connected to terrorism - being resettled in Texas," Governor Greg Abbott of the large southern state wrote yesterday in a letter to Obama.

Abbott urged the president to halt his plans to resettle thousands of Syrian refugees in the United States, arguing the government could not provide safety guarantees. "As such, opening our door to them irresponsibly exposes our fellow Americans to unacceptable peril," he said. Mississippi Governor Phil Bryant issued a similarly blunt statement, saying "I will do everything humanly possible to stop any plans from the Obama administration to put Syrian refugees in Mississippi." Obama's policy of welcoming such individuals "is not only misguided, it is extremely dangerous."

Alabama and Michigan announced their opposition to Syrian refugees on Sunday. In addition to Mississippi and Texas, they have been joined by Arkansas, Indiana, Louisiana and Illinois. All eight states are led by Republican governors. Alabama Governor Robert Bentley opposed Democrat Obama's plans, saying "I will not stand complicit to a policy that places the citizens of Alabama in harm's way."

Governor Rick Snyder, whose state of Michigan is home to one of America's largest concentrations of Middle East immigrants, said he had decided to suspend arrivals of Syrian refugees under Obama's program until the Department of Homeland Security completes a "full review" of security clearances and procedures. Michigan's leading newspaper, the Detroit Free Press, reported that between 1,800 and 2,000 refugees have resettled in the state over the past year, about 200 of whom were from Syria.

Another US governor, Louisiana's Bobby Jindal who also is running for the Republican Party's 2016 presidential nomination, wrote Obama Saturday expressing "grave concern" about allowing Syrian migrants into the country, and saying it would be "prudent to pause the process." "Authorities need to investigate what happened in Europe before this problem comes to the United States," Jindal wrote. Jindal complained he was kept in the dark about Syrian refugees as they began arriving in New Orleans earlier this month. "It is irresponsible and severely disconcerting to place individuals, who may have ties to ISIS, in a state without the state's knowledge or involvement," he said. — Agencies

## IS TAKES WAR TO FOES AFTER SETBACKS

Continued from Page 1

The ultra-hardline militants have also claimed responsibility for bringing down a Russian airliner over the Sinai Peninsula on Oct 31 which killed all 224 people on board after Russia began its own campaign of air strikes in Syria. Turkish authorities suspect a high-profile British jihadist detained in Turkey last week may have been planning attacks in Istanbul similar to those in Paris, two security sources told Reuters on Sunday. The group has also threatened to attack Saudi Arabia, United States and Russia.

It was not immediately possible to verify the reported order, which Islamic State supporters and fighters said was given to dormant cells in several places. "Their messages to us are sent by blood and carnage so we send them their messages back in the same way, it is simple," the northern-Syria-based fighter said.

The group operates in a very secretive way and has a complicated structure. In general, its Caliph Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi is the ultimate decision maker but his deputy is also powerful. They both consult a Shura Council which is comprised of military, religious and other leaders who give advice to Baghdadi on strategy and military plans. It practices a strict version of Islam which considers all those opposing it as infidels who should be killed.

The younger jihadi generation looks up to Baghdadi as a

powerful leader who will help establish a greater Islamic State that will conquer the world to spread Islam. It has drawn thousands of jihadists from across the world including Europe. But tighter security restrictions imposed by several European countries have prevented would-be jihadists from traveling and joining the group in Syria and Iraq.

To overcome this, the group has established contacts from its bases in the Middle East with these jihadists and encouraged them to operate as "lone wolves" or in small cells to carry out individual attacks inside countries where they live or work. According to one of the fighters, the dormant cells have no contact with each other but all answer to a special apparatus in charge of "foreign operations", from which they take orders to attack. He did not elaborate.

Little is known about the head of this apparatus, who the fighter said is a Jordanian national who works closely with the leadership in Syria and Iraq and travels between the two countries. He is only known by a nickname. "He masterminds these operations, gets in touch with the followers and supporters there, guide them in training and operations and targets," said a jihadi source close to the group. His account could not be independently verified. The New York Times cited officials on both sides of the Atlantic saying that the attackers in France had communicated at some point beforehand with known members of Islamic State in Syria. — Reuters

## HOLLANDE OUTLINES FIGHTBACK AGAINST IS

Continued from Page 1

Investigators identified two more extremists involved in the assault, including a Frenchman previously charged with planning a terror attack and a suicide bomber found with a Syrian passport, which has yet to be authenticated. Russia's President Vladimir Putin, speaking at a G20 conference in Turkey, said the attacks proved the need for an international anti-terror coalition. "I spoke about this at the United Nations... and the tragic events that followed have confirmed that we were right," he said. US President Barack Obama, also in Turkey, said a new deal had been agreed with France to speed up intelligence sharing.

During predawn raids in the southeastern French city of Lyon, police found "an arsenal of weapons," including a rocket launcher and Kalashnikov assault rifle. More than 100 people have been placed under house arrest, 23 arrested and 31 weapons seized, Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve said. As authorities scrambled to find those responsible, the grieving French tried to return to the humdrum of daily life. Mountains of flowers and candles have been laid at the scenes of the attacks and in front of businesses that lost loved ones.

"We need to understand how this barbarism can exist and why France is paying this heavy price," David Boy, a 52-year-old advertising agency boss said, his lips trembling as he lingered at one of the memorials on his

way to work. Metro trains were packed with commuters, pupils returned to schools and museums reopened, although a national state of emergency remained in place. A social media campaign urged everyone to visit cafes and bars tonight. In the face of "barbarism... culture is our biggest shield and our artists our best weapon," said Culture Minister Fleur Pellerin.

Prime Minister Manuel Valls steeled the nation for more bloodshed, telling RTL radio that more operations "are still being prepared, not only against France but other European countries too". Late on Sunday, French planes bombed the stronghold of the Islamic State jihadists. French jets hit an IS command post, a recruitment centre, a munitions depot and a training camp in Raqa, northern Syria, and more raids were reported on Monday.

The manhunt continued for 26-year-old Salah Abdeslam, one of the three brothers linked to the attacks. One brother blew himself up in the Bataclan and was identified from a severed finger, while the third was arrested in Belgium but released without charge. The brothers lived in the rundown Brussels neighbourhood of Molenbeek, which has a reputation as a hotbed of Islamic militancy and where police have made several arrests. Abdelhamid Abaaoud, 27, a Belgian of Moroccan descent also from Molenbeek and thought to be fighting with IS in Syria, is considered a possible mastermind of the attacks. — AP



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## MORATA NOT THINKING ABOUT REAL RETURN

**MADRID:** Juventus forward Alvaro Morata has not considered a possible return to Real Madrid despite reports in Spain claiming the La Liga heavyweights were keen to lure him back. Morata, who turned 23 last month, joined the Italian champions in July last year for a fee of 20 million euros (\$21.5 million) and scored some crucial goals as Juve won a domestic double and reached the Champions League final. Real have been struggling to find the net under new coach Rafa Benitez and Cristiano Ronaldo's run of poor form together with Karim Benzema's legal problems have prompted speculation they could move for Morata in January. It is unclear whether any repurchase clause was included in the deal for the Spain international, whose Juve contract runs until 2019. Speaking on Spanish radio late on Sunday, Morata said the only communication he has had with Real were messages of support from club director Emilio Butragueno.

"A return to Madrid is something I cannot think about," he told Onda Cero. "It would be showing a lack of respect to Juventus, they paid a very high price for me. — Reuters



## EURO 2016 WILL NOT BE MOVED FROM FRANCE

**HANOVER:** The 2016 European Championship soccer tournament will take place in France despite Friday's deadly attacks in Paris, which could have happened anywhere, Germany coach Joachim Loew said today. The German, whose team were playing France in a friendly international in Paris when at least 132 people were killed in attacks across the French capital, said he expected the tournament to go ahead as planned. "I am certain that the Euro will take place in France," Loew, whose team have qualified for the June 10-July 10 finals, told reporters. "I am sure the (French) government and security forces will provide security, it will make sure the event is safe."

Loew said moving Euro 2016 to another country would not guarantee the safety of the event as attacks have been staged in other countries as well. "It makes no sense to start talking about different countries now. What happened in Paris is something that can happen in any other country as well. We expect the Euro 2016 will be in France and that everything will be done to safeguard the tournament." Loew and his players spent Friday night inside the stadium as the attacks took place before leaving straight for the airport on Saturday morning. Islamic State claimed responsibility for the attacks, in which more than 350 people were also wounded, saying it sent militants strapped with suicide bombing belts and carrying machine guns to various locations in the heart of Paris. There was one bombing near the Stade de France, killing three people, during the game inside the venue, site of the Euro 2016 final. — Reuters

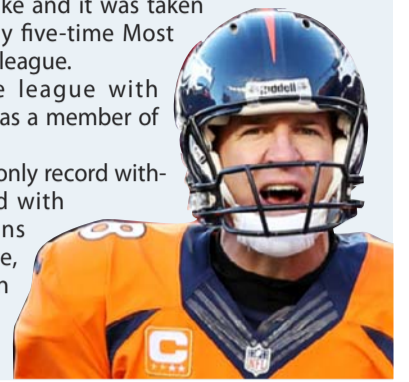
## MANNING BREAKS ALL-TIME PASSING YARDAGE RECORD

**LOS ANGELES:** Broncos quarterback Peyton Manning surpassed Brett Favre as the NFL's all-time passing yardage leader on Sunday with a four-yard toss in the first quarter of yesterday's game against Kansas City in Denver.

Manning connected with Ronnie Hillman to boost his career yardage total to 71,840 surpassing former Green Bay great Favre's record of 71,838. The contest was stopped momentarily to acknowledge Manning's feat. Hillman returned the ball to Manning as a keepsake and it was taken out of the game. Manning, the NFL's only five-time Most Valuable Player, is in his 18th season in the league.

He spent his first 14 years in the league with Indianapolis, where he won a Super Bowl as a member of the Colts.

The passing yardage mark was not the only record with Manning's reach yesterday. He is tied with Favre for most career regular-season wins with 186. Apart from Manning and Favre, Dan Marino is the only other quarterback in NFL history to have topped 60,000 career passing yards. — AFP



## SHORTENED RACE ENDS EDWARDS' CHASE DREAMS AT PHOENIX

**PHOENIX:** Carl Edwards drove around in a holding pattern as the rain started to fall, ready to wash away his Chase chances at any second. "We can't let it end like this," Edwards told his team on the radio.

Unfortunately for them, it did. Five points from earning a spot in the finale of the Chase for the Sprint Cup championship, Edwards came up just short last night at Phoenix International Raceway when the race was called after 219 laps due to rain.

Instead of racing for a long-awaited championship next week in Miami, Edwards will be playing out the string on a solid-but-not-great season. "Just very disappointing for this whole Stanley Toyota team, how hard they've worked all year to come down to something as simple as a rain out," said Darian Grubb, Edwards' crew chief. "We feel like we could have raced our way back in there and had a shot at it."

Edwards entered the Phoenix race fifth in the Chase standings behind Jeff Gordon, Kyle Busch, Kevin Harvick and Martin Truex Jr. Gordon was already in the finale at Homestead-Miami Speedway after winning at Martinsville two weeks ago.

That left seven drivers vying for three spots. A rain delay that lasted nearly seven hours included numerous trips back and forth from the garage added to the pressure of the race and the Chase. Edwards started fourth Sunday and lingered around the lead most of the night until a caution came out with about 120 laps left. Crews took a while to get the track cleaned up, leading to an extended caution, and NASCAR officials kept the drivers circling in a yellow-flagged holding pattern as more rain started to move into the area.

### Tough situation

The race was red-flagged after several laps and the cars were parked on pit road, with NASCAR officials telling the drivers not to go too far in case the track could be dried quickly. Instead, a downpour followed and the race was called with 93 laps left to the scheduled finish. Dale Earnhardt Jr won the race, with Harvick second, Joey Logano third and Kyle Busch fourth. Harvick, Busch and Truex, who finished 14th, advanced on points.

Edwards and his team were left wondering what might have been had the race continued. "We were still five points out, just like we were five points coming in," Grubb said. "We knew that was going to be a tough situation, but it ended up that it bit us and I just hate it for these guys."

Team Penske was left out in the cold rain after nearly locking both drivers into the finale the past two weeks. Brad Keselowski had his berth into the finale snatched away last week at Texas when he was passed by Jimmie Johnson in the closing laps and entered yesterday's race sixth in the standings.

Starting 18th yesterday, he lingered around the top 10 most of the night and was ninth when the race was called. That left him eight points out of the final four. "I don't think it matters what's fair," Keselowski said. "It matters what entertains the fans and if the fans are happy, that's what it's all about."

Logano had hoped to entertain them with a victory after being intentionally wrecked by Matt Kenseth while in the lead at Martinsville two weeks ago. He had a strong run at Phoenix, putting himself in position to win, right behind Earnhardt and Harvick. He never got a chance to track them down on the restart.

"That's the way this game is played," Logano said. "That's the way this Chase is." Busch put himself into a tough spot at the drop of the opening green flag, sent to the back for jumping the start. He worked his way toward the front and was seventh when the race was called, but needed a win to advance. "I had no reason to jump the start, no reason to get excited," Busch said. "We had 312 laps to go race today." — AP



**AVONDALE:** Kurt Busch waves to the crowd during driver introductions before the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series auto race at Phoenix International Raceway, Sunday, Nov. 15, 2015, in Avondale, Ariz. Busch is one of seven drivers looking to clinch a spot in the final Chase for the Cup Championship race in Homestead, Fla. — AP



**SHANGHAI:** Martin Kaymer of Germany hits the ball from the bunker on the 18th hole during the third round of the BMW Masters golf tournament at the Lake Malaren Golf Club in Shanghai, China. — AP

## MCILROY-CHASERS CLOSE IN AS SEASON HEADS FOR FINALE

**SHANGHAI:** Rory McIlroy still has his nose in front in the Race to Dubai but the 2015 European Tour season is set for a sprint to the line after his challengers closed in at the weekend. Second-placed Danny Willett narrowed the gap yesterday to an almost negligible 1,613 points after McIlroy's decision to skip Shanghai's \$7 million BMW Masters, the last event before this week's season-ending DP World Tour Championship in Dubai.

"It's going to be close, but regardless of what happens I guess I have to beat Rory in Dubai," said Willett, whose bogey on the par-three 17th at Lake Malaren Sunday left him tied 28th and cost him the chance to tee up on Thursday as the race leader.

Willett's fellow Englishman Justin Rose moved up to third in the standings after a final day five-under 67 in Shanghai enabled

him to finish tied seventh, two strokes behind playoff winner Kristoffer Broberg of Sweden. "Close but no cigar around this course," said world number six Rose, who is 650,999 points adrift of McIlroy with 1,333,330 available to the winner in Dubai.

"Tied seventh is obviously a decent week but I don't know if it makes it easier or harder next week," added Rose, who won the old European Tour Order of Merit and the Harry Vardon Trophy in 2007, two years before it reincarnated into the Race to Dubai. "I caught up a bit of ground on Rory and Danny. I think I'm going to have to win in Dubai now to have a chance." McIlroy will be hard to beat around Dubai's Earth course on which he has finished in the top five in all but one of his six appearances, winning the title in 2012.

"Yeah, I'm going for a Dubai double after

winning earlier in the season (at the Dubai Desert Classic)," McIlroy told AFP before leaving Shanghai at the end of the WGC-HSBC Champions a week earlier. "I love the golf course and, yeah, I've done well there before." The world number three, who has topped Europe's standings since April 12 when he took fourth place in the US Masters, has already arrived in Dubai to prepare, flying in on Saturday.

### 'Regroup, chill out'

Willett was clearly disappointed with his week's work in Shanghai. "Putted pretty poorly for four days. Never really got anything going," Willett said. His two-under par 70 left him on seven-under for the tournament, 10 shots behind the winner. "I've got a day-and-a-half off to regroup and chill out, and I know I'm going to have a

chance next week," he said. Others who can still win the Race to Dubai missed a golden opportunity to go top in McIlroy's absence.

Ireland's Shane Lowry and South Africa's Louis Oosthuizen needed second places, but they never got in the mix, finishing well down at 56th and 37th in the 78-player field. Branden Grace needed to win to take over at the top but ended up 22nd. South Korea's An Byeong-Hun gave himself an outside chance with tied third in the BMW Masters to move to seventh in the standings, 1,254,567 behind McIlroy.

A victory for any of them could secure the Race to Dubai title next Sunday, but they would also need McIlroy and Willett to finish well down the elite 60-player field. Their biggest problem is that McIlroy rarely does. — AFP

## PARK HOLDS OFF CIGANDA TO CLAIM OCHOA INVITATIONAL

**MEXICO CITY:** Park In-Bee capped her final round with back-to-back birdies yesterday to win the Lorena Ochoa Invitational, setting up a tantalizing showdown with world No. 1 Lydia Ko in next week's LPGA Tour Championship.

The 27-year-old South Korean fired a 64 to reach a 18-under 270 total and finish three strokes ahead of playing partner Carlota Ciganda for her fifth title of the year. Spain's Ciganda closed with a nine-under 63 while US LPGA Tour rookie-of-the-year Kim Sei-Young (66), who was the other player in the final group, finished third, five strokes behind Park.

"It was close to a perfect day," Park said. "I didn't make many mistakes and I was able to focus on my game." Park is playing her first event since withdrawing from the Blue Bay tournament on Hainan Island in China earlier this month because of a cyst on her left hand.

Park needed to finish eighth or better at the Club de Golf Mexico course to remain in the Player of the Year chase. She is aiming to take top honours for the LPGA season and to do that she needs to regain the number one ranking from New Zealand's Ko.

Park also is chasing Ko for the most money won on the Tour this season. Ko did not play this week. She and Park will square off at the season-ending Tour Championship in Florida, where Ko will be defending her 2014 title. "It is a big motivation," Park said of going for the Player-of-the-Year award. "You love to have it when you finish your season but if I don't get it, it is still a great season as I have two majors."

"This is my ninth year on the tour. I have definitely achieved a lot of things. It has been a thrill." Park rolled in a four foot putt on the 72nd hole for the win. Her bogey-free round included eight birdies.

"My putter was really good this week. I made some 30 footers out there," she said. Ciganda got off to a hot start with an eagle and four birdies in her first seven holes. Her only blemish on the day was a bogey at the par-three 16th

which came as she was trying to chase down Park for the lead. Like Ciganda, Kim eagled the par-five second hole. She also had three straight birdies around the turn, beginning at the ninth. Kim was coming off her third win of the season

at the Blue Bay event which saw her clinch rookie-of-the-year honours. South Korea's Ryu So-Yeon finished solo fourth after shooting a 67 for a 11-under 277 while Japan's Sakura Yokomine was alone in fifth at nine-under. — AFP



**MEXICO CITY:** South Korea's Inbee Park kisses the trophy at the end of the LPGA Lorena Ochoa Invitational in Mexico City, Sunday, Nov. 15, 2015. Inbee Park won the Invitational, holding off Carlota Ciganda for her fifth victory of the season and 17th LPGA Tour title. — AP

## UNDER SCRUTINY UMAR AKMAL DENIES WRONGDOING

**LAHORE:** Pakistan's talented but controversial batsman Umar Akmal yesterday denied any wrongdoing in a party which led to his axing from the Twenty20 team for the three-match series against England later this month.

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) last week said Umar was in contention for the 16-man squad but was dropped over an incident in Hyderabad in which he was alleged to have "misbehaved" with women at a

party. The PCB has also served a show cause notice to the 25-year-old batsman whose career has been chequered with disciplinary problems.

Umar, younger brother of Kamran and Adnan Akmal who also played for Pakistan, Monday responded to the PCB show cause notice.

"I attended a dinner party after being granted official permission by my team manager," said Umar in his response to the PCB notice. Last year Umar was

jailed in Lahore after he had a scuffle with a traffic warden over running a red light.

He was also left out of the team after the 2015 World Cup, with head coach Waqar Younis complaining about his insubordination during the event. PCB chairman Shaharyar Khan last week said Umar would be given an opportunity to defend himself. Umar meanwhile has labelled the allegations baseless.

"I am not answerable to anyone apart from the

department I am playing for," Umar told reporters. "Cricket is my love and I want to represent Pakistan for a long period of time." Pakistan's Twenty20 captain Shahid Afridi has also reportedly backed the embroiled batsman, asking the PCB to clear Umar and then reinstate him in the squad.

Pakistan play England in a three-match T20 series with matches in Dubai (November 26 and 27) and Sharjah on November 30. — AFP



Perth: Australia's Steve Smith plays a shot against New Zealand during their cricket test match in Perth, Australia, yesterday. — AP

## AUSTRALIA STRIKE BACK AFTER TAYLOR'S EPIC 290



PERTH: New Zealand's Ross Taylor raises his bat as he leaves the field after being dismissed for 290 runs on day four of the second cricket Test match between Australia and New Zealand in Perth yesterday. — AFP

**PERTH:** Steve Smith and Adam Voges scored the fifth and sixth centuries of the second test to give Australia a lead of 193 after Ross Taylor's epic 290 brought New Zealand back into the contest on day four yesterday.

Smith hit his eighth century in 13 tests over the last 12 months, and his fourth in five tests as captain, while western Australian Voges delighted the WACA crowd with his first on home soil to take the hosts to 254 for two.

The skipper will resume on 127 not out and Voges unbeaten on 101 in a partnership of 208 that steadied the innings after New Zealand had removed openers Joe Burns (0) and David Warner (24) cheaply.

That drove home the tourist's advantage after Taylor's mighty 374-ball knock, which featured 43 fours, had dragged his side back into the match with a first-innings lead of 65.

Although he fell 10 runs short of the triple century, the 31-year-old's innings was the highest score by any visiting batsman in Australia, bettering the previous record of 287 set by England's Tip Foster in Sydney in 1903.

It was also the third highest innings by any New Zealand batsman in a test match and eclipsed the 253 contributed by Warner to Australia's first innings tally of 559-9 declared, which had looked almost unassailable on day two.

### MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH

Just before lunch and after more than nine hours at the crease, Taylor miscued a slog-sweep to substitute fielder Jonny Wells off the bowling of Nathan Lyon to bring an end to New Zealand's innings on 624.

Breaking Australia's opening partnership, which had put together century stands in the first three innings of the series, was an achievement in itself but also removing Warner with just 46 runs on the board was a major breakthrough.

Southee had Burns caught at first slip by Taylor, while Warner, who also scored centuries in both innings in Brisbane, fell to Trent Boult and a sharp catch from Tom Latham at cover.

### SCOREBOARD

**PERTH, Australia:** Scores at the close on the fourth day in the second Test between Australia and New Zealand at the WACA Ground in Perth yesterday.

#### Australia 1st innings (559-9 declared)

New Zealand 1st innings:	
M. Guptill lbw Starc	1
T. Latham c Smith b Lyon	36
K. Williamson c Johnson b Hazlewood	166
R. Taylor c sub b Lyon	290
B. McCullum b Marsh	27
B.J. Watling c Lyon b Starc	1
D. Bracewell c Neville b Johnson	12
M. Craig c Johnson b Lyon	15
M. Henry b Starc	6
M. Craig c Johnson b Lyon	21
T. Boult not out	23
Extras (b7, lb11, w5, nb3)	26
Total (all out, 153.5 overs)	624
Fall of wickets: 1-6 (Guptill), 2-87 (Latham), 3-352 (Williamson), 4-432 (McCullum), 5-447	

(Watling), 6-485 (Bracewell), 7-525 (Craig), 8-554 (Henry), 9-587 (Southee), 10-624 (Taylor) Bowling: Starc 37-7-119-4, Hazlewood 32-2-134-1 (1nb), Johnson 28-2-157-1 (1w), Lyon 37.5-6-107-3, Marsh 15-1-73-1 (2nb), Smith 4-0-16-0.

#### Australia second innings:

J. Burns c Taylor b Southee	0
D. Warner c Latham b Boult	24
S. Smith not out	131
A. Voges not out	101
Extras (w1, nb1)	2
Total (2 wickets, 63 overs)	258
Fall of wickets: 1-8 (Burns), 2-46 (Warner) Bowling: Southee 13-3-40-1, Boult 10-0-50-1, Bracewell 10-3-34-0, Henry 12-3-45-0 (1w), Craig 17-0-81-0 (1nb), Williamson 1-0-8-0.	

Smith came out at number three because of the hamstring injury to Usman Khawaja, who will miss Australia's next two tests, and quickly showed his desire to get in on the WACA run-fest, which has seen 1,441 scored on the first four days.

He raced to his half century in 57 balls and, after being dropped by New Zealand wicket-

keeper BJ Watling on 96, reached his 12th test century with a four behind point, the 13th of his innings.

Voges, who hit a century on debut against West Indies earlier this year, scored at a more pedestrian pace and reached the milestone with his 15th boundary in the penultimate over of the day. — Reuters

## PAKISTAN REJECTS INDIA OFFER, SERIES IN JEOPARDY

**NEW DELHI:** Next month's scheduled series between India and Pakistan remains in doubt after both sides again failed to reach an agreement on where the matches should be played.

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) wants to stage the matches in the United Arab Emirates, which has been the team's "home" base since 2009 because of ongoing security concerns in their homeland that prevents international teams from visiting. But the Indian cricket board (BCCI) said the Indian government would not permit its team to play Pakistan in the UAE, so the series would have to be played in India. The two countries, bitter rivals on and off the cricket field, signed a memorandum of understanding in 2014 that Pakistan would host their next series after India had staged their previous two meetings.

The PCB chairman Shaharyar Khan, speaking to ESPNcricinfo yesterday, said he was still waiting for an explanation as to why the Indian government was opposed to its team playing in UAE but was adamant that Pakistan would not go to India. "There is no question of playing in India. I'm still awaiting the reason of not playing in UAE," Khan said. "We went there in 2007 and 2012. This time not again. It is our series and we will play at our home venue which is the UAE. "What is the problem playing in UAE as they had also played their IPL (Indian Premier League) there as well so why not Pakistan series?"

The BCCI did not immediately respond to the PCB's comments yesterday. — Reuters



**BANGALORE:** Groundsmen walk over plastic sheets covering the pitch area and outfield near the empty stands displaying portraits of Mahatma Gandhi, left, and Nelson Mandela, center, after the play for the third day of second cricket test match between India and South Africa was called off due to persistent rains in Bangalore, India, yesterday. — AP

## RAIN RUINS INDIA, S AFRICA TEST AGAIN

**BANGALORE:** The second Test between India and South Africa in Bangalore was headed for a tame draw after bad weather washed out play for the second successive day yesterday. The umpires called off the scheduled third

day's play, without a ball being bowled, during the lunch break as incessant rain left large puddles of water on the outfield at the Chinnaswamy stadium.

The entire second day's play was also

abandoned on Sunday and more wet weather is forecast over the southern city, caused by a cyclonic depression over the Bay of Bengal.

On the rain-free first day, South Africa were shot out for 214 after being sent in to bat in

overcast conditions and India replied with 80 for no loss by stumps. India lead the four-match series after securing a 108-run win in the first Test in Mohali last week. The third Test is to be played in Nagpur from November 25. — AFP



## AUSTRALIA'S COACH CHEIKA RULES OUT ENGLAND JOB

**LONDON:** Australia coach Michael Cheika insisted yesterday he had no interest in taking over the vacant England position as he joined a growing list of high-profile figures in ruling himself out as a successor to Stuart Lancaster.

Last week saw Lancaster quit as England coach as he paid the price for a poor World Cup which saw England become the first host nation to fail to get out of the group phase.

"No one from there (England's governing Rugby Football Union) has contacted me and they know they can't contact me because I am committed to Australia," Cheika, who led the Wallabies to last month's World Cup final at Twickenham, told reporters in London.

"That's where I want to be coaching." With RFU

chief executive Ian Ritchie making it clear he wanted a coach of "proven international experience" to replace Lancaster, Cheika's name was mentioned following his success in guiding the Wallabies to the southern hemisphere Rugby Championship title and the World Cup final in barely a year since taking charge.

Ritchie also made it clear that money was no object. However Cheika-back in England for the temporary role of coaching the Barbarians in the multi-national invitational side's matches against Gloucester and Argentina later this week was adamant nothing could tempt him away from the Wallabies.

"I'm an Australian coaching Australia-it's like the dream," he said. "There's nothing that would

make me change my mind."

New Zealand's Steve Hansen and fellow Kiwis Warren Gatland and Joe Schmidt, in charge of Wales and Ireland respectively, have also said they are not interested in the England job.

Graham Henry, New Zealand's World Cup-winning coach on home soil four years ago, is another to insist he has no interest in the England role, with compatriot Wayne Smith—who helped the All Blacks to World Cup glory this year—equally emphatic that the Red Rose post is not for them.

Meanwhile Australia's Eddie Jones, the man behind Japan's stunning World Cup win over South Africa last month, has insisted he is committed to his new role with the Western Stormers.

The only major overseas coach to declare his

interest in the England job is South Africa's Jake White, who hasn't been in charge of a Test side since guiding the Springboks to World Cup glory in 2007. Cheika, whose current contract with the Australia Rugby Union expires in 2017, made it clear he was determined to stay with the Wallabies for as long as possible.

"I never thought I'd be coaching Australia," said Cheika, who as a player never won a Test cap for the Wallabies. "I'm enjoying that and I want to do the best I can in that role for as long as I can."

"You want to make sure that you give everything when you have the opportunity," he added. "When the chance comes to coach Australia, you don't say no to that. I've enjoyed the first year of doing it, it's been fantastic." — AFP

## FUTURE OF DOPING WAR IN SPOTLIGHT AT WADA MEETING

**LOS ANGELES:** The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) is expected to rule against Russia's anti-doping body at a key meeting in Colorado tomorrow which will aim to map out future strategies for the global war on drugs. WADA's hierarchy meets to assess the findings of its independent panel, which uncovered a wide-ranging state-supported doping program in Russia that has plunged athletics into the biggest crisis in its history. The IAAF on Friday provisionally suspended Russian athletes from international competition, potentially putting their participation at next year's Rio de Janeiro Olympics in jeopardy.

WADA's executive committee will meet in Colorado Springs, outside Denver on Tuesday before a full meeting of the agency's foundation board on Wednesday, where officials are expected to rule that Russia's anti-doping body (RUSADA) has been non-compliant with its code.

The board will also consider a range of recommendations made by the independent panel to strengthen WADA. The global anti-doping body had already suspended Moscow's main drug-testing laboratory, whose director resigned last week. WADA President Craig Reedie said in a statement on Friday the current scandal represented the "tip of the iceberg" and that a new approach was needed to keep drugs cheats firmly on the defensive.

"To truly tackle the scourge of doping, the anti-doping community must further improve the approach that has been employed to date; and, above all, the resources that are attributed to it," he said.

### 'PUNCHING ABOVE WEIGHT'

Reedie said while WADA had "punched above its weight" in the first 16 years of its existence, there was broad

recognition that the body required greater resources to tackle doping effectively.

WADA obtains its funding equally from the International Olympic Committee and state governments around the world.

However the level of annual funding—around \$26.8 million in 2015—has remained largely flat over the past decade, barely keeping pace with inflation and leaving WADA struggling to keep up.

WADA director general David Howman has repeatedly complained that funding has failed to reflect the vast amounts of cash pumped into all sports over the past decade, and recently contrasted the rise in salaries paid to top footballers over the same period.

"When I started at WADA, Wayne Rooney was being paid \$4 million a year by Manchester United," Howman told the BBC in an interview. "He's now being paid something like \$30 million. We were getting \$20m when he first started, we're now getting \$30m. Sport is saying to us 'Your money should be increased' but they are not doing it in the same proportion." As well as the funding issue, WADA officials this week will also discuss ways of strengthening its international investigations unit and improving the system set up to encourage whistleblowers.

The independent panel last week recommended that greater protection needed to be offered to anonymous sources that may be willing to come forward. The panel also took aim at the "inherent conflicts of interest" that existed between WADA's Executive Committee and larger Foundation Board, which includes many government representatives. The panel recommended WADA consider setting up a separate disciplinary body with the power to make rulings on non-compliance. — AFP



**LONDON:** Switzerland's Roger Federer reacts after being presented with two awards, the Fans' Favourite award, and the Stefan Edberg Sportsmanship award, following his victory over Tomas Berdych in their men's singles group stage match on day one of the ATP World Tour Finals tennis tournament in London. Federer won the match 6-4, 6-2. — AFP

## DJOKOVIC AND FEDERER STROLL TO EASY WINS

**LONDON:** Novak Djokovic looked unstoppable when trouncing Kei Nishikori but for sheer swagger Roger Federer remains unrivalled as he demonstrated again when dismantling Tomas Berdych as the ATP World Tour Finals began on Sunday. World number one Djokovic extended his latest winning sequence to 23 with a 6-1 6-1 hammering of world number eight Nishikori who was powerless to stop the rampant Serb. Far from easing up with the finish of his best ever year a week away, Djokovic clearly wants to lay down a marker for next year's assault on the top silverware and showed Nishikori no mercy.

"No question, it felt like the best tennis I played this year," the 28-year-old, aiming for a fourth consecutive title at the O2 Arena, told reporters. "I was at my best and it was an incredible performance." Djokovic and Nishikori had stood heads bowed before their match to respect a minute's silence in a darkened arena for the victims of

Friday's Paris attacks. Following his immaculate performance he was presented with a trophy for the year-end number one ranking he has achieved for the fourth time in five seasons.

Home fans were given some early excitement when Jamie Murray, older brother of Andy, marked his debut at the tournament when he and Australian partner John Peers beat Italian duo Fabio Fognini and Simone Bolelli in a thriller. But the atmosphere was subdued later as Djokovic snuffed out any chance of a shock when he thrashed a helpless Nishikori. "He played unbelievable tennis. I'm very ashamed with this score," second-time qualifier Nishikori, who will hope for a better showing in his next two round robin matches, said.

### DAZZLING SHOW

Federer will provide Djokovic with a far sternest test when they meet in the "Stan Smith"

Group today, if his level for most of a 6-4 6-2 defeat of Berdych was anything to go by. The 34-year-old, cheered on by a sizeable army of Swiss fans in various sorts of red and white attire, made a mess of his opening service game, falling 0-2 behind after serving two consecutive double-faults to gift Berdych a break. But he responded with a break to love and then from 3-4 down in the opening set he produced a dazzling show reel of his favourite tricks to win seven games in a row—throwing in a couple of his trademark half-volleyed returns for good measure. "Was one of the worst starts I've had in years," Federer told reporters. "No first serves, two double-faults, nothing coming from the baseline. So it was rough. "But thankfully I was able to pick it up." Play begins in the Ilie Nastase Group yesterday with Andy Murray up against David Ferrer and Rafael Nadal taking on French Open champion Stanislas Wawrinka. — Reuters

## 'UNIQUE' PATRIOTIC CHORE FOR TEAM PLAYER SHARAPOVA

**PRAGUE:** Maria Sharapova failed to lift the Fed Cup as Russia lost to defending champions the Czech Republic in Prague on Sunday, but she did her patriotic duty and said she enjoyed it. In only her fifth Fed Cup appearance, world number four Sharapova won both singles matches, beating 11th-ranked Karolina Pliskova in straight sets on Saturday and sixth-ranked Petra Kvitova in a three-set thriller on Sunday. "Personally it's an incredible achievement for me because I've never been in a Fed Cup final and I won two of my matches," Sharapova said. After winning five Grand Slam titles, Sharapova is still seeking two other global trophies—the Fed Cup and Olympic gold. Next year, she will be in contention for the Olympic title, after winning bronze in London 2012—representing Russia despite having lived in Florida since age seven. "There's no better feeling than being out on the court having so many people fly here from Russia to support you," Sharapova beamed on Sunday as the Fed Cup final was under way.

"In an event like this you're just not playing for yourself, you're playing for your teammates, for your country. "It's a very unique feeling and it's so special." Yet questions over her team spirit continue to follow her. She has played only five Fed Cup ties since earning professional status in April 2001, two of which were this year. A decade ago, she was involved in a rift with her teammate and now Russia captain Anastasia Myskina, who threatened to boycott the Fed Cup if Sharapova was selected for the Russian team, complaining about her father's behaviour in the stands.

Myskina, the 2004 French Open champion, also slammed Sharapova for being "more American than Russian," accusing her of speaking Russian "with a coarse accent."

### END OF THE STORY

Former fellow Russian player Elena Dementieva once said that Sharapova "grew up

in America and trains there, so we don't have anything in common." This week, Myskina waved the spat aside, saying she was happy to have Sharapova on the team. "Definitely it's very important to have Maria on the team and I want to say thank you," Myskina said. But after the Fed Cup final, she declined to comment on Sharapova's presence on the team.

"We lost. That's the end of the story," she said. Adding fuel to the fire, Czech media said Sharapova had shunned the rest of the team and stayed in a different Prague hotel to the others. "Is that a serious question? Next question," Sharapova snarled at a local reporter when

asked to comment.

On court, she was all smiles, and not only because she won twice. "The team supported me so well today," she said. "I really felt like I would look over to them and every time they are standing up and that's the meaning of this event." On Sunday, her previous problems appeared to be behind her with the star joining her teammates for a post-final dinner.

"Love my team," tweeted teammate Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova who posted a photo of all the squad, name-checking the rest of the Russian squad for good measure. "Girlzzzz," tweeted Sharapova in reply. — AFP



**PRAGUE:** Czech Republic's Fed Cup team players (l-r) Tereza Smitkova, Lucie Safarova, Petra Kvitova, Denisa Allertova, captain Petr Pala, Barbora Zahlavova Strycova, Karolina Pliskova and Lucie Hradecka pose with the trophy after the International Tennis Federation Fed Cup after the International Tennis Federation Fed Cup final match between Czech Republic vs Russia in Prague. — AFP

## RUSSIAN STARS SLAM 'UNFAIR' SUSPENSION

**MOSCOW:** Russian track and field stars including pole vault star Yelena Isinbayeva yesterday denounced as "completely unfair" the decision by the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) decision to provisionally suspend Russia.

"Why do people like me have to suffer from the mistakes of irresponsible athletes?" three-time Olympic medallist Isinbayeva told reporters. A World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) independent commission last week published a damning report that alleged Russian athletes were plagued with state-sponsored doping and large-scale corruption, and recommended that track and field athletes be barred from international competition. The IAAF on Friday handed the Russian athletics federation a provisional suspension, sparking indignation among the country's brightest track and field stars.

Isinbayeva, 33, for whom the upcoming Rio Olympics would be her fifth and a finish of her career, wrote Saturday on Instagram she was "shocked" by the decision, after having implored world athletics' governing body for leniency. Russian sporting officials have announced a three-month plan to revamp athletics in time for track and field stars to participate in the Rio de Janeiro Games in August

2016. Former WADA head Dick Pound—who served as the head of the independent commission—said that Russia's participation in Rio would depend on its ability to promptly clean up its act. "Pound said it was a shame that I was a victim of the system," Isinbayeva said. "But I am not a victim of the system. I am outside it." Isinbayeva's coach, Yevgeny Trofimov, told Russian press on Saturday that the four-time Olympian could ponder competing as an independent athlete under the Olympic flag, a prospect the International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Thomas Bach dismissed as "speculation."

"There are discussions going on about this in sporting circles," Isinbayeva said of the prospect of Russian track and field athletes competing as independents in Rio. "But I don't know whether this is even possible." World champion hurdler Sergei Shubenkov—the 25-year-old son of prominent Soviet heptathlete Natalya Shubenkova—deplored he could relive his mother's exclusion of the 1984 Los Angeles Games, which the Soviet Union boycotted.

"What have I done?" asked Shubenkov, the two-time European champion who clocked a national record of 12.98 to take gold at the IAAF World Championships in Beijing in August. — AFP



**MOSCOW:** Russia's high jump athlete Anna Chicherova answers journalists' questions during a press conference in Moscow yesterday following Russia's provisional suspension from athletics by the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF). — AFP

# DR CONGO, MOROCCO ADVANCE IN WORLD CUP QUALIFICATION

**CAPE TOWN:** Morocco and the Democratic Republic of Congo both advanced towards another World Cup finals appearance on Sunday but without much conviction as they booked places in the final phase of African qualification for the 2018 tournament in Russia.

Morocco lost 1-0 away to Equatorial Guinea in Bata but qualified 2-1 on aggregate after winning the first leg on

Thursday. This keeps them on course for a fifth World Cup finals appearance but their first since France in 1998. They are joined in the final group phase by Guinea, Uganda, Zambia and the Congolese, who, as Zaire, played at the 1974 finals in West Germany.

DR Congo qualified despite being held 2-2 at home by tiny neighbours Burundi in a disappointing result on their return to

Kinshasa's newly-refurbished Martyrs Stadium. Two late goals gave the Congolese a 3-2 away win in Thursday's first leg and they were expecting an easy return match, scoring first through French-born Jordan Nkololo. But striker Dieumerci Mbokani, back to help defend a corner, skewed the ball into his own net for an equaliser that suddenly offered Burundi some hope. Yannick Bolaise's

77th minute penalty put the Congolese back ahead but Burundi ensured an anxious finish when they equalised near the end with a spot kick of their own, converted by Fiston Abdul Razak.

Seventeen-year-old Farouk Miya netted two of Uganda's three first-half goals in a 3-0 win in Kampala, ensuring a 4-0 aggregate triumph, while Winston Kalengo's 81st minute goal sealed

Zambia's 2-0 win over Sudan in Ndola to advance 3-0 over the two legs.

Guinea, forced to host their tie against Namibia in Morocco because of the Ebola ban, were 2-0 victors in Casablanca but also advance in convincing fashion. Gabon qualified on Saturday with the remaining 14 places to be decided on Tuesday at the conclusion of the second round of knockout matches. — Reuters

# CELTICS GET SMART TO SILENCE THUNDER IN OKLAHOMA CITY

**OKLAHOMA CITY:** Marcus Smart scored a career-high 26 points to lead the Boston Celtics to a 100-85 victory over the Oklahoma City Thunder. Smart, who also had to guard Oklahoma's Russell Westbrook, was still able to shoot 9-of-14 from the field and haul in eight rebounds. Guard Isaiah Thomas scored 20 points and handed out eight assists. Westbrook had a game-high 27 points.

rebounds) and Batum (33 points) to seize a lead in the second quarter they would not relinquish. The Hornets had built a 71-45 advantage by halftime and led by as many as 29 points, before Portland used a 16-0 run in the fourth quarter to close the gap.

## Jazz 97, Hawks 96

Forward Derrick Favors scored 23 points and grabbed nine rebounds to lead the Utah Jazz to a 97-96 win over the Atlanta Hawks. Favors, who grew up in Atlanta and played one season at Georgia Tech before turning professional, gave the Jazz a five-point lead at 93-88, a margin from which the Hawks could not recover. He scored 17 points in the second half.

## Kings 107, Raptors 101

DeMarcus Cousins scored a game-high 36 points, and guard Ben McLemore's acrobatic layup with under a minute left lifted the Sacramento Kings to a 107-101 victory over the Toronto Raptors. Cousins produced his third consecutive game of at least 30 points, while Sacramento held Toronto to 12 points over the final 10:23 to win for the third successive game. Kings forward Rudy Gay added 27 points and forward Omri Casspi contributed 14.

## Lakers 97, Pistons 85

Forward Kobe Bryant compiled 17 points, nine assists and eight rebounds, and the Los Angeles Lakers snapped a four-game skid with a 97-85 victory over the Detroit Pistons at Staples Center. Guard Jordan Clarkson also had 17 points for Los Angeles (2-8). Bryant made just 6-of-19 shots from the floor but was effective in involving his team mates. Guard Nick Young came off the bench to score 13 points for the Lakers, whose only other victory was over the Brooklyn Nets. Center Roy Hibbert chipped in 12 points and seven rebounds. — Reuters

## Knicks 95, Pelicans 87

The New York Knicks, aided by strong play from their bench, won for just the second time at home this season, with a 95-87 victory over the New Orleans Pelicans. The Knicks are now 2-4 at Madison Square Garden. New York were led by forward Carmelo Anthony's 29 points and 13 rebounds, but it was their reserves who made the difference. Backup point guard Langston Galloway scored 15 points and power forward Kevin Seraphin added 12 points. Forward Anthony Davis showed no ill effects from a hip contusion that kept him out for two games as he scored 36 points, pulled in 11 rebounds and blocked four shots.

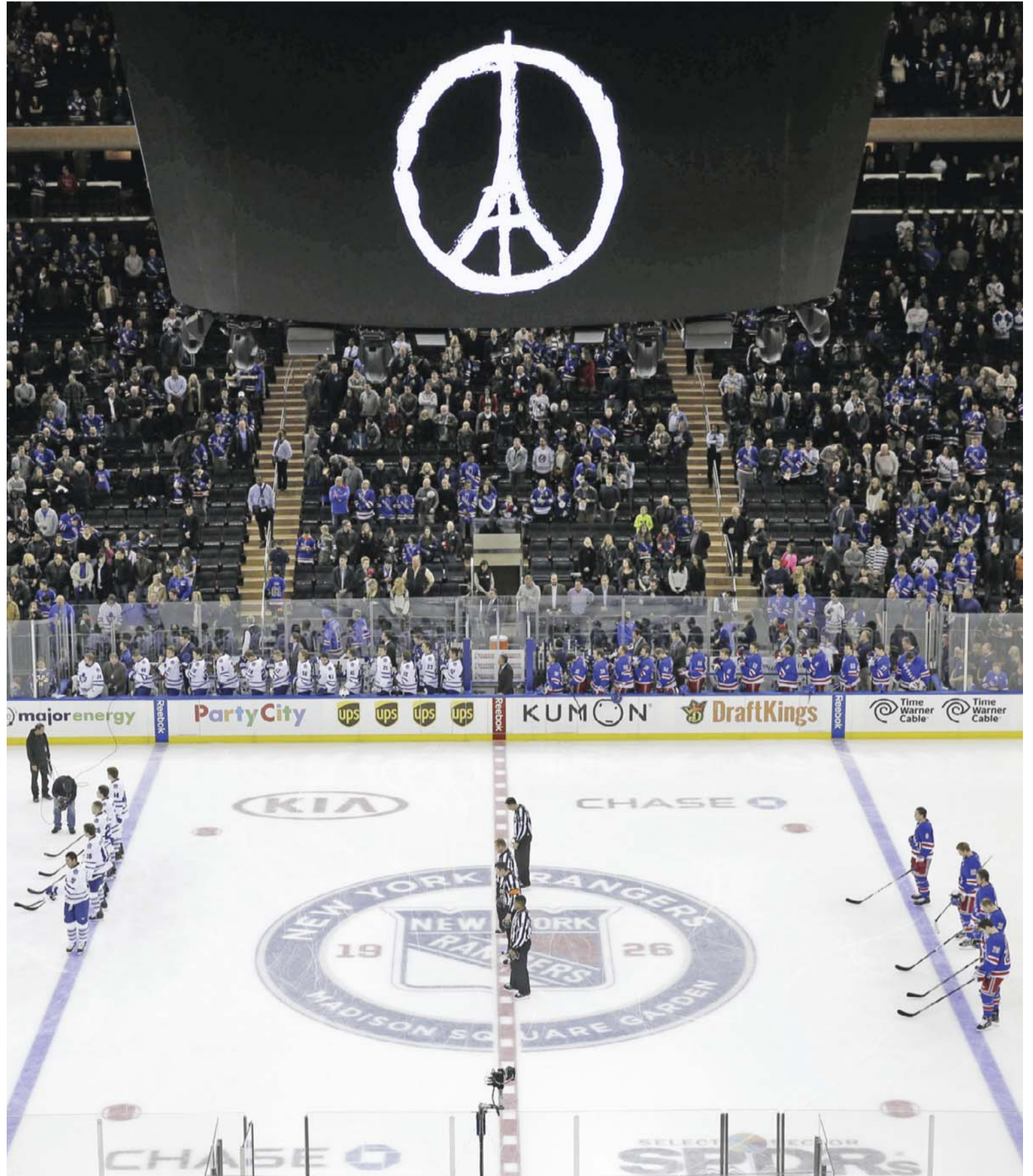
## Grizzlies 114, Timberwolves 106

Forward Jeff Green led the Memphis Grizzlies with 21 points in a 114-106 win over the Minnesota Timberwolves. Mike Conley added 20 for Memphis, who had six players in double figures. Guard Zach LaVine scored 25 points while Andrew Wiggins finished with 21 but the Timberwolves could not match the Memphis shooters, falling to 0-5 at home with their fourth consecutive loss.

## Hornets 106, Trail Blazers 94

Guard Nicolas Batum and center Al Jefferson combined for 62 points as the Charlotte Hornets built a big lead and held on for a 106-94 victory over the Portland Trail Blazers.

Charlotte used a dominating performance from Jefferson (29 points, five



**NEW YORK:** A moment of silence is observed for the victims of the French terrorist attacks, before an NHL hockey game between the New York Rangers and the Toronto Maple Leafs, Sunday, in New York. — AP

# STRUGGLING BLACKHAWKS DOUSE CALGARY FLAMES

**CHICAGO:** Patrick Kane continued his torrid point-scoring streak with a goal and an assist as the Chicago Blackhawks used a second-period offensive barrage to beat the Calgary Flames. Chicago goaltender Scott Darling made 25 saves.

Calgary grabbed a 1-0 lead less than four minutes into the second period when right winger David Jones pushed a shot under Darling, who made the start after Corey Crawford made 29 saves in the Blackhawks' 4-2 win over St. Louis on Saturday. The Blackhawks responded by scoring three times in a span of just under two minutes to take a 3-1 lead, with Kane scoring a goal for the seventh successive game and extending his points streak to 13 games.

Right winger Marian Hossa followed up about a minute later before Artemi Panarin finished off the scoring flurry with a goal at the 8:32 mark of the period. Blackhawks center Jonathan Toews capped the scoring with an empty-net goal with 38 seconds remaining.

## Rangers 4, Maple Leafs 3

Right winger Mats Zuccarello capped a three-point performance with a goal with less than a minute left in regulation as the New York Rangers beat the Toronto Maple Leafs. Defenseman Ryan McDonagh and centers

Derek Stepan and Derick Brassard also scored for New York, who have won nine successive games. Goaltender Antti Raanta stopped 23 of 26 shots. Center Peter Holland, left winger

Joffrey Lupul and defenseman Dion Phaneuf scored for Toronto, who had a three game winning streak end. Goaltender Jonathan Bernier made 26 saves. — Reuters

## NHL Results/Standings

NY Rangers 4, Toronto 3; Chicago 4, Calgary 1.

Western Conference						Metropolitan Division							
Central Division						Atlantic Division							
W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS	W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS		
Dallas	14	4	0	65	47	28	Ottawa	8	5	4	51	53	20
Minnesota	10	3	3	48	43	23	Tampa Bay	8	8	3	46	48	19
Nashville	10	3	3	50	38	23	Boston	8	7	1	52	49	17
St. Louis	11	5	1	47	41	23	Detroit	8	8	1	37	42	17
Chicago	10	7	1	49	44	21	Buffalo	8	8	1	40	46	17
Winnipeg	8	8	2	48	59	18	Florida	7	7	3	48	45	17
Colorado	7	9	1	49	45	15	Toronto	5	9	4	41	54	14
Pacific Division						Eastern Conference							
Los Angeles	11	6	0	43	36	22	Atlantic Division						
Arizona	9	7	1	48	49	19	Montreal	13	3	2	63	39	28
Vancouver	7	6	5	52	46	19	Note: Overtime losses (OTL) are worth one point in the standings and are not included in the loss column (L)						
San Jose	9	8	0	45	43	18							
Anaheim	5	8	4	29	45	14							
Calgary	6	12	1	45	72	13							
Edmonton	6	12	0	47	58	12							



**OKLAHOMA CITY:** Boston Celtics guard Isaiah Thomas (front) passes in front of Oklahoma City Thunder guard Russell Westbrook in the second quarter of an NBA basketball game ON Sunday. Boston won 100-85. — AP

# KENYA LEAVE FOR CAPE VERDE AFTER PAY DISPUTE DEAL

**NAIROBI:** Kenya finally left Nairobi yesterday for their 2018 World Cup qualifier in Cape Verde after settling a pay dispute with the national football federation.

The Harambee Stars were scheduled to leave on Saturday and will now arrive only 24 hours before Tuesday's second round return leg tie. The players had boycotted training following the Football Kenya Federation's (FKF) failure to pay their outstanding allowances

and refund expenses for the overseas-based players.

A special flight carrying the team left the Kenyan capital Monday afternoon for the eight-hour trip to the capital of Cape Verde, Praia. "It is good that we shall arrive late in Cape Verde. The players will not be affected by the weather changes before the match," team manager Willis Waliaula told AFP.

Kenya coach Bobby Williamson has made

two changes to the team which beat Cape Verde 1-0 in the first leg in the Kenyan capital last Friday.

He has brought in Zambia-based striker David Keli and defender Brian Mandela of the South African premier league side Maritzburg United to replace Allan Wang, who is unavailable and suspended Teddy Okumu. Kenya need a draw in Praia to reach the World Cup group qualifying phase. — AFP

## PACIFIC ISLANDERS GUAM BARE TEETH IN RUSSIA QUEST

**TOKYO:** More famous for its sun-kissed beaches and coral reefs than its football, the tiny Pacific island of Guam is making waves in Asian qualifying for the 2018 World Cup. Coached by Englishman Gary White, Guam have put the rugby-score losses of the past behind them with some giant-killing performances and face Iran on Tuesday determined to preserve a remarkable unbeaten home record.

"Mathematically we're still in it," White told AFP by telephone on Monday, defiant despite last week's disappointing 1-0 defeat by India.

"We need to get a minimum of four points from the next two games to have a sniff but in football anything is possible. This is not an easy place for anybody to come. We've won two and drawn one at home so we want to try to keep it as a fortress," he added. "We've already achieved one of our team goals by reaching the final round of 2019 Asian Cup qualifiers, which is an amazing achievement."

Guam's population is just 170,000 but White's "Matatao"—a name derived from the noble classes of

Micronesia's ancient Chamorro society—have consistently punched above their weight, with victories against Turkmenistan and India, a country of 1.2 billion. By far the smallest of Asia's 47 national and territorial teams, the state of football in the tiny United States territory was so precarious barely a generation ago that the islanders did not even bother entering the World Cup qualifiers. And when they did, they would often lose in an avalanche of goals.

Before their 1-0 victory over Turkmenistan at home in June, the last time Guam played a World Cup qualifier was in 2000 against Tajikistan when they were hammered 16-0. Three days earlier, Iran smashed 19 goals past them.

"We're not going into games to sit back and hope we don't get beat by 10," said White, who took charge of Guam in 2012. "That's not how the game's supposed to be played."

Top of Group D after their first two games, a 6-0 defeat in Iran brought Guam down to earth with a bump before they held Oman to a goalless draw. Narrow defeats in Turkmenistan and India

saw White's side slip to fourth on seven points from six games.

**ANCIENT CULTURE**

"The only way to approach it is to go for it," said the 41-year-old, looking ahead to Tuesday's rematch with Iran. "I'd prefer that if we are going to go down, we go down fighting—rather than sitting back and being cowardly."

White, who formerly played for English non-league club Bognor Regis, began coaching in 1998 when he was living on a council estate in Luton, north of London, and faxed every national association in the world looking for work.

After spells with the British Virgin Islands and Bahamas, White has worked a minor miracle on the palm-fringed honeymoon island of Guam, located 1,600 miles (2,600 kilometres) south of Japan.

"A lot of coaches come into these environments and look at it as an obstacle. I look at it as a benefit," said White, whose methods have helped tease some sparkling form from captain Jason

Cunliffe and winger Ryan Guty.

"You have to find something that pulls at the heart strings of a country and its culture and history, you can utilise that because it's bigger than anybody," he added.

"We use the Chamorro background, the deep history of Chamorro people, who have been here for thousands of years and survived numerous takeovers from other countries, whether it's the Spanish or the Americans."

At 155th in the FIFA world rankings, Guam will look to psyche out Iran, Asia's top-ranked team at 43rd, before a ball has been kicked when they perform the traditional "inifresi" war cry, the island's version of the New Zealand haka.

Win or lose, White's team have already left their mark on the World Cup qualifying competition. "What's funny is the fact that a country of 170,000 people went to a massive country like India with a population of 1.2 billion and were completely devastated because we lost 1-0," said White. "That really shows exactly how far we've come." — AFP

## NO PAY, LESS POWER: BAHRAINI SHEIKH'S FIFA PRESIDENCY PITCH

**MANAMA:** A Bahraini sheikh is going for simplicity and fan-appeal with headline pledges to transform a discredited FIFA: Relinquish much of the power Sepp Blatter built up over 17 years at FIFA and take no salary. Sheikh Salman bin Ibrahim Al-Khalifa was a late, seemingly reluctant candidate to lead FIFA's recovery from a corruption crisis that is likely to see fresh revelations of wrongdoing emerging long after election day in February. "I don't want too much power with the president — the power has to be shared," Sheikh Salman said in an interview with AP. "I believe in doing things in a different way, not being centralized where the president has to do every detail in running the business."

That means taking no money for being the face of FIFA. "I don't want to be an executive president," the sheikh said. "And if I'm not an executive president I don't see how I do deserve to be paid." Rather than a bitter election fight until Feb 26, the sheikh hopes there is a smooth succession, with the five candidates currently vying to run football whittled down before election day. "I'd like to see most of the continents agreeing on a single candidate but we have to work for this in the next few weeks," the sheikh said during an hour-long interview in the Bahraini capital Manama.

Had it not been for Michel Platini injudiciously claiming 2 million Swiss francs (\$2 million) from FIFA four years ago, this Manchester United-supporting member of Bahrain's royal family would not now be a front-runner to become the first Arab leader of FIFA. Having been among Platini's early campaign champions, Sheikh Salman entered the race once it became clear the UEFA president's suspension over that 2011 payment made the election outcome far more uncertain. The Asian Football Confederation president would not have wanted Prince Ali bin Al-Husseini of Jordan to have a clear path to the presidency.

Platini is out of contention while awaiting the full verdict from FIFA's ethics judge which could result in a long ban for the former France captain. "I think damage has been done," Sheikh Salman said. "But he has the right as well to defend himself. We cannot judge." The sheikh has already faced the judgment of many. With little name recognition profile among football fans outside the Asian region he has led for barely two years, his

international spotlight usually comes when challenged on human rights abuse allegations he denounced as lies. Despite complaints against his candidacy from rights groups, the sheikh was last week approved as a candidate by FIFA's election watchdog alongside four other men: Prince Ali, UEFA General Secretary Gianni Infantino, former FIFA official Jerome Champagne and apartheid-era former Robben Island prisoner Tokyo Sexwale.

**Agreement**

How many names are on the ballot paper in Zurich in February could depend on whether Platini defies expectations and is cleared before election day. "If he comes back and he still wants to run, I think we would have to sit together ... and assess the situation," Sheikh Salman said. "I am sure there will be an agreement. At the end of the day we all need to support each other ... (and) come with a compromise to hopefully have a good solution for everybody."

Whether that agreement could include the 49-year-old sheikh quitting the campaign is unclear. "Anything is a possibility if it's for the good of the cause," he said. "But I didn't go in and commit myself to give a full presumption I might withdraw. I'm in to go for the election." The sheikh had expected to gain Europe's support until UEFA surprisingly endorsed Infantino on candidate deadline-day last month. Infantino, who will stand aside for Platini if his boss is cleared before election day, has been touted for a potential role running the FIFA administration under a Sheikh Salman presidency. "I'd like to feel like we are working together, not against each other — working for one cause to make that change," the sheikh said. "We have to sit and talk and come to a solution of what's best."

A Salman presidency would look very different from Blatter's reign, potentially blander in terms of public statements. Expect fewer rash pronouncements on changes to the game and awkward asides in speeches. The sheikh is yet to produce his manifesto, but said he would consult the confederations before emulating Infantino and pledging to expand the World Cup by eight teams to 40. Discussing whether the use of technology should be expanded beyond ruling on disputed goals, the sheikh said: "The simple it is the better it is." — AP



**HEMPSTEAD:** Spanish soccer star Raul (R) holding trophy celebrates with his teammates after the NASL Championship Final match between the NY Cosmos and the Ottawa Fury Saturday in Hempstead, NY. Raul has planned to retire after the match. — AFP

## FIFA ETHICS COMMITTEE BANS EXECUTIVES FROM NEPAL, LAOS

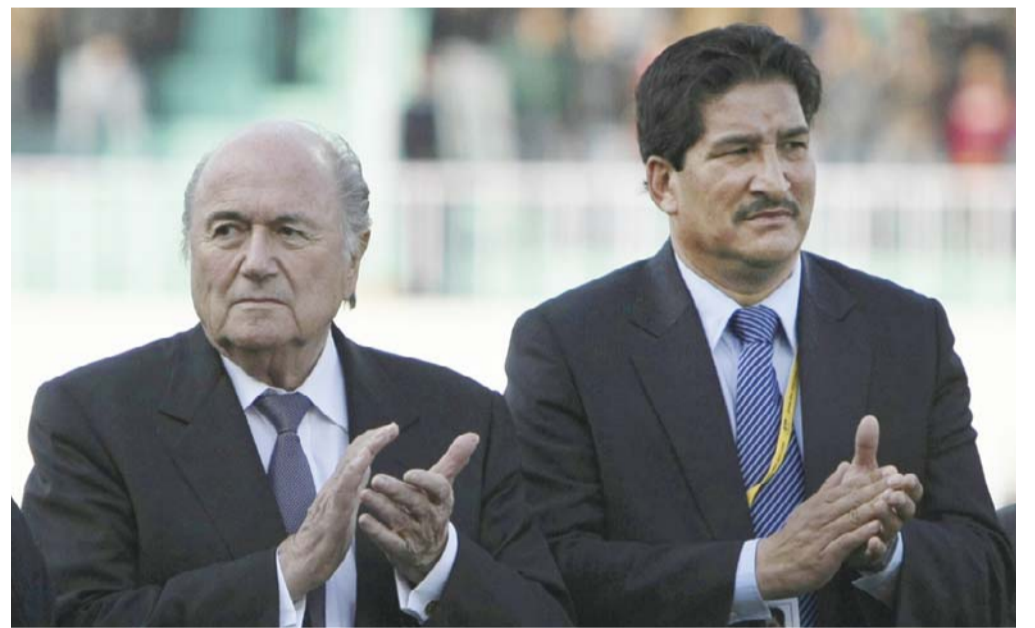
**ZURICH:** World soccer body FIFA announced yesterday it had banned two officials from Nepal and Laos for taking cash during FIFA elections, extending moves to root out corruption that has shaken the international game. Ganesh Thapa, president of the All-Nepal Football Association (ANFA), was banned for 10 years and fined 20,000 Swiss francs (\$19,870), while Viphet Sihachakr, president of the Laotian Football Federation, received a two-year ban and 40,000 franc fine.

FIFA was thrown into turmoil in May by US indictments of 14 football officials, including two FIFA vice-presidents and sports marketing executives, for alleged corruption. President Sepp Blatter has been suspended ahead of February elections for a new leader who will face the task of cleaning up the game. FIFA's ethics committee said Thapa, during 2009 and 2011 elections for the FIFA Executive Committee at the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) congress, "committed various acts of misconduct ... including the solicitation and acceptance of cash payments from another football official, for both personal and family gain."

Sihachakr solicited and accepted a payment from another football official during 2011 elections, it said. Thapa denied wrongdoing in a statement. "I am very disappointed and I do not believe that justice has been served. I have fully cooperated with FIFA during their investigations since the last four years," he said, adding he was seeking the reasons for FIFA's step and would file appeals.

**COURT BATTLE**

In Nepal, ANFA Chief Executive Indra Man Tuladhar said: "We must accept the decision of FIFA. An ANFA executive meeting will meet within the next 14 days and take a decision about its



**KATHMANDU:** In this March 8, 2012 file photo FIFA President Joseph S. Blatter, left, and All Nepal Football Association President Ganesh Thapa, right, applaud during the AFC Challenge Cup football tournament opening ceremony in Kathmandu, Nepal. FIFA's ethics committee yesterday announced that Thapa has been banned for ten years from all football activities at both national and international level. — AP

## SOCCEEROOS LAND IN DHAKA AMID HEAVY SECURITY

**DHAKA:** Australia's national football team arrived in Dhaka yesterday to play a World Cup qualifying match amid "unprecedented" security as fears of militant attacks escalate in the Muslim-majority country.

"The team has landed and was taken to a hotel with heavy security," Abu Nayeem Sohag, general secretary of the Bangladesh Football Federation, told AFP. The match, scheduled for Tuesday, was thrown into doubt after Australia's national cricket team cancelled their tour of Bangladesh over security concerns.

Australian football officials also flagged their concerns to world football governing body FIFA and the Asian Football Confederation. Two Football Federation Australia security officials, in Dhaka since November 9, and a FIFA security official met Bangladesh's home affairs minister and law enforcement agencies before giving the match the go-ahead.

The chief of the police station at Dhaka airport Kamal Uddin told AFP that more than 100 armed policemen and officers were deployed at the airport to ensure security for the visitors and "four layers of protection" were provided when the team departed the airport for their hotel.

"The Australian team got a level of security

that is specially reserved for a visiting head of state or the Bangladesh Prime Minister," Uddin said. "They are pleased with the security arrangements." Dhaka's deputy police chief on Sunday announced "unprecedented" security measures for the Socceeroos match, saying markets would be sealed off and sniffer dogs and bomb disposal units deployed at Bangabandhu National Stadium where the match will be held.

The match is crucial for Australia who are second in their group-one point behind leaders Jordan—and cannot afford to forfeit three points by failing to fulfil a fixture.

Australia thrashed Bangladesh 5-0 in September's home qualifier in Perth. Bangladesh are at the bottom of their group with just one point from six matches.

Australia's cricketers had been due to play a two-Test series in Bangladesh in October but the tour was scrapped after a security alert was issued by officials. The alert was followed by the killings of two foreigners and deadly blasts at a Shiite shrine—attacks claimed by the Islamic State group (IS).

Although local officials have steadfastly rejected the presence of foreign jihadist groups including IS, the US State Department has issued a travel alert, warning that foreigners could be targeted in attacks. — AFP

## FRIENDLY WILL BE 'SYMBOL OF FREEDOM': GERMANY'S LOEW

**BERLIN:** Joachim Loew says Germany's friendly against the Netherlands today will be "a symbol of freedom", with the result of little consequence in the wake of the Paris terror attacks. The German Football Association (DFB) had been considering cancelling the friendly in Hanover, but took the decision over the weekend to go ahead with German Chancellor Angela Merkel and her cabinet set to attend the match. The shaken German team spent Friday night in the Stade de France stadium after playing a friendly against the French the same night when 129 people died and 350 were injured in a series of violent attacks across Paris. Loew says security will be top priority in Hanover, but the political importance of the match, as a

statement against terrorism, outweighs the fixture's sporting value. "It's a clear message and symbol of freedom and a demonstration of compassion, as well as sorrow, for our French friends—not only in France, but throughout the world," said Loew.

Loew has stood six players down for the game. Germany captain Bastian Schweinsteiger, Lukas Podolski and Manuel Neuer are rested, while Jerome Boateng and Jonas Hector are injured and Leroy Sané will play for Germany Under-21.

Schweinsteiger wrote that he is "speechless" on Twitter and Facebook on Sunday and called for unity in the wake of the Paris attacks. "No matter where you come from and what religion you follow—we are united,"

he wrote. Team manager Oliver Bierhoff says the DFB are considering ways to show solidarity with France, but could not confirm whether the French national anthem, 'Les Marseillaise', will be sung in the Hanover stadium. "We have had a few ideas, but we want to talk to the Dutch about them first," added Bierhoff. Against the background of Friday's events in Paris, Loew said "the much-touted sporting rivalry between Germany and Holland fades into the background."

**'WE WERE AFRAID'**

The head coach looked drawn during yesterday's press conference and brushed off questions of a sporting nature, but spoke at length about why the Germans want the

friendly to go ahead.

"We want to play the game and behave very professionally, but I believe that the result will not be an important factor," said Germany's World Cup-winning coach.

"During the terrible, shocking night, which we experienced in the dressing room (in Paris), came the question: 'can the game on Tuesday take place?' and we talked about it to the players 'I had the feeling when we arrived back on Saturday that the game couldn't, and shouldn't, take place."

"We had to get over the shock and we were afraid. "But we talked about it again on the Sunday and it was clear that the game had to take place. It's a clear statement about freedom and solidarity. "Clearly, we will be

thinking of the victims and their families." With Merkel set to attend, the DFB has said security will be a high priority and Loew said there was no fear in the team of a repeat of what they experienced in Paris.

"I believe everything will be done to make the game as safe as possible," said Loew. "I have already spoken to our psychologist. We have to be sure that when we stand on the pitch, we are all fully concentrated, but sport will take a bit of a back seat."

"This game won't be the yardstick it would normally be for me." Loew was very clear when asked if the game would be a celebration of life after the horror scenes in Paris: "A party atmosphere wouldn't be appropriate" he said tersely. — AFP

# Sports

Djokovic and Federer stroll to easy wins



FIFA ethics committee bans executives from Nepal, Laos



TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2015

AUSTRALIA STRIKE BACK AFTER TAYLOR'S EPIC 290 Page 16



BUDAPEST: Orjan Nyland, left, of Norway and Gergo Lovrencsics of Hungary clash during the Hungary vs Norway soccer European Championship qualification playoff second leg match in Groupama Arena in Budapest, Hungary, Sunday. — AP

## HUNGARY QUALIFY FOR EURO 2016

**BUDAPEST:** Hungary's 30-year wait to play on the major championship stage will end in France next year after their 2-1 victory over Norway ensured that one of football's most storied nations qualified for the Euro 2016 finals.

The triumph, which sealed their 3-1 victory on aggregate in front of an ecstatic crowd in the Groupama Arena, guaranteed Hungary's first appearance in any championship finals since the 1986 World Cup in Mexico.

"I have to congratulate my team, the association president Sandor Csanyi, and also Pal Dardai, who I took

over from and he left this team for me," said Hungary's German coach Bernd Storck who took charge in July.

"The players' approach was fantastic during those two games, they fought well and deserved to qualify to France." The Hungarians built on their first-leg win in Oslo when Tamas Priskin curled in a delightful 14th-minute opener and Markus Henriksen's own goal on 83 minutes made the tie safe. Henriksen atoned with a late goal but it was scant consolation for the Norwegians as the home side celebrated qualifying for the European Championship finals for the first time since 1972.

The toast of Budapest was Hungary's 39-year-old

Gabor Kiraly, who made a series of superb saves over the two legs. Ferencvaros's home ground erupted almost like never before when Priskin curled in a fabulous strike from 16 metres after a quick counter-attack to put Hungary ahead. Kiraly had to make a fine save from Haitam Aleesami's low shot in the 27th minute after a flowing passing move from the visitors and Norway came even closer when Even Hovland's header from a corner hit the post in the 45th minute.

Balazs Dzsudzsak's deflected shot struck the crossbar in the 58th minute after a rare counter-attack by the hosts, who dropped deeper to defend their overall two-

goal advantage. Kiraly made another excellent save in the 76th minute when he parried Marcus Pedersen's close-range shot before the tie was effectively sealed seven minutes from time as Dzsudzsak's corner was bundled under pressure into his own net by Henriksen. The AZ Alkmaar man then pulled one back for Norway in the 87th minute but it was too little, too late. "Congratulations to Hungary, they were better than us over the two legs," said Norway coach Per-Mathias Hogmo. "I am deeply disappointed with our performance, we could not score in Oslo, that was a big setback. All in all, we came up short." — Reuters

## ARGENTINA HOPE TO KICK-START CAMPAIGN IN COLOMBIA HEAT

**BARRANQUILLA:** Troubled Argentina, without talisman Lionel Messi, will look for a victory against Colombia today like the one four years ago that launched them on the road to the 2014 World Cup final. Argentina return to the hot and humid Caribbean port city of Barranquilla desperate for a win after their worst start to a World Cup qualifying campaign with two points from three games. They stand second-bottom of the 10-team South American group, seven points behind leaders Ecuador who have nine. Copa America holders Chile are two points off the pace in second ahead of their highly-charged visit to Uruguay, who are a further point back in third.

In November 2011, former coach Alejandro Sabella's side arrived at the Metropolitan stadium with four points from three matches fresh from a humiliating 1-0 defeat in Venezuela. Down 1-0 at halftime, and with defender Nicolas Burdisso sent off, Sabella threw caution to the wind, took off a midfielder and sent on Sergio Aguero to partner Messi and Gonzalo Higuain up front. The trio inspired a 2-1 victory. "This team was born in Barranquilla," midfield general Javier Mascherano, who again stands in for Messi as captain, said before they met Germany in the final in Rio de Janeiro. "Now, again, we're obliged to win in Barranquilla," he said on Friday after Argentina's 1-1 draw at home to Brazil gave Gerardo Martino's side their second point. The difference this time is that neither Messi nor Aguero, the scorers in Barranquilla in 2011, are there to help Higuain and Colombia are a better side, having enjoyed their own renaissance after that match.

Colombia sacked coach Leonel Alvarez and replaced him with Jose Pekerman, Argentina's 2006 World Cup

coach, and qualified for their first finals in 16 years before reaching the last eight in Brazil.

### DANGERMAN JAMES

Radamel Falcao was Colombia's danger man then, before a knee ligament injury two years later put him out of the World Cup. Now their main threat comes from forward James Rodriguez, who equalised in the 1-1 draw away to Chile on Thursday. "Everyone wants to play against Argentina, it's match that motivates," he said. "Messi isn't here and neither is Aguero, but they have a very good squad. The standard of our opponents doesn't change, we have to go out to win." Argentina also have to contend with the heat, which can top 30 degrees Celsius and which Colombia try to benefit from by staging the match in mid-afternoon (1500 GMT). Unbeaten Chile face Uruguay in Montevideo for the first time since June's Copa America quarter-final in Santiago when Edinson Cavani was sent off for striking at Gonzalo Jara after the Chile defender stuck his finger up the forward's backside. Uruguay captain Diego Godin, playing down any suggestion of targeting Jara, said: "We haven't talked about the issue or any specific Chile player... All we have talked about as a group and with the master (coach Oscar Tabarez) is how to beat Chile." Uruguay welcomed striker Cavani back from suspension for their visit to Ecuador on Thursday and although he scored they lost 2-1 as the Ecuadoreans continued to surprise everyone with their perfect, best-ever start to the qualifiers. Ecuador visit bottom team Venezuela, fourth-placed Brazil are at home to Peru and Paraguay host Bolivia in the rest of Tuesday's qualifying programme. — Reuters



SANTIAGO: Colombia's James Rodriguez misses the ball and kicks Chile's Matias Fernandez between his legs during a 2014 World Cup qualifying soccer match in Santiago, Chile. Rodriguez went on to score in the 67th minute to lift Colombia to a 1-1 draw. — AP

# Kuwait Times BUSINESS

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2015

Kuwait inflation eases  
to 3.1% in September

Page 22

G20 approves crackdown  
on tax avoidance

Page 23



Japan dips into  
recession in stumble  
for 'Abenomics'

Page 26

Page 25

CRUDE PRICES FAIL TO SUSTAIN UPSWING



NEW YORK: The logo for the W Hotel, owned by Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, is seen in New York's Times Square. Marriott International (inset) announced yesterday, it is buying rival hotel chain Starwood for \$12.2 billion in a deal that will secure its position as the world's largest hotelier. —AP

## MARRIOTT BECOMES WORLD'S LARGEST HOTELIER MARRIOTT INTERNATIONAL BUYS RIVAL STARWOOD FOR \$12.2BN

**NEW YORK:** Marriott International is buying rival hotel chain Starwood for \$12.2 billion in a deal that will catapult it to become the world's largest hotelier by a wide margin. The stock-and-cash deal, if completed, will add 50 percent more rooms to Marriott's portfolio and give it more unique, design-focused hotels that appeal to younger travelers.

The new company would have 5,500 properties with more than 1.1 million rooms around the world, uniting Starwood's brands, which include Sheraton, Westin, W and St. Regis, with Marriott's two dozen brands including Marriott's Courtyard, Ritz-Carlton and Fairfield Inn.

The deal is supposed to close in the middle of 2016. The next-largest hotel company is Hilton Worldwide with 4,500 properties and about 735,000 rooms.

"To be successful in today's marketplace, a wide distribution of brands and hotels across price points is critical," Starwood CEO Adam Aron said on a call with Wall Street analysts. "It appeals to travelers wherever they may go, leverages marketing and technology spend and strengthens frequent traveler loyalty. Today, size matters." Marriott and Starwood - like other hotel chains - own very few individual hotels. Instead they manage or franchise their brands to hundreds of individual owners, often real estate development companies. Those individual hotel owners are responsible for setting nightly room rates. It isn't

uncommon for a developer to own a Marriott, Hilton, Hyatt and Sheraton in the same city.

### More leverage

The merger will give Marriott 30 brands and more leverage with corporate travel departments who often look for one giant chain to house all of their employees. Frequent business travelers will also be closely watching the deal. Starwood has a beloved frequent guest program with partnerships with American Express, Delta Air Lines and Uber. Marriott has a much larger program with partnerships with Chase and United Airlines.

Back in April, Starwood announced its board was exploring strategic options for the hotel company. The Stamford, Connecticut, company has struggled to grow as fast as its rivals, particularly in "limited service hotels," smaller properties which don't have restaurants or banquet halls. They are often located on the side of the highway, near airports or in suburban office parks. There was speculation in the markets about a potential deal with Holiday Inn owner Intercontinental Hotels Group and more recently Hyatt Hotels Corp. But in the end, it was Marriott who prevailed.

Starwood's strong international presence will aid Marriott. In the past few years, Starwood has made a strong push to grow

in China, India, the United Arab Emirates as well as more-established European destinations. Marriott, in turn, has a well-established network of hotels including deep coverage of small towns and cities with its Fairfield Inn, Courtyard and Residence Inn brands.

The deal comes at a time of record hotel occupancy and



Arne Sorenson, President and CEO of Marriott International Inc.

rates. During the first nine months of this year, guests filled 67.3 percent of the available rooms in the US, according to research firm STR. That's the highest level since STR started collecting data in 1987. Guests paid an average of \$120.35 a night so far this year. The prior record, adjusted for inflation, was \$119.70 in 2008. Marriott, based in Bethesda, Maryland, has been aggressively growing. In April, it acquired Canadian chain Delta Hotels and Resorts, helping it become the largest hotel company in Canada.

The boards of both companies approved the acquisition unanimously, which now must be approved by investors in both hotel chains. Arne Sorenson will be president and CEO of the combined company and the headquarters will be in Bethesda. Marriott's board of directors following the closing will increase from 11 to 14 members, with the expected addition of three members Starwood's board.

Marriott said it expects to deliver at least \$200 million in annual savings in the second full year after closing. Last month, Starwood announced the sale of its timeshare unit to Interval Leisure Group, with its shareholders retaining a 55-percent stake in the company. That deal is expected to close before the Marriott acquisition, with Starwood shareholders receiving additional compensation for their stake in the timeshare business. — AP

## GLOBAL MARKETS RESILIENT IN FACE OF PARIS ATTACKS

**LONDON:** In their first response to the attacks in Paris, which killed 129 people, markets proved to be more resilient yesterday than many analysts had anticipated. Though Friday's atrocities on the streets of Paris could hurt consumer sentiment across Europe in the short-term and raise concerns over longer-term geopolitical risks, investors are so far managing to hold their nerve. "In a sign of resilience, there is no sign of the panicked trading that could have been justifiably expected," said Connor Campbell, financial analyst at Spreadex.

After opening modestly lower following the earlier retreat in Asia, most stock markets in Europe were trading higher. Germany's DAX was up 0.1 percent at 10,722 while the FTSE 100 index of leading British shares rose 0.4 percent to 6,144. Even the CAC-40 in Paris had clawed back most of its early losses to trade just 0.2 percent lower on the day at 4,796.

Travel and tourism stocks were faring worst - Germany's TUI AG was down 4 percent, while Britain's Thomas Cook fell 4.6 percent. Wall Street was poised to open modestly higher, with Dow futures and the broader S&P 500 futures up 0.2 percent.

Though stocks are holding up overall, there are some signs that investors are concerned about the longer-term geopolitical ramifications, particularly in the Middle East, from which a large part of the world's oil comes from. Gold, which investors traditionally buy as a safe haven, was in demand - the price of an ounce was up 1 percent at \$1,091. And a barrel of benchmark New York crude oil was up 2.5 percent at \$41.76 a barrel. The attacks could also have an impact on the fragile econ-

omy of France and Europe by discouraging people from spending on nights out, travel and entertainment. The euro was down 0.4 percent at \$1.0733. "While not wanting to second-guess the effect of the events of the weekend the closure of France's borders, along with other security measures, the impact on consumer confidence could well be considerable in the coming days and weeks," said Michael Hewson, chief market analyst at CMC Markets.

Consumer spending was the main driver of economic growth for the 19-country eurozone in the third quarter. The currency bloc grew by a mere 0.3 percent, leaving it exposed to shocks.

Analysts say the Paris attacks make it even more likely that the European Central Bank will expand its stimulus program at the conclusion of its December meeting. There's even speculation that the attacks may be enough to put a brake on a rate hike from the US Federal Reserve in December, which would be its first in more than nine years.

"At this juncture, it is easy to see that the Fed's intentions to 'normalize' monetary policy could be derailed by a combination of adverse domestic economic and external events," said Neil MacKinnon, global macro strategist at VTB Capital. Earlier, the selling was more pronounced in Asia. Earlier in Asia, Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 fell nearly 1 percent to close at 19,393.69. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 lost nearly 1 percent to 5,003.80. Hong Kong's Hang Seng fell 1.7 percent to 22,010.82, while the Shanghai Composite added 0.7 percent to 3,606.96. — AP

## SAUDI, UAE MARKETS REBOUND AFTER CRASH

### MIDEAST STOCK MARKETS

**DUBAI:** Markets in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates rebounded yesterday as some investors bought back stocks at lower prices following a broad sell-off a day earlier, but Egypt extended declines to hit a new 23-month low. Saudi Arabia's benchmark had tumbled to a 35-month low on Sunday and Dubai's close was its lowest since last December following an 8 percent decline in crude benchmarks the previous week that deepened a prolonged oil price rout.

Gulf investors seem to have belatedly realized that the consequent hit to state finances would also impact listed companies' earnings, especially as most blue chips are at least partly government-owned, but a slight rebound in oil prices then convinced some to buy back regional equities.

"For long-term investors and stock pickers, markets have started throwing up interesting investment opportunities," said Shakeel Sarwar, head of asset management at Securities & Investment Co (SICO) in Bahrain. Dubai's index rose 0.9 percent. Contractor Arabtec jumped 8.4 percent, although it remains 84 percent below a May 2014 peak. The firm's chairman said yesterday it had proposed building 13,000 homes in Egypt. Abu Dhabi's index rose 1 percent. Aldar Properties, which has reported higher profits in nine of the past 10 quarters, was the main support with a 3.3 percent gain.

"I think it's a bit of a dead cat bounce; the fundamentals haven't improved from yesterday but people just felt the drop was too steep," said Sanyalaksna Manibhandu, head of research at NBAD Securities. "It's a temporary relief. If anything negative happens by tomorrow morning, we could see more selling."

### SAUDI RALLY

The Saudi benchmark rose 1.1 percent to trim its 2015 losses to 16.5 percent. Manibhandu said the trigger for the recent drop in Gulf markets was Standard & Poor's downgrade of its ratings on Saudi Arabian sovereign debt on Oct. 30 and Fitch Ratings' revision the following week of its outlook for three Saudi banks to negative.

"There's a lot of concern the agencies will now turn to other Gulf countries including the UAE," added Manibhandu. Heavyweights Saudi Basic Industries Corp (SABIC) and National Commercial Bank rose 3.3 and 1.5 percent respectively.

Egypt's benchmark fell 0.6 percent to its lowest close since December 2013 despite gainers outnumbering losers 19 to eight. Commercial International Bank, the Cairo bourse's largest listed company with a market value three times that of its nearest rival, fell 2.8 percent. — Reuters



## JAPAN URGES CHINA TO GO SLOW ON YUAN REFORM

**TOKYO:** Japan has expressed concern to China about the pace of capital outflows from the country and has suggested Beijing moves very slowly in reforming its currency system to avoid repeating Japan's past mistakes.

After a summer of market turmoil, China now appears to be at a critical juncture as capital outflows reach hundreds of billions of dollars and Beijing draws down heavily on its, albeit large, currency reserves to offset the impact of the money moving offshore.

The stocks slump of more than 40 percent in a matter of a few months and the shock devaluation of the yuan acted as a reminder of how quickly Beijing could lose control of its markets if it moves too quickly to open up to market forces, Japanese officials say.

"The pace of capital outflows is alarming," said a senior official with knowledge of Japan's currency diplomacy. "If China's financial system is destabilised, the effect on Japan and the rest of Asia would be enormous." Publicly, Japanese officials have urged China to proceed with reform and expressed confidence that Beijing has the tools and expertise to manage. But privately, they have adopted a different tone, cautioning Beijing against moving too quickly to free up the yuan when large capital outflows could make the currency a target for speculators.

Japan has conveyed its concerns to Chinese officials at various meetings this year, including at the G20 financial leaders' meeting in Turkey in September.

China took a big step towards internationalising its currency on Friday, when IMF staff and the institution's head Christine Lagarde endorsed the inclusion of the yuan in the fund's benchmark foreign exchange basket, known as Special Drawing Rights (SDR). Analysts estimate inclusion could lead to demand for the yuan worth more than \$500 billion.

"It should be the other way around," said a Japanese official, who declined to be identified because of the sensitivity of the matter. "Reforms come first, then you debate whether the yuan can join the SDR." China is trying to engineer a shift in the economy away from manufacturing and towards consumption and services while promising to fully liberalise the yuan by 2020 - a goal some Japanese officials feel is to ambitious.

Japan's cautious tone is at odds with the more robust calls from Washington - underlined last week with comments from US Treasury Secretary Jack Lew urging Beijing to press ahead with its reform plans. But Japan's views carry weight with Beijing, which has long taken a close interest in how Japan emerged in the past three decades as a global economic power.

It views Japan's handling of capital flows and the yen as key factors that led to its asset bubble blow-up in the early 1990s that led to nearly two decades of deflation Japan is still struggling to eradicate.

For decades, China's main concern was the

amount of foreign currency coming into the economy as it built a huge export engine. But since China surprised world markets by devaluing its currency around 2 percent in August, net capital outflows have reached \$200 billion, while Beijing appeared to have spent \$229 billion in foreign exchange intervention to prop up the yuan in the third quarter, a US Treasury Department report showed last month.

### "WORST THING IS TO MOVE TOO QUICKLY"

Japanese policymakers are not suggesting there is an immediate risk of a financial crisis, but they say China's heavy intervention in markets to offset the capital outflows shows Beijing is worried.

If China liberalises its currency too quickly and before it fixes other problems in the economy, such as high debt, Beijing may struggle to contain capital outflows and that may take a toll on its \$3.5 trillion in currency reserves, Japanese officials say. "Market liberalisation sounds nice. But it could cause various problems," said Eisuke Sakakibara, who as a senior Japanese finance ministry official wrestled to contain volatile yen swings with heavy intervention in the late 1990s.

"When an economy moves from fast-growth to stable growth, you're bound to have some market turmoil. The same thing could happen in China, so the worst thing to do is to move too quickly to a free-floating currency regime." China said the devaluation of the yuan reflected market forces, but the move jolted global markets on fears it meant the economy was in worse shape than previously thought. China is Japan's biggest trading partner and its markets have become susceptible to big swings caused by Chinese policy decisions. Any repercussions to Asia also affect many Japanese firms and banks operating in the region.

Such impact was highlighted when China's yuan devaluation sent Japanese and global stock prices tumbling, as investors initially struggled to understand Beijing's motives.

"There was lot of second guessing over China's policy intention and that was because the communication was poor," said a China-based Japanese government official.

### BANKING WOES LOOM

Both Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Finance Minister Taro Aso have called on China to address structural problems in the economy, such as bad loans and excess industrial capacity, and to provide transparency of policymaking.

If China fails to tackle these problems, the risk is that it will not be just China that will feel the impact. "The biggest risk for Japan is a hard-landing in China," said Naoyuki Shinohara, a former IMF deputy managing director who retains close contacts with incumbent Japanese policymakers. "China's real 'black swan' is its bad-loan problems." —Reuters



**ANTALYA:** German Chancellor Angela Merkel (left) arrives for the Working session-1 on the "Inclusive Growth: Global Economy Growth Strategies, Employment and Investment Strategies" during the G20 Turkey Leaders' Summit yesterday in Antalya. —AFP

## WORLD LEADERS AGREE TO CLOSE MULTINATIONALS' TAX LOOPHOLES

### G20 APPROVES CRACKDOWN ON TAX AVOIDANCE

**ANTALYA, Turkey:** World leaders yesterday approved a crackdown on tax avoidance by multinationals such as Google, Apple and McDonald's whose rock-bottom tax bills have provoked widespread outrage.

Heads of the Group of 20 top economies put their final seal on a plan to close loopholes that let some big companies shift profits to low-tax nations so as to slash their bills, leaving ordinary tax payers fuming. It comes a year after the "LuxLeaks" revelations that some of the world's biggest companies including Pepsi and Ikea had lowered their tax rates to as little as one percent in secret pacts with tax authorities in Luxembourg.

US President Barack Obama, Chinese leader Xi Jinping, and Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron joined fellow leaders in endorsing a clampdown drawn up by the wealthy nations' Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. In a joint statement delivered after a two-day summit at the Turkish Mediterranean resort of Antalya, leaders

declared that they "strongly urge the timely implementation of the project and encourage all countries and jurisdictions, including developing ones, to participate".

The OECD calculates that national governments lose \$100-240 billion (89-210 billion euros), or 4-10 percent of global tax revenues, every year because of the tax-minimizing schemes of multinationals.

Its 15-point plan, adopted after years of negotiations, seeks to oblige multinationals to pay tax in the country where their main business activity is based.

### 'Step forward'

The package represents "the first substantial-and overdue-renovation of the international tax standards in almost a century," the 34-nation, Paris-based OECD says.

The OECD says its scheme will: Stop companies exploiting differences in national tax rules and bilateral treaties, for example to win no-tax status in two places at once.

Prevent companies from shifting profits to lower-taxation countries where their foreign subsidiaries are based, or from using technicalities to declare they are based in low-tax jurisdictions.

Close loopholes that let companies shift debt within a group towards higher-tax countries, allowing them to declare lower profits there. Oblige multinationals to detail their business country by country to the tax authorities. The British-based charity Oxfam said the plan was a "step forward".

"But until the G20 supports a reform process that truly tackles harmful tax competition, tax havens and multinationals will continue to gain most from this system, and the poorest countries will be the biggest losers," Oxfam said in a statement. The charity urged the G20 to work with the United Nations, International Monetary Fund and World Bank along with the OECD on a second generation of tax reforms to build on the crackdown. —AFP



**NEW YORK:** Specialist John McNierney (center) works with traders at his post on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange yesterday. —AP

## GOLD REBOUNDS ON FLIGHT TO SAFETY

**LONDON:** Gold rebounded yesterday from last week's six-year low as the attacks in Paris prompted a bout of global risk aversion. Spot gold rose as much as 1.4 percent to a 10-day high of \$1,097.90 an ounce, with US gold futures gaining more than 1 percent to a session high of \$1,097.40.

In the first 10 minutes of yesterday trade, nearly 3,000 lots changed hands, almost 10 times the 300-lot average for the opening 10 minutes over the past two months, Reuters' calculations showed.

"Gold opened higher early this morning on the back of what happened over the weekend on perceived geopolitical risk, but it seems to be already short-lived because the bigger macroeconomic issues are the dollar's strength and the (expected) US rate hike," Citi strategist David Wilson said.

Prices were up 0.2 percent at \$1,085.81 at 1433 GMT. "The metal is struggling to make it back above \$1,100," Saxo Bank senior manager Ole Hansen said.

Before Monday's gains, gold had fallen for 12 sessions out of 13 on increasing bets

that the Federal Reserve would raise US interest rates next month, which would increase the opportunity cost of holding the non-yielding asset. It hit a near-six-year low of \$1,074.26 on Thursday.

European shares steadied, although travel and leisure stocks slumped, while the euro was pinned near seven-month troughs against the dollar, as investors concerned about the economic impact on the euro zone from Friday's Paris attacks steered clear of the common currency.

Gold is typically seen as a safe refuge during times of uncertainty. However, there has not been an increase in demand from retail investors since the Paris attacks, German coin dealer Degussa said in an emailed statement. "(Buying was) already relatively high throughout last week, but the reason for that was clearly the most recent price drop," it said.

Tracking gold, other precious metals all gained. Silver rose 0.2 percent to \$14.27 an ounce, platinum was up 0.3 percent at \$858.90 and palladium climbed 1.6 percent to \$544.50. —Reuters

## NEARLY \$3BN LOST FROM TRAVEL SHARES AFTER PARIS ATTACK

**LONDON:** European shares were steady yesterday, supported by gains in the energy sector that helped offset a slump in travel stocks following Friday's attacks in Paris that killed at least 129 people. Energy shares outperformed the broader market because of a rally in oil prices that followed French air strikes against Islamic State targets in Syria.

French shares slightly underperformed as markets opened for the first time since the co-ordinated attacks on Friday evening in Paris by Islamist militants. Around 2.6 billion euros (\$2.79 billion) were wiped off the STOXX 60 Travel & Leisure index amid fears that the sector could be impacted by loss of consumer confidence.

Shares in French hotel group Accor fell 5.1 percent, Air France fell 6.5 percent while shares in Eurotunnel and Aéroports de Paris, the operator of Paris' Charles de Gaulle and Orly airports, were down more than 4 percent. Luxury stocks were also under pressure. Hermes, LVMH and Kering, which get a large part of their sales from foreign tourists in Paris, were all down more than 1 percent. "Paris is one of the most important cities worldwide in terms of luxury spending and the timing is not good too - a few weeks before Christmas, the most important period for retailers," said Gregoire Laverne, fund manager at Roche Brune Asset Management.

"Those attacks will definitely have a long-term negative impact on the tourism sector in France, and all sectors (which depend) on tourists, but it cannot be measured yet although the market tends to forecast

the worst case scenario." Some highlighted France's Showroomprive.com as an outperformer in the fashion sector, up 0.3 percent, with Internet-only retailers seen as more insulated from the drop in confidence.

"Companies that retail over the web could outperform," said Clairinvest fund manager Ion-Marc Valahu. Outside of retail and travel stocks, European stock markets were broadly resilient to the fallout from the attacks, and it was seen as strengthening the case for the European Central Bank to provide further monetary stimulus. The pan-European FTSEurofirst 300 index edged up 0.2 percent and France's CAC was down 0.1 percent.

### ENERGY SHARES FIRM

Energy stocks were the leading sectoral gainers, rising 2 percent, as crude oil prices edged up after France launched large-scale air strikes against Islamic State in Syria. Basic resources stocks also firmed. KBC rose more than 3 percent after the Belgian financial group posted a bigger-than-expected net profit, as a strong performance in its traditional banking and insurance businesses made up for a weaker showing of its dealing room. Among outstanding losers, Sonova fell 7.5 percent as the hearing aid maker cut its sales and profit forecasts after weak cochlear implant sales, sluggish business with US veterans and a squeeze on overseas earnings from the strong Swiss franc. —Reuters

## BANGLADESH ASKED TO RAISE INFRASTRUCTURE SPENDING TO \$12 BILLION ANNUALLY

**DHAKA:** Bangladesh should raise spending on infrastructure to \$12 billion annually, particularly in energy, transport and ports, development partners have told it, Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith said yesterday. Bangladesh currently spends just 3 percent of GDP in this sector. About 40 representatives of organizations including the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and the European Union attended a two-day meeting on development issues in Bangladesh.

Muhith told reporters: "Our aim is to raise economic growth to 8.0 percent by 2020 from 6.5 percent now, to become a middle-income country." He said several new projects would be reflected in the budget for the next fiscal year beginning in June 2016. Jin Liqun, president-designate of the China-backed Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, said: "Bangladesh is our new, important member and our aim will be to support it to boost the economy." But he said Bangladesh needed better infrastructure to achieve industrial growth.

Wencai Zhang, Vice-President of the Asian Development Bank, told reporters the bank would provide \$5 billion in assistance to Bangladesh. The meeting also called on Bangladesh to reduce its dependence on foreign aid, to work more closely with the private sector on major projects and to ensure good governance to maximize the use of resources. —Reuters



**KARACHI:** Pakistani stockbrokers monitor the latest share prices during trading at the Karachi Stock Exchange (KSE) in Karachi yesterday. Asian markets mostly fell following the deadly weekend terror attacks in Paris — with airline stocks taking a beating on concerns over the tourism industry. —AFP









## MOHAMED NASER AL-SAYER, YOKOHAMA ANNOUNCE WINNERS OF FIRST DRAW

YOKOHAMA 'SAVE & BE SAFE' PROMOTION



**KUWAIT:** Mohamed Naser Al-Sayer & Sons Co.(MNSS), one of the Al Sayer Group of Companies held the first draw to select the winners for "Save & Be Safe" promotion at the Yokohama Center in Canada Dry, on 9 November 2015. The draw was organized in the presence of Abdul Aziz Ashkenani - Representative from the Ministry of Commerce & Industry - for Consumer

protection affairs along with Krishna Kumar General Manager Tires, Oil and Paint (TOP) Division MNSS, Inderpal Singh Senior Manager, Tire Sales from Al Sayer Yokohama and Mohammad Amin Nasimi Senior Manager After-Sales Marketing. Yokohama tires are the finest offering responsiveness, dependability and durability. The leading Japanese technology that

goes in to the design and build means you get no unwanted surprises on road, just great grip, stability and tread life.

According to Krishna Kumar GM TOP Division "The success of Yokohama promotions is backed by the high quality and durability of Yokohama tires. They are designed with superior Japanese technology to offer a

safe and stable drive at all times. Yokohama is protected against the extreme summer heat and remains cool throughout the season".

Yokohama "Save & Be Safe" promotion is valid from 4 October 2015 to 4 January 2016. During the offer period for every KD 20 spent on purchasing Yokohama tires customers will get a coupon entitling them to enter one of the three

monthly draws to win fabulous cash prizes. All Yokohama models are included in the promotion. Customers can take advantage and benefit from the two remaining draws of this promotion which will be held on 9 December 2015 and 7 January 2016 respectively. Last date to enter the draw is the 3rd of each respective month.

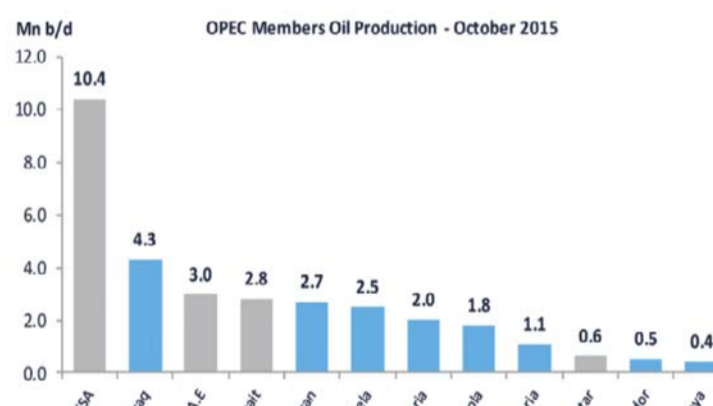
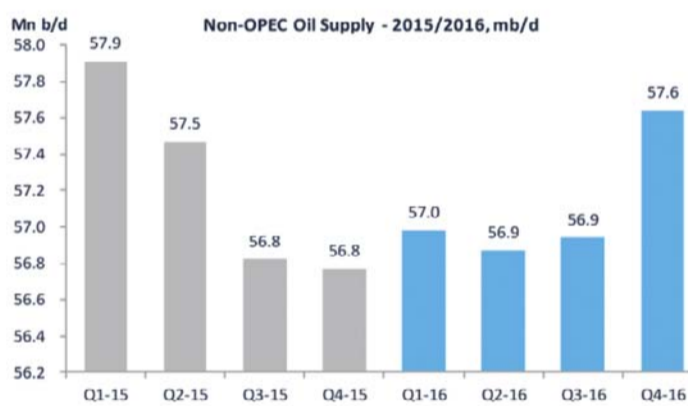
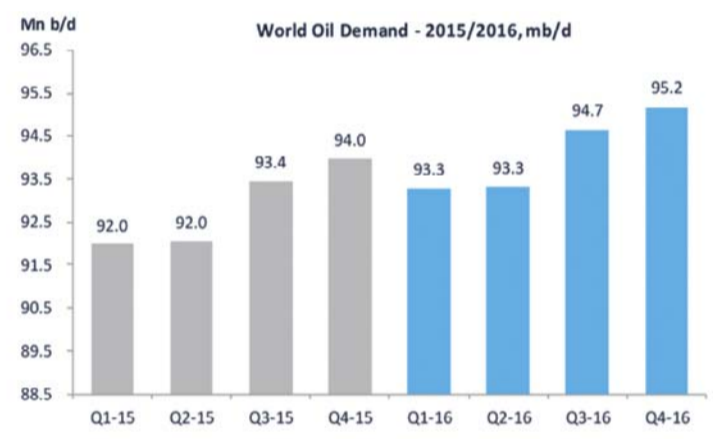
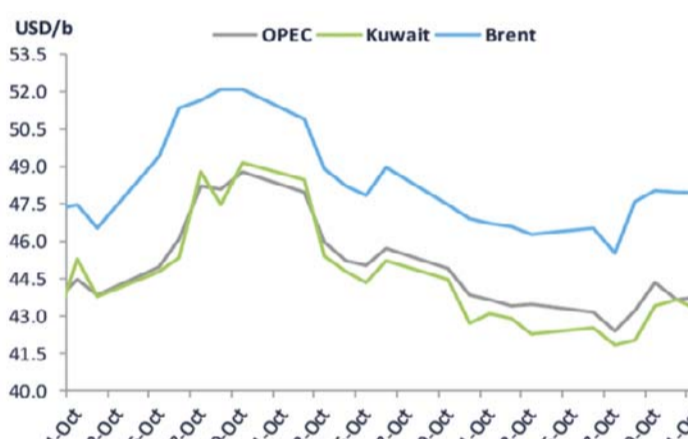
## CRUDE PRICES FAIL TO SUSTAIN UPSWING

### KAMCO RESEARCH REPORT

**KUWAIT:** Oil prices went spiraling down during October-15 and November-15 after a number of reports showed a sharp increase in oil inventories and a rising inventory glut in the global oil market. Oil market had a strong start in October-15. During the first week Brent touched the psychological important mark of \$ 50/b and closed at a 10-week high level of \$ 52.13/b whereas OPEC oil reached \$ 48.79/b during the same time. As the inventory data was released, prices started declining, and in November-15 it recorded the worst weekly decline in over eight months for the week ending 12-November-15, barely holding above the \$ 40/b level. Both Brent and WTI fell 8 percent during the week, the highest weekly decline since mid-March-15.

According to the US EIA, commercial crude oil inventories in the US increased by 4.2 million barrels during the week ending 12-November-15 to reach 487.0 million barrels primarily due to higher imports. Although refiners in the US unexpectedly increased their output by almost 0.8 percentage points to the highest point recorded at this time of the year as they came out of maintenance shutdowns, this could only have a temporary impact on oil prices. In a related development, inventory data released by the American Petroleum Institute (API) surprised investors as it reported 6.3 million barrels increase in inventories. Furthermore, rig count data released by Baker Hughes showed that US oil rig count rose for the first time in 11 weeks, although marginally, by two to a total of 574 rigs, adding more pressure to oil price.

Average monthly OPEC oil price saw marginal gains during October-15 after four consecutive months of decline. The average for the month stood at \$ 45.02/b as compared to \$ 44.83/b for September-15 recording a gain of 0.4 percent. However, during November-15 average OPEC oil price stood at a much lower \$ 43.02/b by 11-November-15 after it reached \$ 41.53/b, the lowest point in over two months. Kuwait Blend Spot Price FOB also declined for the fifth consecutive month and averaged at \$ 43.6/b during October-15, a decline of 0.8 percent as compared to the previous month's average. The decline continued during November-15 as average month-to-date prices reached \$ 41.55/b, a decline of 6.9 percent as compared to the average in October-15.



Source for the above charts : OPEC and Bloomberg

LPG demand was more than offset by decline in demand for gasoline, gasoil and fuel oil. In OECD Europe, oil demand growth in Germany, France, UK and Italy was small at 0.03 mb/d in September-15 as the decline in demand in Germany was offset by higher demand in Italy and UK. Nevertheless, European auto sales remained upbeat in September-15 with an increase of 10 percent year-on-year. Expectations for oil demand for the remainder of the year have improved since last month led by faster economic growth, low historical baseline and low fuel price environment. In Latin America, oil demand continued to shrink during September-15 with a decline of almost 5 percent or 0.13 mb/d. In the Middle East, oil demand remained particularly strong in Saudi Arabia and Iraq. Saudi Arabia saw a demand growth of nearly 8 percent or 0.21 mb/d driven by transportation fuels as travel activity increased during the summer vacation that coincided with the Hajj season. On the other hand, Iraq benefited from the low baseline effect. In Asia, oil consumption in China remained upbeat with a growth of 0.49 mb/d mostly on the back of higher diesel consumption. Oil demand growth in 2016 was also kept unchanged from the last month and is expected to reach 1.25 mb/d to average around 94.14 mb/d. The growth would be primarily on the back of higher demand in non-OECD countries (expected to be at 1.1 mb/d) whereas OECD countries are expected to

post a marginal demand growth of 0.15 mb/d. OECD Europe and Asia Pacific are expected to post a decline in oil demand in 2016, whereas Middle East, Other Asia and China are expected to show strong growth.

#### World oil supply

Non-OPEC oil supply growth in 2015 was kept unchanged from the last month is expected to grow at the same rate of 0.72 mb/d to average at 57.24 mb/d. There were small changes to oil supply projections for the remainder of the year for OECD, Developing Countries, China and the FSU. An expected fall in US tight oil production owing to persistently low oil prices is expected to be the biggest factor for the decline in supply from the region. However, overall world oil supply was positively impacted by higher-than-expected production from non-OPEC producers outside of the US during 2Q-15 and 3Q-15. Oil supply from OECD Americas saw a downward revision of 0.2mb/d and is now estimated to average at 20.56 mb/d in 2015. US total crude oil production decreased by 45 tb/d to average 9.32 mb/d in August-15 led by a decline in Texas. Meanwhile, oil supply from OECD Europe is expected to expand by 60 tb/d to 3.66 mb/d led by higher supply from UK and Norway. Oil supply from the Middle East is expected to decline by 0.09 mb/d to average at 1.25 mb/d in 2015 as increase in supply from Oman is expected to be offset by a decline in supply from Bahrain and Yemen. Non-OPEC oil supply was also kept unchanged from the last month and is expected to contract by 0.13 mb/d as compared to 2015 levels to average at 57.11 mb/d. According to the OPEC's monthly report, almost 5 mb/d of projects have been deferred or cancelled globally due to the low oil price environment in addition to capex reduction at existing fields. The total decline in capex cutbacks is pegged at \$ 200bn for 2015 and 2016 that would lead to a supply hole in the coming years.

#### OPEC oil production & spare capacity

OPEC oil production increased during October-15 by 74 tb/d or 0.2 percent to 32.21 mb/d after a decline during the previous month. The increase in production was primarily on the back of higher production in Libya and Saudi Arabia that increased production by 80 tb/d each followed by 53 tb/d increase in production in Iraq. This increase was partially offset by decline in pro-

duction in Kuwait by 120 tb/d and in Iran by 100 tb/d. In its monthly report, the International Energy Agency (IEA) said that OPEC's oil production is almost 1.1 mb/d higher than a year ago led by Saudi Arabia that pumped oil at more than 10 mb/d for the eight consecutive month. Moreover, an

expected fall in non-OPEC oil supply growth as producers cannot sustain production at such low oil price has provided a positive push to demand forecast for OPEC's crude in 2016. The IEA said that instead of cutting production, the OPEC could increase total production by the group to accommodate Indonesia that has applied to rejoin the group.

Meanwhile, in its monthly report, OPEC said that surplus oil inventories are at the highest level in at least a decade owing to increased global oil production. OPEC said that inventory in developed economies are 210 million barrels higher than their five-year average, much more than the glut that accumulated in early 2009 after the financial crisis. However, a slowdown in non-OPEC supply and rising demand for winter should take away some of the inventory build-up and support prices. In a separate event, the secretary general of OPEC said despite Iran coming to the oil market, global demand for crude would bring more balance to the oil market as early as next year. Supporting this view, the vice chairman of IHS said that oil market will rebalance in 2016 or 2017 as demand grows between 1.2 mb/d and 1.5 mb/d till 2020. Similarly, the IEA also believes that the oil market will rebalance at \$ 80/b price level in 2020.

During October-15, OPEC produced at 88.4 percent of its capacity, an increase of 20 bps from the previous month. Saudi Arabia continued to account for the lion's share of the total output by the group, pegged at 32.2 percent followed by Iraq at 13.3 percent and UAE at 9.2 percent. Meanwhile, the decline in monthly production in Kuwait during October-15 (-120 tb/d) came as a result of less number of rigs in operation ie 40 rigs during October-15 as compared to 43 rigs during September-15.

## AUB ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF AL-HASSAD PROGRAM

**KUWAIT:** Ahli United Bank held its weekly draw of Al-Hassad Islamic Saving program on November 11, 2015. This program offers the biggest prize amount to the largest number of winners. The prize program succeeded in becoming the first and only prize account in Kuwait compliant with the Islamic Shari'a principles. The program has been developed to fulfil the needs of the Bank customers and increase their opportunities in winning sizeable and attractive prizes in addition to enjoying the latest banking advantages that Ahli United Bank provides.

On this occasion, the bank issued the following press release: Al-Hassad Islamic Saving program offers the highest amounts of prizes which amount to KD 3.4 million per year. This Program also offers 26 weekly prizes, with the highest number of weekly winners. The Islamic Hassad Saving Account may be opened by the lowest amount to open an account, which is KD 100.

The winner of the weekly grand prize in the amount of KD 25,000 is: Aliaa M A Al-Houli. The winners of the KD 1,000 prize each Murtaza Mohamad Husein, Talal Othman Khalid, Eyad Fawaz Al-Mahmoud, Jaber Ahmad Al-Sarraf, Mohammad Saud Al-Ajmi, Fahad Eissa Al-Khudhur, Yousef Ahmad Al-Mailam, Yaqoub Yousef Al-Meshari, Bader Mansour Al-Safar, Emad Hassan Ali Al-Asousi, Ahmad Khaleefa Al-Khader, Abdulla Mohammed Al-Qoud, Shafei Mohammad Al-Awadhi, Hanadi

Fakhrudin Adenwala, Jassem Mohd Ahmed, Jaman M H Al-Azemi, Talal Mohd Al Shemallan, Mohamed Essa Al Rasheed, Mona Husxsain Ali, Ghallah Khalaf Shebeeb, Husain Abdulla Saud, Faisal Abdulla Hashim, Hanan Mohammed Ahmed, Ahmed Tawfiq Hasan.

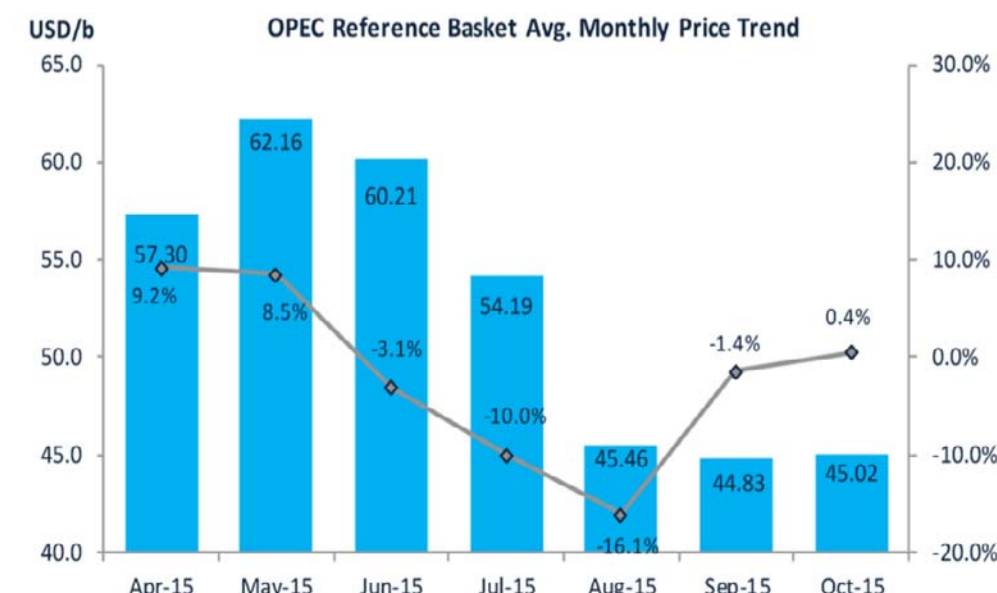
The Prize program of "Al- Hassad Islamic Saving" from Ahli United Bank offers a weekly grand prize worth KD



25,000 in addition to 25 weekly prizes worth a total of KD 25,000 distributed to 25 prizes, KD 1,000 for each winner.

In addition, prizes of Al-Hassad Islamic saving program from Ahli United Bank offer 4 quarterly grand prizes announced in quarterly draws. Each is a "Salary for Life" prize which is worth KD 25,000/-.

In general, Ahli United Bank continues to offer innovative tools and means to meet the needs of its customers to match the Bank's long history of distinctive services which extend over 73 years during which the Bank managed to take the lead among local banks. For further information about "Al-Hassad Islamic Saving" account, customers may call at any Ahli United Bank branch.



## EMC PARTICIPATES IN THIRD E-GOVT FORUM

By Islam Al-Sharaa

**KUWAIT:** EMC is participating in the third E-Government Forum (EGOV3) that is being held in Kuwait from Nov 15-17 to discuss the future of effective and secure government services. Held under the patronage of HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, the third edition of the largest e-government event in Kuwait brings together over 3,500 prominent senior dignitaries, ministers and government officials in addition to visionary heads of enterprise, decision makers and CEOs from across the region to share ideas and best practices to build a sound foundation for the advancement of government services.

Hosted in collaboration with the Central Agency for Information Technology (CAIT), EGOV3 features a series of keynotes and presentations by a series of prominent speakers to offer insights that are aimed at helping government entities in Kuwait reinforce service strategies in an era of digitization and heightened connectivity.

Kuwait Times spoke to Habib Mahakian, Vice President, Gulf and Pakistan, and Samer M Saber, Country Manager, Kuwait.

**Kuwait Times: How do you view EMC's participation in the third E-Government Forum (EGOV3) in Kuwait?**

**EMC:** We are very excited to participate as a diamond sponsor in this event, because a lot of government



Habib Mahakian Vice President, Gulf and Pakistan

services need to go to the next level and EMC is offering solutions. I believe this platform is the best place to present the new transformation happening in IT. Our participation here is mainly about smart cities. We discussed that a lot of cities, especially in the GCC region, are leading the way in the Middle East and even outside the Middle East when it comes to smart cities' initiatives, and in this forum we can help show governments and cities across the region and in Kuwait what to do in a different way to incubate such ideas.

**KT: What is EMC's role in the creation of smart cities and how is it going to help Kuwait government in its efforts to build a sound foundation for the advancement of government**

**services?**

**EMC:** Firstly, we tell them what is the best way to plan for this, which has three perspectives - infrastructure, the platform and the application layer. This is where we can help the Kuwaiti government, followed by the implementation of the project. Hopefully we will be announcing certain new initiatives very soon about smart cities inside and outside Kuwait.

**KT: What are the cornerstones of smart cities and how are they helping local governments' needs for innovations?**

**EMC:** The main thing is to have the right strategy and laws to help the government put the right data laws and how to share the data, so this is the first milestone in setting up the



Samer M Saber Country Manager, Kuwait.

right platform or the blueprint of the platform, and then the execution. The three main layers of the platform as mentioned are the infrastructure layer, the platform layer and the application layer, and the three should work together, which EMC provides for.

**KT: What are the potential challenges enterprises face today in building smart cities?**

**EMC:** Having the right laws to regulate all what has to do with smart cities, because it has to be smart but also has to be controlled. It has to have the right discipline, and these are related to security, so we have to be innovative. In addition to this, you have to have the right infrastructure in the country or in the place where you want the smart city initiative. You have

to have the telecom infrastructure, connectivity infrastructure and the IT infrastructure, so it's a mix between communication and IT infrastructure.

**KT: How do you look at the impact of growing social media adoption in this context?**

**EMC:** Social media is a great source of data, and smart cities mainly depend on how big the data that is available is and the diversification of the data. According to IDC reports, by 2020, you will have 40+ zettabytes coming from different sources like traditional systems and from social media, so all this mix of data is the main base for taking the decision in a smart city, like healthcare and transportation. All of these are connected and communicated over social media, so our role here is to help the government and the cities because of this data, whether it's coming from official transactional data of the organizations of the citizens in that city.

EMC in Kuwait took the decision long time ago to give more dedication and investment in Kuwait, and we have a big team and all kinds of EMC services serving our customers here. We work with different sectors, whether government or private, and EMC decided to be more committed to Kuwait as a market to see the potential in Kuwait. We see that Kuwait already took the decision to grow the IT business. That's why a company like EMC has opened its offices in Kuwait and with a good amount of resources with the best quality of people in the region.

## IN KENYA, A DIGITAL CLASSROOM IN A BOX

**NAIROBI:** At the Lighthouse Grace Academy in Nairobi's downmarket Kwangware suburb, yellow school t-shirts carry the slogan 'To Fear God is Wisdom', but in their hands pupils clutch a more worldly path to knowledge: tablet computers.

The hand-sized tablets are part of the 'Kio Kit', a digital classroom in a suitcase designed by local technology company BRCK, which two years ago launched the hard-wearing, brick-sized modem that works as a wifi hotspot.

"The Kio Kit is a way to turn any classroom into a digital classroom," said Nivi Mukherjee of BRCK Education, the subsidiary that launched the product in September.

"You open the box and there are 40 tablets inside, there is a BRCK inside and on the BRCK there is a Linux [open-source] server - so we can locally cache educational content, and serve it up to the tablets."

In her crowded cement-floored, tin-walled classroom with a stopped clock on the wall, seven-year-old Blessing taps away on her new tablet, learning to spell. Unusually for a child in school, she's smiling. "It's fun," she said.

Her teacher Josephine Boke, who has taught primary school for 12 years, says the kit "is nicely designed for the young hands, and it's easy to use and easy to adapt to the technology." "To the kids, they get excited when they are using it. It gives me an easy time as a teacher."

### Kenyan problem, Kenyan solution

Kenya has a thriving tech start-up scene, including the enormously successful M-Pesa mobile money transfer system which allows clients to send cash with their telephones.

The tablets and the BRCK are symbiotic: the modem is fixed into a watertight, hard-plastic wheeled suitcase which has slots for the tablets and acts as a wireless charging station for both.

New digital learning materials are uploaded to the BRCK wirelessly during quiet times of the night when more bandwidth is available, and then shared with the tablets during classes.

Thieves with an eye on the bright yellow,

low, tough and dust-resistant tablets will be disappointed, as they cannot browse the internet nor be charged independently.

Like the BRCK, the tablets are designed to solve Kenyan problems. "Intermittent power, intermittent internet connectivity, those are just the realities of our infrastructure, so we have to build solutions for those realities, rather than import solutions from other places," said Mukherjee.

At \$5,000 (4,500 euros) a piece the price of the kit seems high, given the ambition to provide access to quality education to all in some of the world's poorest places.

But with many schools lacking electricity, let alone facilities to teach computing, Mukherjee says it is not only intended for the private and donor-backed schools in which it is currently being used.

"We see this kit being rolled around from one classroom to the next throughout the day, throughout the week, children sharing it, having access to the kind of content and e-textbooks they wouldn't otherwise have access to," she said. "We don't think it's beyond the reach of public schools to spend \$5,000 giving digital access to 400 children."

Just five primary schools and libraries are currently using the Kio Kit, but BRCK Education already has 300 pre-orders and Mukherjee hopes to be producing "thousands each month by next year."

In South Africa, the continent's most advanced country, Gauteng province which houses Johannesburg and Pretoria, started rolling out tablets to 375 high school pupils earlier this year.

The plan is to hand out 17,000 tablets to pupils in their final year of high school, and swap teachers' chalkboards with smart interactive boards targeting especially the poverty-stricken township and rural schools.

The tablets come with free data bundle which is active between 5:00am and 9:00 pm while access to social networks is blocked. The scheme was initially hit by theft in the crime-ridden country, forcing authorities to install tracking devices on them, officials said.

And authorities came under fire for giving ICT a priority when some schools still lack basics such as flush toilets. —AFP



**REDWOOD CITY:** In this photo taken Friday, Oct. 9, 2015, a crowd of people watch the MegaBots 15-foot tall, piloted Mk II robot in action at the Pioneer Summit in Redwood City, Calif. Let the giant robot wars begin. A team of American engineers challenged a group in Japan to a battle for robot supremacy, and the Japanese said bring it on. —AP

## US STARTUP CHALLENGES JAPAN TO ROBOT BATTLE

**OAKLAND:** They've been popularized in movies, television and video games, but giant fighting robots still haven't left the realm of science fiction. That will soon change. Megabots Inc., an Oakland, California-based startup, has built a 15-foot (4.5-meter) mechanical gladiator called the Mark II and challenged a Japanese firm to an international battle for robot supremacy.

Tokyo-based Suidobashi Heavy Industries, maker of the 13-foot (4-meter) Kuratas, accepted the challenge, setting the stage for the first giant robot battle of its kind next year. The exact date and location are yet to be determined.

Win or lose, it's all part of Megabots' plan by to make gladiator-style robot combat into big-time entertainment - a mix between Ultimate Fighting Championship and Formula One auto racing - while developing new industrial technologies and inspiring a new generation of engineers.

The Megabots founders envision a sports league where teams from around the world build huge humanoid robots that throw each other down in stadiums filled with screaming fans.

"Everyone wins as long as there is robot carnage," said Megabots co-founder Matt Oehrlein, an electrical engineer. "People want to see these things fight. They want to see them punch each other, they want to see them ripped apart and they want to be entertained."

Megabots was launched in 2014 by Oehrlein, Gui Cavalcanti and Brinkley Warren, who grew up playing video games like "MechWarrior" and "BattleTech," and wanted to fulfill their dreams of watching massive machines fight.

"We want to bring the giant robots from science fiction and movies and video games to life because now we have the technology," said Cavalcanti, a robotics engineer. "It's really about: How do we put on the best show? How do we make the coolest fight?"

Inside a cavernous Oakland workshop, the Megabots founders built the Mark II - a 12,000-pound (5,443 kilograms) behemoth with tank treads, two-pilot cockpit and missile launcher that fires canon ball-sized paintballs.

Then Oehrlein called out Suidobashi in a YouTube video: "We have a giant robot. You have a giant robot. You know what needs to happen. We challenge you to a duel." Suidobashi's founder Kogoro Kurata accepted in his own video: "We can't

let another country win this. Giant robots are Japanese culture. Yeah, I'll fight. Absolutely."

Kurata also taunted the Megabots team: "Come on guys, make it cooler. Just building something huge and sticking guns on it, it's super American."

The Megabots robot isn't quite ready to take on Kuratas, a more polished fighting machine with a big, agile hand that mimics the movements of the pilot's hand. "Our current robot, the Mark II, looks pretty intimidating," Oehrlein said. "The truth is, it's pretty slow. It's top-heavy. It's rusty, and it needs a set of armor upgrades to be able to compete in hand-to-hand combat."

That's why Megabots launched an online Kickstarter campaign and raised more than \$550,000 from robot fans to turn the Mark II into a

real fighting machine - faster, tougher, more balanced and equipped with detachable weapons such as a giant chain saw or punching fist.

The startup has enlisted the help of engineers from NASA, software maker Autodesk, the TV shows "Mythbusters" and "BattleBots." "We're absolutely confident that Team USA can beat Japan. We've assembled the best of the best of this country. We're not going to let our country down," Cavalcanti said.

Robot enthusiasts like Gordon Kirkwood are eagerly anticipating the fight. "I think it's going to be a smash hit," said Kirkwood, a robotics engineer in San Francisco. "This has the potential to be a fantastic spectator sport that people would really pay good money to see." — AP



**NAIROBI:** Teacher Josephine Boke assists pupils from the Light House Grace academy in using the Kio tablet created by the local technology company BRCK Education, during a class session in Kawangware, Nairobi, on October 16, 2015. —AFP

## AS BOEING BOOMS, ROBOTS RISE AND JOB GROWTH LAGS

**NEW YORK:** For most of its 100-year history, when Boeing turned out more planes, employment soared and the Seattle-area economy prospered. When the rate of production fell, layoffs followed and the local economy crashed.

The cycle was so predictable that Boeing workers had a phrase for it: "Headcount goes by rate."

Now that longstanding cycle has broken down.

The world's largest plane maker is in the midst of its biggest peacetime boom, churning out 20 percent more planes than when the last big cycle peaked in the 1990s. But it is doing so with one-third fewer workers. In their place, Boeing is turning to robots and outsourcing.

In the past year, Boeing installed four banks of two-story riveting machines at the factory that makes its 737 aircraft in Renton, Washington. When it switched them on in May, the age-old clatter of hand-held rivet guns gave way to the whispery hiss of the 60-ton robots, which Boeing says can work twice as fast as people, with two-thirds fewer

defects. At its sprawling plant in Everett, Washington, Boeing has installed robotic arms to drill and rivet together fuselages for the 777 jetliner.

The machines are "taking what is in the neighborhood of 50,000 to 70,000 fasteners in the 777 fuselage that are today applied by hand and automating them," Boeing Chief Executive Dennis Muilenburg said in a speech at an aerospace trade fair in Seattle in September.

It's a "huge transformation in how we build airplanes," Boeing says automation is essential to improve quality and worker safety, lower costs and keep up with its European rival Airbus, which also is automating and riveting out more planes to meet worldwide growth in air travel.

But while Boeing says the robots have not caused any layoffs, the company is not predicting significant job growth either. "Increased automation means we can go higher in rates with a stable workforce," Barry Lewis, head of wing manufacturing operations at Boeing's 737 plant, said during a recent factory tour. —Reuters

## MISUNDERSTANDING OF ANTIBIOTICS FUELS SUPERBUG THREAT, WHO SAYS

'DRUG RESISTANCE COULD END MODERN MEDICINE AS WE KNOW IT'

**LONDON:** People across the world are alarmingly confused about the role of antibiotics and the right way to take them, and this ignorance is fuelling the rise of drug-resistant superbugs, the World Health Organization said yesterday. "The rise of antibiotic resistance is a global health crisis," WHO Director-General Margaret Chan told reporters in a telebriefing from the organisation's Geneva headquarters. She said the problem was "reaching dangerously high levels" in all parts of the world and could lead to "the end of modern medicine as we know it".

Antibiotic resistance happens when bac-

teria mutate and adapt to become invulnerable to the antibiotics used to treat the infections they cause. Over-use and misuse of antibiotics exacerbates the development of drug-resistant bacteria, often called superbugs. Publishing the results of a survey of public awareness, the United Nations health agency said 64 percent of those asked believed wrongly that penicillin-based drugs and other antibiotics can treat colds and flu, despite the fact such medicines have no impact on viruses. Around a third of people surveyed also wrongly believed they should stop taking antibiotics when they feel better,

rather than completing the prescribed treatment course, the WHO said.

"The findings ... point to the urgent need to improve understanding around antibiotic resistance," said Keiji Fukuda, the WHO's special representative for antimicrobial resistance. "One of the biggest health challenges of the 21st century will require global behavior change by individuals and societies." Superbug infections, including multi-drug-resistant typhoid, tuberculosis and gonorrhoea, already kill hundreds of thousands of people a year, and for now the trend is still growing.

### Worrying misconceptions

Fukuda described it as a "race against the pathogens", adding that if everyone steps into action now, it will probably take five to 10 years to turn the situation around. The WHO surveyed 10,000 people across 12 countries: Barbados, China, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Nigeria, Russia, Serbia, South Africa, Sudan and Vietnam and found many worrying misconceptions. Three-quarters of respondents think antibiotic resistance means the body is resistant to the drugs, for example, whereas in fact it is the bacteria themselves that become resistant to antibiotics, and their

spread causes hard-to-treat infections. Some 66 percent believe individuals are not at risk of a drug-resistant infection if they personally take their antibiotics as prescribed. And nearly half of those surveyed think drug resistance is only a problem in people who take antibiotics often. In fact, anyone, anywhere, of any age, can get a superbug infection. Chan urged doctors to dissuade patients from demanding antibiotics for infections they can't treat, and persuade them to use the drugs strictly according to their prescription. "Doctors need to treat antibiotics as a precious commodity," she said.—Reuter



**TAYBEH, Lebanon:** Syrian refugee women and children sit under a tent as they attend a class on family planning organized by Doctors Without Borders (MSF) at a makeshift camp by Taybeh village, in Lebanon's eastern Bekaa Valley.—AFP photos

## FUTURES UNCLEAR, SYRIAN REFUGEES IN LEBANON START FAMILY PLANNING

**TAYBEH, Lebanon:** In a tent in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, Sanaa Al-Absi extracts a condom from its wrapper in front of a group of giggling Syrian refugee women and begins explaining its use. It is the first time some of the women have seen the contraceptive, which they are learning about as part of a rare program teaching Syrian refugees family planning in Lebanon. The subject is a sensitive one, strewn with cultural, religious and even political landmines. In much of the Middle East, large families are seen as a blessing from God, and contraception is regarded with skepticism or outright hostility. And in Lebanon, where an influx of 1.1 million Syrian refugees has strained resources and tempers, family planning can be misconstrued as a way to stem the growth of the displaced population.

Absi, herself a 30-year-old Syrian refugee from southern Daraa province, is careful but confident as she talks the women through different contraceptives in a tent used as a classroom. She is a volunteer with Doctors Without Borders (MSF), which provides the women with free contraceptives as well as pre- and post-natal care. In the tent in the makeshift camp by Taybeh village in eastern Lebanon, the women listen with varying degrees of engagement and embarrassment. "Why are you laughing? It's just like a balloon, right?" Absi jokes with them as she explains how to use a condom. "Many men refuse to use it because they say it ruins the feel of sexual intercourse, but that is purely psychological," she insists. Psychological perhaps, but every one of the 16 women attending say their

husbands will not use condoms, and are more interested in other contraceptive methods.

### Clearing up misconceptions

Absi shows them different varieties of the pill, as well as the contraceptive injection and the intrauterine device (IUD), aiming to clear up some misconceptions along the way. "Some people come to me and say, the IUD trapped my husband's penis! But that's not possible," she says, explaining how the device works. "Don't worry," she adds, holding up an example of the device, sealed in plastic in its case. "Not all of this goes inside of you, that would be a disaster!" Given the sensitivities of the subject, Absi's pitch for birth control is delicately calibrated, with references to religious, economic and health justifications for family planning.

"You can have 10 children if you want, but you should space them out," she says. "Remember in the Koran they talk about breastfeeding a child for at least two years, which means spacing out your children," she adds. "And we're in a situation now where things are different and you have to think about the crisis and the circumstances." Those circumstances are precisely what attracts many of the women to the session.

Most have been in Lebanon for years now, some since the Syrian conflict began with anti-government protests in March 2011. They scrape by with aid and occasional work, and their children have patchy access to education. The camp they call home is searingly hot in the summer and covered with snow in the winter. "In Syria, everything was easy, everything was cheap, but here we have to rely on aid, and it's not coming anymore," says 35-year-old Shamsa, a mother of 11, whose smile reveals two gold teeth. "People say that when a baby comes it's a blessing and God will provide for it, but the reality is that it is hard to provide for them, so family planning is a must."

### 'My husband says it's forbidden'

Shamsa opted for tubal ligation after her last child was born, nine months ago. "If the situation was good, I would have continued having children, but under the circumstances, I decided to stop." Her husband was opposed but eventually consented. He wanted more boys, since of her 11 children nine are girls. MSF has been offering family planning sessions since April 2013 in four areas, mostly in around 15 makeshift campsites. The sessions are also available for men, and some women say their husbands support spacing out children. Fatima Al-Abdullah, an 18-year-old who married six months ago, is trying for her first child, but eventually plans to decide on a contraceptive method with her husband. "We want four or five children, but he doesn't want a child year after year," she says. But other women's husbands are less supportive. "My husband says it is religiously forbidden, and that what God gives is good," says Huriyeh, a 27-year-old who is five months pregnant with her fifth child. She has four girls, and had a boy who was disabled and died as a toddler. "I'm hoping this pregnancy will be a boy, I think if it was a boy I would stop after that." As she speaks, her husband wanders over and laughs, dragging on a cigarette. "Don't believe her, she wants at least a dozen children!" he says.—AFP



**TAYBEH, Lebanon:** A child sits under a tent with Syrian refugee women attending a class on family planning.



**TAYBEH, Lebanon:** A Syrian refugee girl stands at a makeshift camp by Taybeh village.

## CONJOINED TWINS DIE IN BANGLADESH

**DHAKA:** Conjoined twin girls have died in Bangladesh less than a week after they were born, the hospital treating them said yesterday. Thousands of people had flocked to visit the twins, who were born with two heads and two hearts but just one body, after news spread of the "miracle newborn" last week. They were taken into intensive care at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital, Bangladesh's biggest public hospital, which set up a team of specialists to treat them. But the head of the intensive care unit said they died late on Sunday after apparently suffering from heart failure. "She was not in a stable condition since she was born. She died before we could intervene," said Abid Hossain Molla.

"She was a rare conjoined twins with two heads. She had two hands and two legs like any normal baby, but inside she had two hearts, two sets of lungs and shared pelvic organs." The twins' father Jamal Mia said he had buried her at a public graveyard in Dhaka. "I can't afford to hire an ambulance to take her back home. So the doctors gave me some money to bury her in Dhaka," Mia said. "I feel sad for her as we could not do much to save her." Mia said he had not yet told his wife of the twins' death because she was still "very sick" after giving birth by Caesarian section.

Conjoined siblings are identical twins who in rare cases are born with their skin and internal organs fused together, according to the University of Maryland Medical Centre website. About half are stillborn, and the survival rate is between five and 25 percent. They develop from a single egg, which splits in the case of healthy twins, but not fully in the case of conjoined siblings.—AFP



**DHAKA:** In this photograph taken on November 12, 2015, Bangladeshi conjoined twins receive medical care at a hospital in Brahmanbaria, some 120 kms east of Dhaka.—AFP

## ON WORLD TOILET DAY, ONE BILLION PEOPLE HAVE NOWHERE TO GO

**LONDON:** Some 2.4 billion people around the world don't have access to decent sanitation and more than a billion are forced to defecate in the open, risking disease and other dangers, according to the United Nations. Launching its World Toilet Day campaign for Nov 19, the UN said poor sanitation increases the risk of illness and malnutrition, especially for children, and called for women and girls in particular to be offered safe, clean facilities. "One out of three women around the world lack access to safe toilets," UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said in a statement. "As a result they face disease, shame and potential violence when they seek a place to defecate."

Even where there are toilets around the world, some hardly warrant the name, as illustrated by Reuters in a photo essay from

around the world. In a Syrian refugee settlement camp in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, for example, toilets surrounded by graffiti-covered corrugated sheet sit right up against flimsy tents. In the Marcory district of Abidjan, Ivory Coast, a "private" stall is simply built of spare bits of lumber and metal.

The UN says that while there is sufficient fresh water on the planet for everyone, "bad economics and poor infrastructure" mean that every year millions of people - most of them children - die from diseases linked to poor sanitation, unhygienic living conditions and lack of clean water supplies. "We have a moral imperative to end open defecation and a duty to ensure women and girls are not at risk of assault and rape simply because they lack a sanitation facility," Ban said.—Reuters

## CLINTON, DIGGING AT SANDERS, SAYS DON'T SCRAP HEALTH LAW

**AMES, Iowa:** Fresh from the second Democratic presidential debate, Hillary Rodham Clinton has suggested that Bernie Sanders would raise middle-class taxes and "scrap" President Barack Obama's health care law, in an escalating critique of the Vermont senator. Joined by her husband, former President Bill Clinton, at a fall barbecue, the front-runner said Sunday that middle-class families "need a raise, not a tax increase" and she was the lone Democrat in the debate to commit to raising wages and not your taxes.

Without mentioning her main rival by name, Clinton said Democrats should work to build on Obama's health law and not suggest "we scrap it and start all over again." During the debate, Clinton questioned Sanders' 2013 health care legislation, saying it would dismantle the law and empower Republican governors like Terry Branstad of Iowa to administer the health care system in each state. Sanders envisions a "single-payer" system that would be run by the states under federal rules. Sanders, in a brief interview following a town hall meeting at Simpson College in Indianola, said he could pay for his agenda without raising taxes on middle-class families. "Our agenda is the most progressive in terms of demanding that Wall Street, large corporations and the wealthy finally start paying their fair share of taxes," he said.

During the event, he said he had helped write Obama's health care law. "We are the only major country on earth that does not guarantee health care to all as a right. We have got to end that embarrassment," he said. Even as the field responded somberly to the deadly attacks in Paris, the debate Saturday night marked a feistier phase in the Democratic campaign. Helped by a strong

autumn, Clinton has built a small lead in Iowa and is trying to stave off Sanders in the Feb. 1 presidential caucuses.

### Shamefully hiding

Sanders put Clinton on the defensive in the debate when he said Wall Street had been the major contributor to her campaigns in order to get support in return. Clinton responded that Sanders was trying to "impugn my integrity" and said that as a New York senator, she helped New York City's financial hub rebuild after the Sept 11 attacks. Her invoking of 9/11 received an incredulous response on social media and Republicans accused her of shamefully hiding behind the attacks to deflect attention from her ties to her wealthiest donors. Taking the stage in Ames, former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley said Clinton brought up 9/11 to try to "mask her proximity to Wall Street and the huge amount of contributions and the dollars she has received personally from the major banks of Wall Street."

"She doesn't have to mask it. It is what it is," O'Malley said. "That is the sort of company, that is the sort of economic advice that she would follow." Sanders campaign manager Jeff Weaver said following the debate that the senator's proposals would be paid for with higher taxes on the wealthy and large corporations. "He's raising taxes to pay for relief for middle-income and working people," he said. Sanders noted his support of legislation backed by Sen Kirsten Gillibrand, Clinton's successor as New York senator, to provide 12 weeks of paid family and medical leave. He said it would be paid for by adding about \$1.38 a week to payroll taxes for the average worker.—AP



Cotopaxi, ECUADOR: View of the Cotopaxi volcano spewing ashes on October 30, 2015 in Cotopaxi province, Ecuador.—AFP photos



Cotopaxi, ECUADOR: The director of the Geophysical Institute of Ecuador Mario Ruiz (center) and technicians install monitoring equipment in Cotopaxi province.



Cotopaxi, ECUADOR: View of the Cotopaxi volcano spewing ashes on October 29, 2015 in Cotopaxi province.

## FEAR AND BEAUTY AT FOOT OF ECUADOR'S COTOPAXI VOLCANO

**COTOPAXI, Ecuador:** Since it awoke in August from a 138-year slumber, Ecuador's Cotopaxi volcano has become one of the most-watched in the world, holding wary locals and fascinated scientists in thrall. Cotopaxi, whose snowy peak rises majestically from the patchwork quilt of central Ecuador's high plains, rumbled to life on August 14, belching a column of ash in its first major eruption since 1877. President Rafael Correa declared a state of emergency as authorities warned the volcano was one of the most dangerous on Earth because of its big snow cap and the relatively large population nearby.

So far, the fiery explosion of lava and cataclysmic snow-melt the government feared have not materialized. But scientists are keeping a wary eye on Cotopaxi. A team from Ecuador's Geophysics Institute recently

climbed to the last shelter before the crater and installed wind-powered generators to keep their monitoring equipment running in case it gets covered by volcanic ash. "This is the most monitored volcano in South America. We can't rule out any scenario," said the institute's director, Mario Ruiz.

Touring the ruddy terrain around the volcano's base, where herds of wild horses run amid the meadows and lakes, Ruiz pointed out the deep grooves carved by the 1877 eruption. "In the 10 kilometers (six miles) immediately surrounding Cotopaxi there's almost no one and nothing," Ruiz told AFP. "But there's a possibility the volcano could generate pyroclastic flows—a mix of gas, ashes and rock fragments—that could melt the glacier and form rivers of mud and debris, or lahars, which could affect the surrounding population for

dozens of kilometers."

A powerful eruption is unlikely, he said. But if it happened, it would have a devastating impact on an area that is home to 325,000 people, an oil pipeline and a key agriculture industry and sits just 45 kilometers south of the capital Quito.

### 'Marvelous' but scary

During the August eruption, authorities evacuated hundreds of people and closed tens of thousands of hectares (acres) of the national park that surrounds the 5,897-meter (19,347-foot) volcano. President Correa also decreed a controversial "prior censorship" measure that barred the media from releasing any unauthorized information on the volcano. Residents who live near the volcano have grown used to living in a state of "yellow alert,"

the second scale on Ecuador's four-level warning system. They go about their days as Cotopaxi spits large volumes of ash and gas into the sky. "I live with the joy of having this marvelous volcano nearby, but with the fear that it could turn destructive," said Roberto Veloz, who lives in the small town of El Pedregal, 10 kilometers from the volcano. The three states considered to be at risk-Cotopaxi, Napo and Pichincha periodically organize eruption drills. But they have not released estimates of the economic impact an eruption would have.

### 'Reducing uncertainty'

Visitors to the Geophysics Institute's headquarters in Quito are greeted by a map of mainland Ecuador's 84 volcanos, color-coded as dormant, potentially active, active or erupt-

ing. A monitoring room receives real-time data from 60 stations installed around Cotopaxi, which is analyzed 24 hours a day by a team of 80 experts. "Volcanic processes develop underground. We can't measure them directly," said Ruiz as he watched a panel of six large screens with data from instruments like infrared cameras and level gauges.

"We measure the number and the intensity of seismic events, the deformation or leak of gases... and try to establish a scenario of how it could evolve," he said. Ruiz, a 30-year veteran of the Institute, said there was little time for a breather even though Cotopaxi's risk level was recently downgraded from moderate to low. "We've entered into the stage of uncertainty. Our work now is to reinforce what we know with more data to reduce that uncertainty," he said.—AFP

## TRANSPLANT GIVES NEW FACE, SCALP TO BURNED FIREFIGHTER

**NEW YORK:** A volunteer firefighter badly burned in a 2001 blaze has received the most extensive face transplant ever, covering his skull and much of his neck, a New York hospital announced yesterday. The surgery took place in August at the NYU Langone Medical Center. The patient, 41-year-old Patrick Hardison, is still undergoing physical therapy at the hospital but plans to return home to Senatobia, Mississippi, in time for Thanksgiving.

The surgery has paved the way for him to regain normal vision, and in an interview last week he said that will let him accomplish a major goal: "I'll start driving again." More than two dozen face transplants have been performed worldwide since the first one in France in 2005. Dr. Eduardo Rodriguez, who led the surgical team that did Hardison's transplant and recently wrote a review of the field, said Hardison's is by far the most extensive performed successfully in terms of the amount of tissue transferred.

The transplant extends from the top of the head, over Hardison's skull and down to the collarbones in front; in back, it reaches far enough down that only a tiny patch of Hardison's original hair remains - its color matched by the dark blond hair growing on his new scalp. The transplant includes both ears. The surgery began Aug. 14 and lasted 26 hours. It left no scars on Hardison's new face because the seam of the transplanted tissue runs down the back of his skull.

artist and competitive bicyclist David P Rodebaugh. He had died of injuries from a biking accident on a Brooklyn street. Hardison was burned Sept 5, 2001, in Senatobia in northwestern Mississippi. A 27-year-old father of three at the time who'd served for seven years as a volunteer firefighter, he entered a burning house to search for a woman. The roof collapsed, giving him third-degree burns on his head, neck and upper torso. He spent about two months at a Memphis, Tennessee, burn center. Doctors used a layer of skin from his legs to cover his wounded head, but he had lost his ears, lips, most of his nose and virtually all of his eyelid tissue. Since he could not blink, doctors used skin grafts to reinforce what remained of his eyelids and sewed them nearly shut to protect his eyes. That left him with only pinhole vision. "I was almost totally blind," he recalled. "I could see just a little bit."

His face was "one huge scar," Rodriguez said. Hardison still went to baseball games and did other things outside, although people stared. He playfully told curious children that he had fought a bear. Still, he said, life was hard. He endured 71 surgeries. Eventually a church friend of his wrote to Rodriguez, who had performed a 2012 face transplant at the University of Maryland Medical Center. The doctor said he would try to help, and in August 2014 Hardison was placed on a waiting list.

### Ideal donor

"We were looking for the ideal donor," one who matched Hardison on biological traits to minimize the risk of his body's

rejecting the new tissue, as well as things like skin and hair color, said Rodriguez, who by then had moved to NYU Langone. A year later, Rodebaugh was identified as a potential donor by LiveOnNY, the nonprofit organization that seeks transplant organs and tissue in the New York City area. A native of the Columbus, Ohio, area, he had signed up to donate organs. His mother gave permission to use his face, noting that Rodebaugh had always wanted to be a firefighter, said LiveOnNY president Helen Irving.

The hospital paid for the transplant operation, which included attaching four bone segments to Hardison's skull, as anchors to prevent the face from drooping. Now, three months later, the lower part of his face remains swollen, but Rodriguez said that will go away in a few months. With his new eyelids and more surgery, he's expected to regain a normal field of vision for the first time in more than a decade. He will have to continue taking medications to prevent his body from rejecting the transplant. Eventually, "a casual observer will not notice anything that is odd" in Hardison's new face, which will blend features of his original face and the donor's, Rodriguez said. Hardison said his new face has already made a difference when he goes outside. "I used to get stared at all the time, but now I'm just an average guy," he said. He's been told he can't return to firefighting because of insurance concerns, but he has another plan: motivational speaking or something similar, perhaps for wounded veterans. His message? "Just how there is hope."—AP



**NEW YORK:** This combination of Aug 15, 2015 to Nov 11, 2015 photos provided by the New York University Langone Medical Center shows the recuperation of Patrick Hardison after his facial transplant surgery.—AP photos



**NEW YORK:** This combination of photos provided by the New York University Langone Medical Center shows Patrick Hardison before and after his facial transplant surgery.

**NEW YORK:** This 1999 family photo provided by Lori Taylor shows her brother Patrick Hardison, with his two daughters, Averil, left, and Alison.

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248 33 199

**Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem**  
فهد علي المخيزيم

استشاري أطفال  
M.B. Bch. FRCPC. FAAP. PEM



# KKIC HOLDS ISLAMIC STUDENTS CONFERENCE

## DISSEMINATE TRUE MESSAGE OF ISLAM: AL-AS'OUI



By Sajeev K Peter

The inaugural session of the two-day Islamic Students Conference (ISCON) witnessed an overwhelming participation of students and general public in which eminent Kuwait dignitaries participated as key speakers. Inaugurating the conference on Friday at Ihyauthuras Hall in Qortoba, Sheikh Dawood Al-As'oui, Assistant undersecretary, Awqaf ministry said, Islam advocates peace and it disseminates the message of peace and tranquility among people. "Islam never encourages terrorism or extremism but a harmonious life. But unfortunately, Islam is misunderstood by many today. It is your duty to spread the true message of Islam among the expatriate community in Kuwait. It is the only way to spread the great message of Islam," he told the

student community.

The conference, organized by Kuwait Kerala Islahi Centre (KKIC) was held under the patronage of Ministry of Awqaf in cooperation with Grand Mosque. The motto of the conference is 'Knowledge for Peace'.

Sheikh Tareq Al-Essa, chairman of Ihyauthuras Al-Islami felicitated the conference said: "It is necessary to impart education for the development of growing children. Only then, the children will grow up learning the essence of holy Quran and the teachings of Prophet (PBUH)." He appreciated the activities of Islahi Centre.

Awards have been distributed to the top winners of madrasa for the final year examinations. Sheikh Tareq Al-Essa released a souvenir on the occasion giving a copies to Saad Al-Shuwaib, the Grand Mosque supervisor

and FIMA president Siddique Vallyakath. Sheikh Dawood Al-As'oui released a 'wisdom book pack' handing over a copy to Saad Al-Shammari, Managing Director of Al-Sumayya Educational institution. Amjad Madani, Prof Haris bn Saleem and Mujahid Balusery delivered lectures on various topics.

A session on 'An effective parenting' has been presented by well-known trainer Prof Jouhar Munawar and 'Kalichangadam' for children below 10 years has been conducted under KISM organizers. PN Abdullaheef Madani presided over the function and TP Abdul Azeez delivered a welcome note. Sakeer Koyilandi, Abdul Azeez Narakot TP, Anwar, Sunash Shukoor, Abdussamad AM, Azhar Atheri, PN Abdulrahman and Aslam Kapad were in the presidium.

# CANON MIDDLE EAST TRAINS FILMMAKERS AT BROADCASTING FILM AND MUSIC AWARDS

Canon Middle East, a leader in imaging solutions, was part of the Broadcasting Film and Music Awards (BFMA) held from October 27-29 in Nairobi, as it organized a film-making workshop to train aspiring film-makers in new African markets using its latest technologies.

BFMA is the continent's only business and technology event to serve the creative content and electronic media industry through an integrated educational and marketing platform. Office Technologies (OTL), Canon's local distributor in Kenya, also supported the event, which was organized by AITEC.

### Creative talent

The two day videography workshop which was conducted by Raul Gabat, Business Development Manager, Canon Middle East, and Danilo Rodriguez, a Dubai-based film director and producer, had over 70 participants and is testimony to Canon's commitment to training creative talent in new African markets. Gabat introduced the audience to the technical

ities of professional videography, and conducted a session on hardware and software, in an effort to strengthen awareness of Canon's services and solutions amongst media and production houses, governmental and non-governmental institutions. Other sessions included filmmaking, live shooting and post-production by Rodriguez.

Anurag Agrawal, Managing Director, Canon Middle East said: "Canon is keen to introduce new and exciting technologies in African markets and train aspiring filmmakers across the region. The technology we develop for our cameras has highly advanced features. With our professional video workshops, emerging communities have an opportunity to enhance their skills and learn more about filmmaking."

### Greater awareness

Basil Serrao, Managing Director, Office Technologies said: "We are delighted to work with our partner, Canon, to spread even greater awareness

about their professional video cameras. This is a growing market and we look forward to being a part of the larger region's success as a creative hub."

In keeping with Canon's Kyosei philosophy of living and working together for the common good, Canon Middle East has built a primary school in Senegal as part of its wide range of community activities addressing the environment, healthcare, sports and personal development. The company has been awarded for its CSR efforts by the Dubai Chamber and has also received the CSR Label for the third consecutive year.

Canon Middle East serves as an active partner in the communities it operates in, by working with governments, scientific, academic, humanitarian, and arts and culture organisations, to integrate corporate social responsibility across all elements of the business.

For further details of Canon Middle East, global operations, products and services visit [www.canon-me.com](http://www.canon-me.com)



# KALA KUWAIT HOLDS CHILDREN'S DAY PAINTING COMPETITION

All roads led to Indian Community School, Khaitan, venue of Kala(Art) Kuwait 'Metro Medical Care - NIRAM 2015' Children's Day Painting Competition on Friday, 13th November 2015. There was a festive air prevailed over and the sunny and serene weather with cool breeze was also a great blessing to the event. A world filled with colors and lines were blooming.

"NIRAM-2015" the popularly known painting competition on the occasion of Children's Day celebration by marking the 126th birth day of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the First Prime Minister of India. Kala(Art) Kuwait is delighted to celebrate 11th Anniversary of "NIRAM" Painting Competition with elegance and glory which is opened for all students of Indian Schools in Kuwait. There were more than a Total of 2400 entries out of which 2115 children took part in the competitions. The parents actively participated in the open canvas and Clay Sculpture was also a competition item for the students. Various Gift items were distributed to all participants immediately after the competition.

A. K. Shrivastava, Second Secretary, Indian Embassy Kuwait, inaugurated the program. Kala(Art) President K. Jaison Joseph, General Secretary Ragesh P.D., Program General Convener Sivakumar, Indian Community School Honorary Secretary, Vijayan Karayil, Indian Community School Principal Gangadhar Shirshad, Metro Medical Care C.E.O. Hamza Payyannur, Prominent Community Leaders Ramdas Chilamban, Raju Sakriya, Chacko George Kutty, Fathah Thayyil, Basher Batha, Sathar Kunnil, Arun, Iqbal Kutamangalam, C. Bhaskaran, Mukesh V. P., Sharif Thamarassery, Rishi Jacob, Najeeb and A. Samuel were also attended the inaugural function.

Well Known Artists John Mavelikkara, Sasi Krishahan, Shammy John, Nikesh and Sunil were supervised the competition. The program was controlled by Rathidas, Aboobacker, Sameer, Samkutty Thomas, Hassan Koya, Johney, Sunil Kumar, Babu, Shyith, Santhosh, Aneesh, Shamsu, A. Mohanan, Vipin, Priyesh, Haneef, Ramakrishnan, Mustafa, Renuka, Biji, Thasleena, Aneecha, Vani,

Safreena, Ambili, Jothi, Bindhu, Sneha, Shahana, Rani, Santhosh Joseph, Bharathan, Anil V, Rijo, Nitin, Sarath, Naithan, Sajesh, Kanakaraj, Kunjiraman, Ullas, Shilin Rajan, Sunil chacko, Sanju Mathew etc. Divya Kiran and Nisha Dileep did the Coemping. The result of the Competition will be announced by organizing committee as well as the judging committee on 1st December 2015 through leading newspapers and also websites. Prize Distribution Ceremony will be held at Indian Community School Khaitan on 11th December 2015 at 2:30pm.

Kala(Art) Kuwait, highlights the exclusive prizes for the winners as first place with gold medal, second place with silver medal and third place with bronze medal along with memento and certificate. Besides the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, there will be Merit Prizes and Ten (10) percent of the participants will be awarded with consolation prizes. In addition to those prizes Metro Medical Care offered free consultation for all participants, one year free treatment for 1st place winners and six months free consultation for the parents of main winners. The organizers have expressed their entire satisfaction on the successful completion of the Competition and take this opportunity to thank all Children, Parents, Management and Teachers of all Indian schools in Kuwait, Representatives of various Indian socio-cultural organizations in Kuwait and all our Sponsors for their active participation and wholehearted support for making the event as a grant success. Kala(Art) Kuwait has once again proved beyond doubt that it upholds the interests of all Art lovers in Kuwait and will continue its support for promotion of Art (Kala). Students and parents are familiar with 'NIRAM', and they can no longer be hoodwinked, as this is the 11th consecutive year Kala(Art) Kuwait has been successfully conducted this prestigious painting Competition on the occasion of Children's day.

A large number of prominent leaders of various Indian socio-cultural organizations, media persons and sponsors were also witnessed the competition.



# SPLASH OF COLORS AT ILOA

Thursday 5 November 2015 was not just another working day at the Indian Learners Own Academy Kuwait (ILOA Kuwait), but it was a school day with a very pleasant, colorful twist to it.

As more than 200 students assembled in the school auditorium under the guidance of LOA's dynamic and brilliant Principal, Asha Sharma, LOA Art teacher and internationally acclaimed world art specialist Sasikrishnan, in the presence of Suhail, the Marketing Manager of Faber-Castell, the scene was set for an active participation by the students in an art workshop held under the patronage of Faber-Castell, world leaders in the manufacture of art supplies, pens, pencils, high-end writing instruments, luxury leather goods and office supplies.

Asha Sharma, inaugurated the Workshop and what followed

were a few hours of sheer creative indulgence, learning and fun using Faber-Castell Connector Pens under the guidance of Artist Sasikrishnan who explained the

different techniques of drawing using Connector Pens. Through an interactive session, the art maestro not only educated the little artists in the art of creating artistic

masterpieces but also explained the importance of art education as a tool to remove fear in children and instill confidence in them. He shed light on various art techniques through which concentration and focusing ability can be improved in youngsters, in order to enhance their academic performance. Within the short span of the Workshop the Master shared priceless knowledge gained through more than two decades lived as an artist and art educator who has travelled all over the globe as an art spokesperson at various vistas.

Sohail, introduced to the students and teachers, the different products of Faber-Castell that can be used for doodling, squiggling, drawing etc. The workshop wound up with a question and answer session for the students and winners were rewarded with gifts sponsored by Faber-Castell.





Kuwait University's College of Engineering and Petroleum celebrated its 40th anniversary in a recent ceremony held under the patronage of His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. Oil Minister Dr Ali Al-Omar represented His Highness at the event.



## GUST MBA ORGANIZES SEMINAR BY DR SAAD AL-BARRAK

Gulf University for Science and Technology MBA Program organized a seminar yesterday entitled "Leading Change", presented by former CEO of Zain Telecom, and Chief Executive Officer of ILA Group, Dr Saad Al-Barrak, on its campus. The seminar discussed various types of change within an organization, along with its benefits and possible pitfalls.

The aim of the seminar was to link the theories students learn in the classroom to real life situations. This would enable students to

gain more insight into those theories, and have the ability to apply them into different situations in the workplace.

Dr Saad Al-Barrak, Chief Executive Officer of ILA Group, said: "My participation in this seminar stems from my belief that it's important for businessmen to interact with the community, and in particular, in the field of education. I chose this topic because I am convinced that leading change is one of the most crucial and most important tasks of any management position."

He started the seminar by explaining a well-established change model called Kotter's 8-Step Change Model. This model, developed by Harvard University Professor John Kotter, was applied by Zain Telecom to take it from the local to the international playing field. Dr Al-Barrak went through the model in detail and also highlighted important elements for companies to apply in order to change successfully.

Dr Antonis Simintiras, GUST MBA Director, said, "We are always delighted when we get

the opportunity to share unique business experiences from world renowned figures such as Dr Saad Al-Barrak. Our program has been developed to ensure direct relevance to today's changing world of business and exposure to such forward thinking seminars helps us to cultivate tomorrow's business leaders."

Dr Saad Al Barrak is a Kuwaiti business man and investor. He is best known for his role as the CEO of Zain Group, where he was instrumental for the growth of the company and its

expansion into new markets. Following his tenure at Zain, Dr Al-Barrak started ILA, an advisory firm in December 2010.

The MBA Program at GUST has been developed to ensure that it meets the highest international standards, and ensure the growth of its students to reach their full potential. The program also plans to organize more seminars and events with renowned speakers of vast experience, which will not only benefit students, but the community as a whole.

## KIPCO ANNOUNCES PLATINUM SPONSORSHIP OF NUKS-USA CONFERENCE FOR FIFTH YEAR

KIPCO - the Kuwait Projects Company - has announced its Platinum Sponsorship of the 32nd Conference of the National Union of Kuwaiti Students - USA Branch (NUKS-USA). The event, sponsored by KIPCO for the fifth consecutive year, will be held on November 25-28 in San Diego, California. This annual conference, the largest gathering of Kuwaitis outside of their homeland, is being held this year under the slogan 'Awakening Kuwait's Dream'.

Eman Al-Awadhi, KIPCO's Group Communications Director, said: "With more than 3,700 students participating in last year's NUKS-USA Conference, KIPCO's sponsorship of this event has become increasingly important. Every year, representatives of our Group companies share their experiences with the students to encourage them to seek a career in the private sector. This year in partic-

ular, we will be increasing efforts to actively seek and recruit promising young Kuwaiti talents into our Group



Eman Al-Awadhi

companies. We are looking forward to this year's conference and to interacting with the students in the different

events in which we will be involved."

As a Platinum Sponsor, KIPCO will be addressing students during the Opening Ceremony and will also be the sponsor of the Closing Ceremony.

Burgan Bank - KIPCO's largest investment - and United Facilities Management - KIPCO's property management arm and a subsidiary of United Real Estate - will be interviewing select students for positions in the two companies.

KIPCO and Burgan Bank will be taking part in the Job Fair. Besides highlighting the career opportunities for graduating students, this year's Job Fair promises to be more engaging for the students.

To prepare students to embrace their careers after graduation, KIPCO is holding a workshop entitled 'Campus to Corporate'. The workshop is co-organized by Burgan Bank and the Center for Continued Education at the American University of Kuwait.



The Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK) celebrated the graduation of staff members from a special new employees development program, during a recent ceremony attended by bank a number of bank officials.



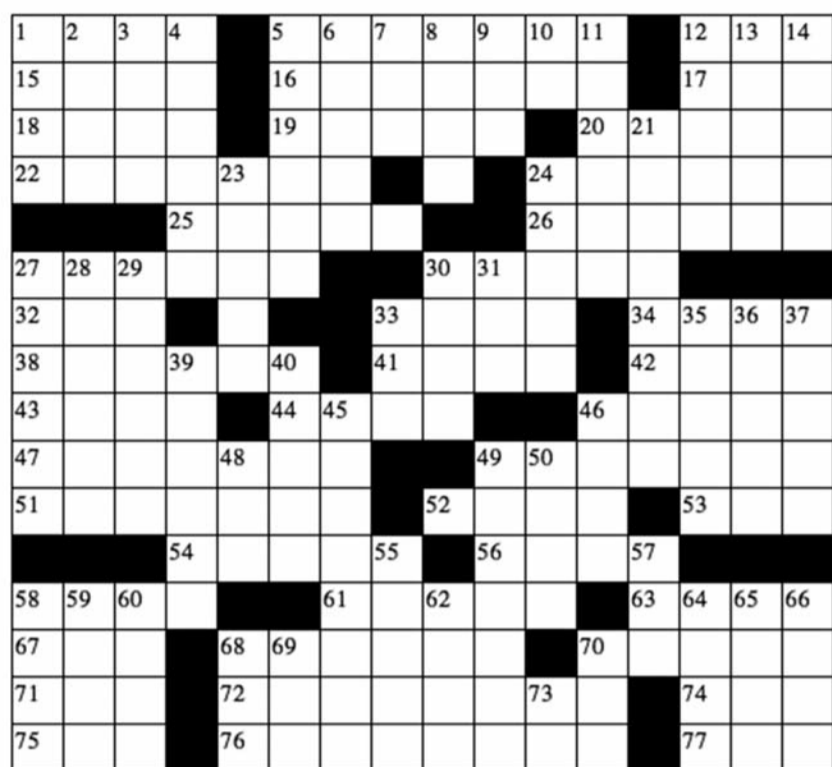
The sports committee at the council of the Jordanian community in Kuwait recently organized an open day at the Public Authority for Youth and Sport's fields in Bayan. The event took place under the patronage of Jordanian Ambassador to Kuwait Mohammad Al-Kayed. Deputy Ambassador Shakir Al-Amoush attended the event on his behalf. —Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat







CROSSWORD 1082



ACROSS

1. A person regarded as arrogant and annoying.
5. Tree of the genus Catalpa with large leaves and white flowers followed by long slender pods.
12. A United Nations agency to promote trade by increasing the exchange stability of the major currencies.
15. An informal term for a father.
16. (of reproduction) Not involving the fusion of male and female gametes reproduction.
17. (Irish) The sea personified.
18. Someone who copies the words or behavior of another.
19. A basketball shot made with one hand from a position under or beside the basket (and usually banked off the backboard).
20. A facial expression characterized by turning up the corners of the mouth.
22. Covered with paving material.
25. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
26. A painter or drawer of portraits.
27. A member of an agricultural people in southeastern India.
32. Fermented alcoholic beverage similar to but heavier than beer.
34. Type genus of the Amiidae.
38. A member of an agricultural people of southern India.
41. Ctenophores lacking tentacles.
42. A special way of doing something.
43. (of champagne) Extremely dry.
44. A bachelor's degree in music.
47. A region of southern Italy (forming the instep of the Italian 'boot').
51. A green transparent form of beryl.
52. A person who acts and gets things done.
53. (meaning literally 'born') Used to indicate the maiden or family name of a married woman.
54. Remote and separate physically or socially.
56. (Babylonian) God of wisdom and agriculture and patron of scribes and schools.
58. The second largest city in Tunisia.
61. A resident of Iowa.
63. Open-heart surgery in which the rib cage is opened and a section of a blood vessel is grafted from the aorta to the coronary artery to bypass the blocked section of the coronary artery and improve the blood supply to the heart.
67. The sense organ for hearing and equilibrium.
71. Psychoactive substance present in marijuana.
72. Oldest known reptiles.
74. A defensive missile designed to shoot down incoming intercontinental ballistic missiles.
75. Hormone secreted by the posterior pituitary gland (trade name Pitressin) and also by nerve endings in the hypothalamus.
76. Stone post at side of a road to show distances.
77. A watery solution of sugars, salts, and minerals that circulates through the vascular system of a plant.

DOWN

1. (trademark) A tinned luncheon meat made largely from pork.
2. Plant with an elongated head of broad stalked leaves resembling celery.
3. An organization of countries formed in 1961 to agree on a common policy for the sale of petroleum.
4. United States writer of poems and plays about racial conflict (born in 1934).
5. West Indian tree having racemes of fragrant white flowers and yielding a durable timber and resinous juice.
6. Small terrestrial lizard of warm regions of the Old World.
7. A branch of the Tai languages.
8. An Asian river between China and Russia.
9. Cut off from a whole.
10. A radioactive transuranic element that is similar to uranium.
11. Attack someone physically or emotionally.
12. An ancient city in Asia Minor that was the site of the Trojan War.
13. English writer of stories for children (1882-1956).
14. God of earth's fertility and peace and prosperity.
21. A woman sahib.
23. Locate and correct errors in a computer program code.
24. A public square with room for pedestrians.
28. An automatic signal (usually a sound) warning of danger.
29. Reason by deduction.
30. Large recently extinct long-horned European wild ox.
31. A unit of absorbed ionizing radiation equal to 100 ergs per gram of irradiated material.
33. Large African antelope having a head with horns like an ox and a long tufted tail.
35. United States naval officer and historian (1840-1914).
36. Complacently or inately foolish.
37. Be in accord.
39. A drug (trade names Atarax and Vistaril) used as a tranquilizer to treat anxiety and motion sickness.
40. A promontory in northern Morocco opposite the Rock of Gibraltar.
45. An unaccompanied partsong for 2 or 3 voices.
46. An aggressive remark directed at a person like a missile and intended to have a telling effect.
48. A period of time spent sleeping.
49. An artificial language.
50. Any of various edible seeds of plants of the family Leguminosae.
55. A small hairpiece to cover partial baldness.
57. Fiddler crabs.
59. King of Saudi Arabia since 1982 (born in 1922).
60. (of persons) Highest in rank or authority or office.
62. A White Protestant of Anglo-Saxon ancestry.
64. Type genus of the Anatidae.
65. A small cake leavened with yeast.
66. (British) Colloquial terms for an umbrella.
68. Preserve of crushed fruit.
69. Black tropical American cuckoo.
70. The seventh and last day of the week.
73. An honorary degree in science.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Smoother sailing in your interactions with others today sets the stage for what's to come next — and you may already be dreaming about the future. You can't help but envision so many wonderful possibilities ahead. Unfortunately, trouble arises pretty quickly if you're not focusing on your current obligations. Slow down; even if you have moved on in your mind, you will still need to be patient while reality catches up to your fantasy.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Although you sometimes can be quite obstinate in your communication with others, you might be tempted to bring inflexibility to a whole new level of expression today. Unfortunately, your unwillingness to bend may create more problems than solutions, even if your intentions are pure. The most effective tactic now is to state your position clearly and then negotiate as needed. Meeting a worthy opponent halfway also demonstrates your respect for someone else's point of view. Common ground is better than no ground at all.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You're tempted to keep all your great ideas to yourself today because you believe it will take too long to justify your plans. You might even assume that others will reject your logic while interactive Mercury rubs friendly Venus the wrong way. Nevertheless, it's a bad idea to overreact and go silent when you could be busy improving your delivery. Don't waste this opportunity; breaking down your recipe for success into bite-sized pieces will move you along in the direction of your goals.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You are so wary about everyone's reactions to what you share now that it's tricky to get your tone to match your intent. No matter how much you try to fine-tune your delivery, you may feel as if you're overstating your case or not saying enough. Still, you're determined to get it right. If you don't give up and walk away, the cosmos just might surprise you and give you what you want. Thankfully, your tenacity is working in your favor now.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Your peers seem set in their own ways today, leaving you with little room to express your opinion. If you say what you really feel, a conflict could ensue; but if you don't speak your piece, you may end up dealing with misplaced anger or resentment later on. Handling your emotions calmly in the here and now is a less stressful strategy than pretending all is well for the sake of expediency. Do what it right, not what is easy.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Although you wish you could take the day off, there are just too many tasks for you to finish. You could try to forget about your responsibilities and not show up, but it's not your style to leave everyone else high and dry. There's really no point in running away since you won't be able to stop thinking about your chores until they are done anyway. Bite the bullet and get to work. The fun can wait and will be even more enjoyable if you're free of your obligations.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

At first blush you may feel uncomfortable and doubt your abilities, but as the day wears on you begin to believe you can set your mind to nearly anything and accomplish it. In fact, your spirits soar today as the Moon dances into your 5th House of Creativity, even if you have an intense situation unfolding in your life. You have the gift of gab on your side now, enabling you to talk your way through almost any crisis. Use your infamous charm to work through any potentially embarrassing moments and don't let up until you see your magic beginning to work.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You must be methodical in your communication today or your plans may backfire on you. Think through everything you want to say before you open your mouth. The less you leave up in the air, the better it will be for everyone involved. Although you might be tempted to reveal your feelings, try to be as logical and rational as possible. A cool, calm and collected approach isn't your normal style, but will work wonders for you now.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Your subconscious mind is releasing powerful images now, but it can be all too easy to miss the show because of the activity in your immediate environment. You must block out the distracting noise so you can sink into the language of myth and symbol. In order to tune into this subtle dimension today, you need to set more practical thoughts aside. Relying on your intuition to interpret the messages allows you to discover new ways to maximize your current potential.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You may take your own beliefs a bit too seriously now, but your friends will appreciate your honesty, nonetheless. You are at the top of your game when communicating with your peers while the Sun-Mercury conjunction lights up your 11th House of Social Networking. Don't water down your message to make it more palatable. Saying exactly what you feel today is the most effective path to move toward the success you seek.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

There's something about your interactions with others that helps you maximize your current capabilities. You have the sense to know what you want to do, but it is the back and forth of collaboration with your peers that can turn a good idea into a great project. Instead of presenting a finished product, share a bit of your vision and then let everyone jump in with their thoughts. Helen Keller wrote, "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Although you are more than willing to drift into your dreams, it's better to focus on the existing circumstances today as much as possible. However, the Moon is meandering through your 12th House of Escapism, confusing your thoughts with fantasies. Nevertheless, incorporating your imagination into your personal life can be rewarding. Each time you catch your mind wandering, bring your attention back to the here and now. Exploring your subconscious is fine as long as you take care of business in the present moment.

WORD SEARCH

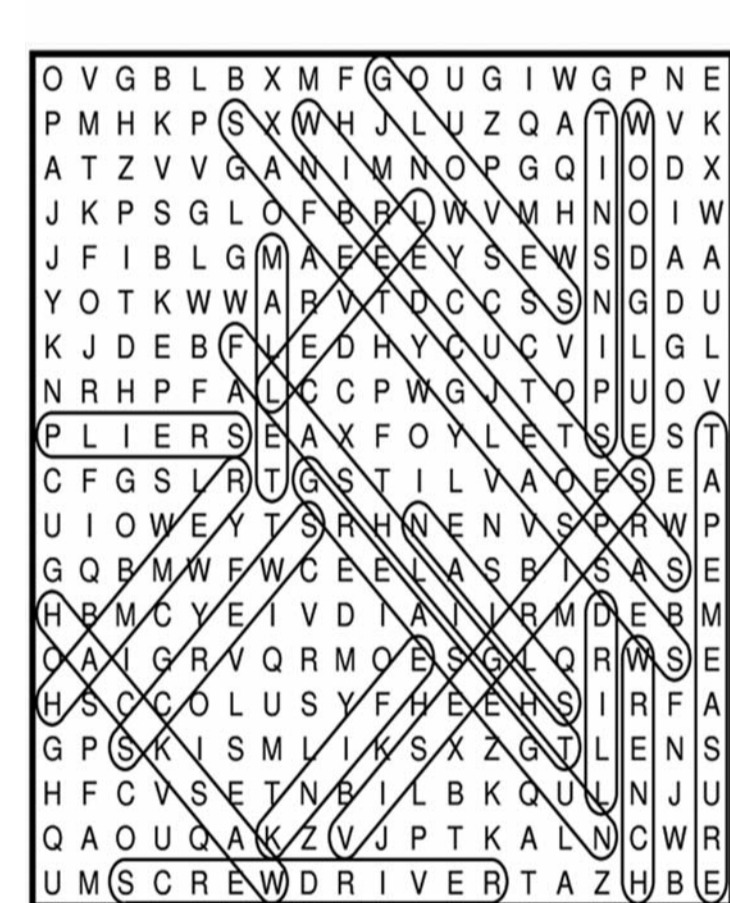
NAUTICALLY YOURS WORD SEARCH PUZZLE



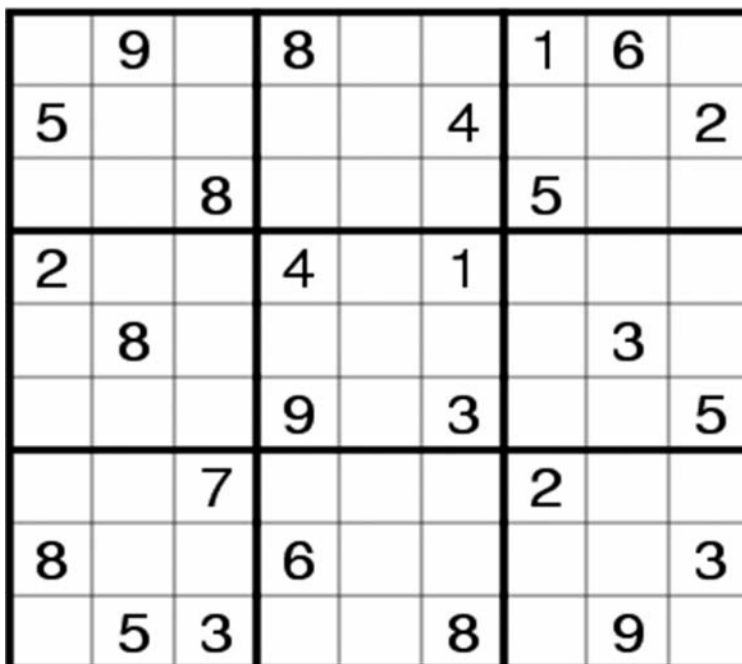
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| BOATSWAIN | DUNNAGE     | MAIN MAST | SPAR      |
| BRIDGE    | ENGINE ROOM | PORT      | STARBOARD |
| CAPTAIN   | FORESAIL    | PROPELLER | STERN     |

Yesterday Solution

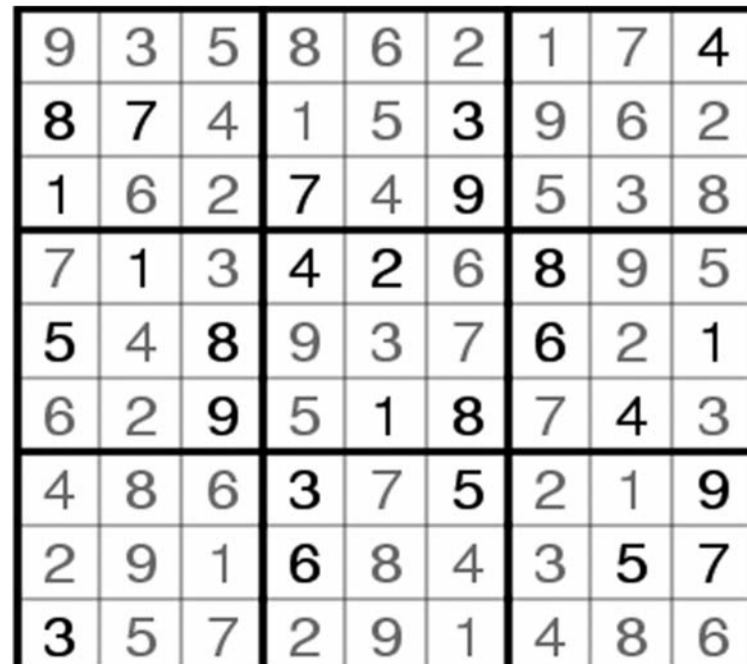
SOLUTION TO IN THE TOOLBOX PUZZLE



Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution





Gossip



# Katona mourning marriage

**K**erry Katona feels like "there has been a death" in her family following the breakdown of her third marriage. The Atomic Kitten singer recently called time on her marriage to George Kay - who was charged with assault and unlawful possession of a stun gun last month - and is in mourning but feels responsible for the end of their union. She said: "I am heartbroken... George was with me 24/7. It's like somebody has died. He was my best friend. I just feel like there's been a death and I feel like it's my fault. Like I've done something wrong." The 35-year-old star-

who has kids Molly, 14, Lilly, 12, Heidi, eight, and Max, seven, from past relationships and 19-month-old Dylan-Jorge with George - will "always love" her estranged husband but thinks it's for the best their marriage is over. She said: "I think there will always be a part of me that will love George. I think the hardest thing is walking away from somebody you love so much, but it's the right thing to do..." "I have worked hard to get my life back on track. I really wanted our marriage to work. I miss him every day but I know it's not healthy." The 'Whole Again' singer feels "embar-

assed and ashamed" at the end of her marriage and is particularly uncomfortable that it has been so public. She told the new issue of OK! magazine: "I feel completely embarrassed and ashamed. It's so hard. I just wanted the marriage to work... I wish it wasn't so public. I know I'm sat here doing an interview but I wish it wasn't so out in the open."

# Chris Hemsworth feels like he has six kids

**T**he 'Thor' actor - who has daughter India, three, and twin sons Tristan and Sasha, 19 months, with wife Elsa Pataky - admits raising "three under three" means life is incredibly hectic but has finally taught him the "full gamut" of emotions. He explained to Australia's Daily Life newspaper: "It feels like I have six. They're non-stop, active kids. The biggest thing I've learned by having kids is that now I know what love is. I know what frustration is. I know the full gamut of emotions, good and bad. I feel I had just scratched the surface prior..." "Each time you add one, it feels like three more." The 32-year-old actor and his 39-year-old wife keep their family out of the spotlight by living in Byron Bay, Australia and appreciate being able to have a "very normal" existence where people are happy to leave them alone. He said: "We have a very normal existence. Here, if someone recognizes you, it doesn't tend to be as big a deal. People are like, 'Oh yeah, cool,' then onward with the day. "If you are living in Hollywood, people have travelled from around the world to see people in the entertainment business and they've got the cameras ready and a bigger deal is made of it. "Here, we have a very normal existence, people are very respectful, and that was why we chose to come here."



# Disick's son upset by split

**S**cott Disick's son worried his dad was "gone for the whole wide world". The 32-year-old star split from long-term partner Kourtney Kardashian - with whom he has kids Mason, five, Penelope, three, and Reign, 11 months - earlier this year and his children are finding the situation tough. Kourtney's sister, Kim Kardashian West told her mother Kris Jenner than Mason had asked her: "Is [dad] ever coming home? Is he gone for the whole wide world?" Though Kourtney insisted she is "so done" with Scott and his wild partying, she vowed he would always be around for the sake of their children. Speaking on the premiere of the new season of 'Keeping Up With the Kardashians', she said: "We're trying to be the best that we can to be a team living apart.. "He's going to be in our lives. We have three kids together" But the 36-year-old beauty admitted there is "nothing" she can do to help Scott, who is currently undergoing treatment in rehab. She said: "This is what he wants to be doing, so there's nothing I can do at this point. "I just want to care for my kids." And Kourtney is trying her best to embrace the positive side of single life. She quipped: "Let's look on the bright side. Now I have a huge closet..." "There's actually a lot of bright sides. The closet is number one."



# Kris Jenner explains ESPY absence

**K**ris Jenner didn't support Caitlyn Jenner at the ESPY Awards because it would have been "awkward". The 60-year-old matriarch decided against joining her five daughters at the awards show - where her former spouse picked up the Arthur Ashe Courage Award - earlier this summer because she didn't want their first meeting since the 'I Am Cait' star's transition from Bruce to take place at such a high-profile event. She explained: "I haven't met Caitlyn yet and I think it would be so awkward to meet her under these circumstances." And the situation was also tough on Kim Kardashian West, Khloe and Kourtney Kardashian, and Kendall and Kylie Jenner but they felt their loyalties were divided. As a compromise, the sisters agreed to attend the ESPYs but not the dinner afterwards, opting to take Kris out instead. Kim explained on the premiere episode of the new season of 'Keeping Up With the Kardashians': "We want to go to the ESPYS. We want to support her. "I also am really sensitive to my mom, though, because Caitlyn just did a Vanity Fair article that wasn't so nice to my mom. But I just have to balance out both people so they both feel supported." And though Kris was happy with the decision, Caitlyn wasn't so impressed. Kendall told Kim and Kourtney: "Dad and Mom put me and Kylie into this weird position of choosing between them. "Dad wouldn't talk to me." Meanwhile, Khloe has admitted she had a "hard time" processing the news of Caitlyn's transition because she only learned while filming the reality show what her stepfather was planning to do. She told talk show host Ellen DeGeneres: "I had a hard time because I found out on camera like while we were filming and I felt like we kept asking him, 'Bruce, like what's going on? We're hearing all these rumours.' "And he kept telling us one thing, but really he knew he was transitioning and wouldn't be honest with us. "So we felt like we were kind of the last to know so that was hard for us. Especially me."



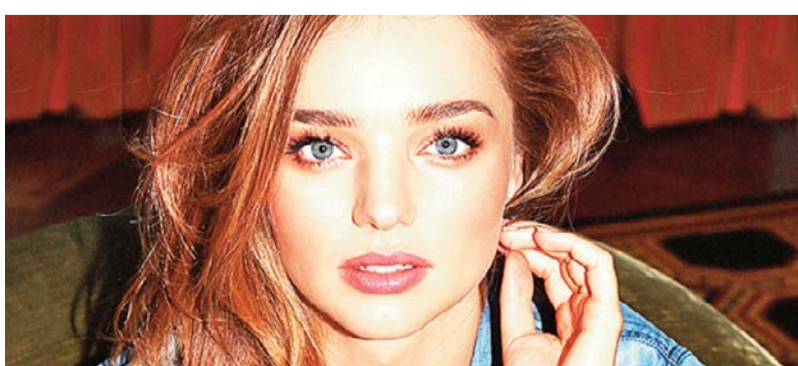
# Hudson speaks to dead mother

**J**ennifer Hudson speaks to her dead mother "all the time". The 34-year-old singer was left devastated in 2008 when her mom Darnell Donaldson, brother Jason and seven-year-old nephew Julian King were murdered by her sister's estranged husband William Balfour, but she still tries to retain a connection to her late family members. Asked in an interview by CBS News if she ever has conversations with her mother in her head, she said: "All the time. And my brother, if he was here, if I was sitting up crying, he'll say, 'Jenny, knock it off. Knock it off!'" Jennifer - who has six-year-old son David Jr. with fiance David Otunga - testified during the murder trial, and attended every day of the case, though she admits it was the "toughest thing ever". However, the 'Spotlight' singer had the strength to attend court because God "came to her" and told her to "keep going". She said: "I remember God came to me, like, right when everything happened, because I was like, 'What do I do?!' And he said, 'I want you to get up and keep going.' "And you don't question God. I said, 'Okay, let's go.'" And the Grammy Award-winning star has learned to accept waves of grief when they come along. She said: "It's one of those things where it comes in flashes." "I try to allow myself to let it do, be, bring whatever it brings. Because it's too much. And when it's more than one person, you don't know who to grieve for first, or how. So when it comes, it comes."



# Miranda Kerr: I change my fashion depending on the city I'm in

**M**iranda Kerr changes her fashion depending on the city she is in. The Australian model has revealed she loves wearing winter clothing in New York, but in Malibu and at home in Sydney, her style is so much more "relaxed". She said: "In New York I feel like anything goes. In LA, it's definitely a lot more casual. "In New York, I love to dress up for the winter season and really embrace the layers and have over-the-knee boots, where if I wore that in Malibu, people would think I was crazy. "So in Malibu I try to keep it really simple. I honestly wear a lot of tights and sneakers. Australia is also very quite relaxed - kind of like the Malibu vibe - depending on if I have a business meeting." Meanwhile, the brunette beauty also revealed her top beauty secret is having cold showers. She told PEOPLE magazine: "I put coconut oil all over my body and have a cold shower. It's a really great way to wake up and get the circulation going." Miranda also revealed she puts coconut oil in her mouth to cleanse. She added: "You put cold-pressed, organic coconut oil in your mouth and swish it around for ten minutes - don't ever swallow it - and then spit it out. "I spit it into my garden, rinse my mouth out, brush my teeth, then you do mouthwash after." "It's really, really good for the body. I love anything to do with health and wellness - and trying to live a balanced life." — Bang Showbiz



# Payne buys Harry Potter's flying car

**L**iam Payne paid a six-figure sum to buy a flying car that featured in 'Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets'. The 22-year-old singer is a self-confessed 'Harry Potter' fanatic, having celebrated his most recent birthday with a Hogwarts-themed bash, and has revealed the lengths his obsession has stretched to. Liam - who is the proud owner of the battered Ford Anglia 105E used in the 2002 film - shared: "I bought the Harry Potter car and I put it in my garden. "You know the blue car, the flying car? I bought one because I'm a bit of a geek." Liam also revealed he's a fully fledged member of Harry's famous school house, Gryffindor, after taking an online exam. He told BBC Radio 1: "I did the test on the website. "My friend got Hufflepuff and I got Gryffindor. He was so annoyed." However, Liam isn't the only member of One Direction who is obsessed with the 'Harry Potter' stories, as his bandmate Niall Horan previously admitted after taking a tour of the studios where the films were shot. He wrote on Twitter: "Not gona lie, I'm obsessed with Harry potter now, I've watched 5 movies in 3 days since I've been to the studio tour! (sic)"

# Bieber wins HALO Hall of Fame Award

**J**ustin Bieber was the inaugural winner of the HALO Hall of Fame Award on Saturday. The 21-year-old singer was honored at the Nickelodeon HALO Awards in New York, where he used his acceptance speech to pay tribute to the victims of the Paris attacks on Friday, in which 129 people died. He said: "There's been some sad things happening in the world right now, and I think that we should all honor that and just take one moment of silence for that, if you guys could." The awards honor young people in the US who are responsible for "helping and leading others" and Justin was chosen for his work with the Make-A-Wish foundation and Pencils of Promise, a charity which builds schools and increases educational opportunities in the developing world. It was recently revealed that Justin has made over 250 wishes come true so far through Make-A-Wish. Nick Cannon hosted the ceremony and previously explained why Justin was chosen for the prestigious award. He told Variety: "There's no better way to begin the holiday season than by celebrating the amazing work of these teens and our first HALO Hall of Fame recipient Justin Bieber at the Nickelodeon HALO Awards. Justin's commitment to granting wishes for kids is unparalleled, and his ability to inspire and lead others through his positive actions is at the core of what HALO is all about." Joe Jonas and his band DNCE performed at the ceremony, which will air on Nickelodeon on November 29.



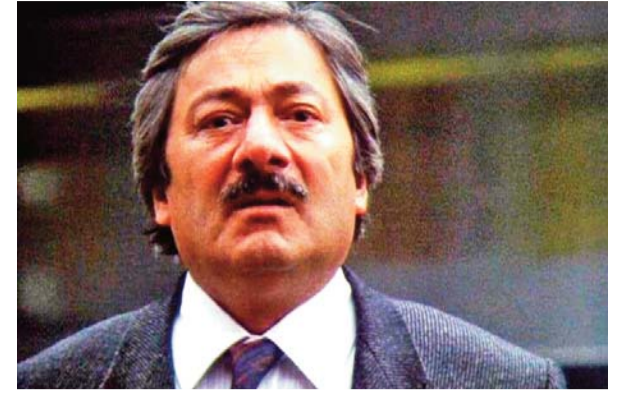
Gossip

# Veteran Indian-British actor **Saeed Jaffrey** dies aged 86

**S**aeed Jaffrey, one of the best-known faces of British-Indian cinema and television, has died at the age of 86, his family said. The Indian-born British actor appeared in the biopic "Gandhi" as well as many Bollywood films and British television productions. Among his screen credits in a career spanning more than 50 years, were roles in director John Huston's "The Man Who Would Be King" and Indian director

Satyajit Ray's "The Chess Players", as well as the BBC television series and the film versions of "A Passage to India". Other roles included parts on the long-running British soap opera "Coronation Street" as well as starring roles in the British series "Tandoori Nights" and "Little Napoleons". Jaffrey was born on Jan 8, 1929 into a Muslim family in Malerkotta, Punjab, and started his acting career by setting up his own theatre company in

New Delhi. His death was announced on Sunday by his niece, Shaheen Aggarwal, in a posting on Facebook in which she said: "Today, a generation of Jaffreys has passed away. Saeed Jaffrey has joined his brothers and sister and is rejoicing in the lap of his Heavenly Father, eternally." — Reuters



Saeed Jaffrey



In this Thursday, Aug 13, 2015, file photo, Jay Leno participates in the "Jay Leno's Garage" panel at the The NBC Universal Summer TCA Tour at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills.—AP

## Jay Leno to host Nobel Peace Prize concert on Dec 11

**F**ormer "Tonight Show" host Jay Leno is set to host the Nobel Peace Prize concert next month. Organizers for the event announced yesterday that Leno will host the Dec 11 event at the Telenor Arena in Oslo, Norway. The Tunisian National Dialogue Quartet was named the 2015 winner of the Nobel Peace Prize for its "decisive contribution to the building of a pluralistic democracy in Tunisia in the wake of the Jasmine Revolution of 2011," the Nobel Peace Prize jury said last month. For a first time, the concert will be live-streamed and available on YouTube. — AP

# Israel accidentally finds 'impressive' ancient mosaic

**I**srael will present to the public for the first time this week an "impressive" mosaic accidentally discovered in what was a wealthy neighborhood in Roman and Byzantine times, officials said yesterday. The colorful mosaic measuring some 11 by 13 meters (36 by 43 feet) discovered in Lod in central Israel is believed to have been the courtyard pavement of a "magnificent villa," the Israel Antiquities Authority said. It is the second such mosaic found in the area, following another uncovered in the 1990s that was the floor of the villa's living room 1,700 years ago and has since been exhibited in prestigious

museums worldwide. The authority called the first mosaic "breathtaking" and "among the most beautiful" in Israel. It depicts roaring lions, elephants in battle, giraffes and dolphins. The recent excavation in 2014 was to prepare for the construction of a visitor center to house the first mosaic, currently on display at the Palazzo Cini Gallery in Venice, when it returns. Scenes in the newly discovered mosaic include hunting and hunted animals, fish, flowers in baskets, vases and birds. "The quality of the images portrayed in the mosaic indicates a highly developed artistic ability,"

Amir Gorzalczy, excavation director, said in a statement. The authority said that numerous fragments of frescoes discovered also "reflect the decoration and the meticulous and luxurious design, which are in the best tradition of the well-born of the period". It said that "in light of the new discoveries, this part of the villa will also be incorporated in the visitor center". Lod was known as Diospolis at the time, and served as a district capital. Today it is located near Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion international airport. — AFP



A worker of the Israel Antiquities Authority cleans a 1,700-year-old mosaic, which served as pavement for the courtyard in a villa during the Roman and Byzantine periods, as it is presented to the public and the press for the first time yesterday, in the Israeli central city of Lod. — AFP photos

## The Dixie Chicks to launch US tour next summer

**T**he Dixie Chicks are ready to party in the USA. The Grammy-winning group will kick off its "DCX MMXVI World Tour" on June 1 in Cincinnati. It wraps up the tour Oct 10 in Los Angeles. Tickets go on sale Friday. The group will visit more than 40 cities, including New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Detroit, Dallas, and Toronto. The Dixie Chicks are Natalie Maines, Emily Robison and Martie

Maguire. Their last album - "Taking the Long Way" - was in 2006. Robison and Maguire, who are sisters, teamed up to form the duo Court Yard Hounds and released two albums. Maines released a solo album in 2013. The Dixie Chicks' North American tour will follow the group's European tour that begins in April. — AP



The Dixie Chicks, Emily Robison, left, Natalie Maines, center, and Martie Maguire, who earned five Grammy nominations, arrive for the 49th Annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles. — AP

# Egyptian Museum marks 113th anniversary amid tourism slump

**E**gyptian authorities sought to project an upbeat tone as the country yesterday marked the 113th anniversary of its famed Egyptian Museum, the home of the world's largest collection of Pharaonic-era antiquities, amid a slump in tourism and massive tourist cancellations. Battered by years of political turmoil, Egypt's tourism sector took another blow after the Oct 31 Russian passenger plane crash in the Sinai Peninsula that killed all 224 people on board, mostly Russian vacationers returning home from a Red Sea resort. An investigation into the crash, which Western officials say may have been caused by a

bomb, is still ongoing. As celebrations got underway outside the landmark museum building in the heart of the Egyptian capital, Cairo, officials, band players and performers outnumbered the tourists. As he spoke to local TV stations, Antiquities Minister Mamdouh El-Damaty offered a traditional greeting for visitors: "Welcome to Egypt!" He promised there will be more attractions and breakthroughs, referring to last week's ministry announcement that thermal scanning results on the Great Pyramid in Giza revealed some anomalies that could lead to new discoveries about its construction.

"We always have new things when it comes to antiquities," El-Damaty said. El-Damaty said the new, Grand Museum of Egypt, which is still under construction, will partially open in May 2018. The sprawling complex, being built adjacent to the Pyramids in Giza, is now scheduled to be finished in November 2022. It's meant to house artifacts, including the famed King Tutankhamun's full collection. The new museum was initially slated to open this year but the project has been delayed.—AP



French architect Jean-Pierre Houdin, right, and Egypt's Antiquities Minister Mamdouh El-Damaty, second right, stand near the limestone rocks that are displayed on the screen showing varying temperatures represented by different colors with live footage from a thermal camera, in front of the Khufu pyramid in Giza, Egypt, yesterday.—AP

# UK fans try to push **Eagles of Death Metal** to No 1

**B**ritish fans of the US rock band Eagles of Death Metal, which was playing at a Paris concert hall targeted in Friday's attacks, have started a social media campaign to push one of its songs to number 1. "Get Eagles Of Death Metal to the No.1 this week as a statement of support and peace," read the description of the campaign @EODMforNo1 on Twitter yesterday. A Facebook page calling on supporters to download the song "Save a Prayer", a cover of Duran Duran's hit single of the same name, had more than 6,500 "likes". Campaign organizers said that the downloads would be "a nice gesture" and stressed they were not representing the band, who escaped unharmed, and their initiative was not being done for profit. The song is at number 96 in Britain's charts and

climbing, with a new ranking set to be released later yesterday ahead of the official ranking on Friday. The campaign "has started gathering momentum," the Official Charts Company said in a statement. The song is already at number three on the Amazon UK singles chart and number 1 on the iTunes rock chart. It was at number 35 on the main iTunes chart. Gunmen attacked an Eagles of Death Metal gig at the Bataclan in Paris on Friday, gunning down fans and blowing themselves up as police stormed the building. The attack claimed 89 lives-by far the worst loss of life of the night. The band, which was formed in 1998 in Palm Desert, California, was celebrating the October release of their album "Zipper Down" with a European tour. The band's previous highest

UK single's chart position was number 73 with 2006 record "I Want You So Hard (Boy's Bad News)". The video featured Josh Homme-frontman of Queens of the Stone Age-along with former Nirvana drummer Dave Grohl and Hollywood comic actor Jack Black, all of whom have made live cameos with the band. Messages about the campaign were being retweeted on the official account of the British band Duran Duran. It was unclear who would receive the royalties from the increased sales of the single. — AFP



US rock band Eagles of Death Metal.

## The nine lives of Russia's Hermitage cats

For more than a century visitors have marveled at the Hermitage Museum's precious collections, and for just as long dozens of cats have prowled the Saint Petersburg palace's sprawling cellars. The felines has one main task-to root out unwanted guests: rodents. The 70-odd brigade have their claws so deep into the history of Russia's largest museum-and one of the world's oldest-that there is even a special feline unit dedicated to their welfare. "Our cats are as well-known as our collections," beamed Irina Popovets, who runs the unit.

Every morning, art lovers from the world over arrive at the gates of the Hermitage complex on the Neva River housing a collection that spans ancient Egyptian and Renaissance art to modern masters like Cezanne, Gauguin and Degas. Meanwhile, 45-year-old Popovets heads down below to feed her purring charges, a mixed batch of colors, breeds and temperaments who are always overjoyed to see her. Some days, she brings along three assistants to help her vaccinate new arrivals and treat the sick.

As with humans, love alone is not always enough. "Most of them are in bad shape," Popovets admits, adding that many have been brought in by people who can no longer take care of them. Her office is located near the massive underworld inhabited by the cats and its walls are hung with portraits of the beloved animals. "People very often discreetly bring us their cats," she said, and the museum sometimes struggles to keep the ever-expanding feline staff. Cats first found a home at the Hermitage long before it became a museum open to the public in the 1850s.

In 1745, Peter the Great's daughter Empress Elisabeth issued a decree ordering that "the finest cats of Kazan (a city on the Volga river) be found, the biggest, the ones best-suited to catching mice, so that they can be sent to Her Majesty's court." By the time Catherine the Great took power in 1762, the

felines had become official residents. They were even dubbed the Winter Palace cats, after the royal residence that has now become part of the museum. They survived successive wars, invasion by Napoleon's forces and even the revolution that overthrew Tsarist rule.

The cats, however, did not make it during the 1941-1944 Nazi siege of Leningrad, the city's name under Soviet rule. The city's famished population had no choice but to eat all their pets in order to survive. Legend has it that the palace's feline guard was brought back to life when World War II ended, when new recruits were brought in by train from all over Russia. By the 1960s, there were so many cats at the Hermitage that the authorities decided it would be best to abandon them.

### Holidays and postcards

Yet the rat population proliferated and a few years later the cats again found their place. Though they are no longer allowed into any of the museum's 1,000 halls showcasing more than 60,000 masterpieces, staff say the cats have won the fight against the rodents. And they have become stars in their own right, hugely popular with some three million tourists who visit each year and snap up souvenirs and postcards adorned with cat pictures on sale in the museum's shops. "Given the Hermitage cats' popularity, we have decided to kickstart a process to copyright their name," museum director Mikhail Piotrovsky said. There is even an annual holiday in the felines' honor once a year, as well as a website inviting residents of Saint Petersburg to adopt one. Popovets picks up her office phone to answer queries from a man keen to take home a kitten whose picture he has seen online. "You're right, it is an honor to adopt a Hermitage cat," Popovets tells him. — AFP



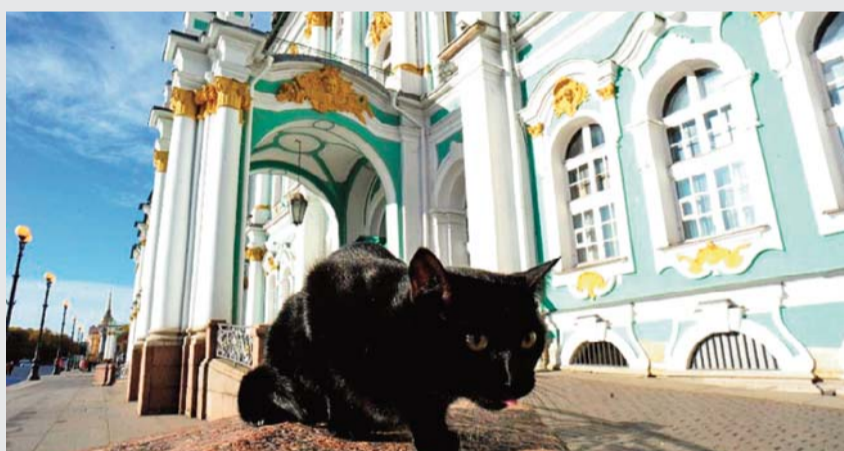
## India Cattle Fair



Indian camel traders arrive with their herd for the annual cattle fair in Pushkar, in the western Indian state of Rajasthan, Saturday. Pushkar is a popular Hindu pilgrimage spot that is also frequented by foreign tourists who come to the town for its annual cattle fair. —AP photos



The cats at the State Hermitage Museum in St Petersburg guard the artworks from mice and are hugely popular with some three million tourists who visit each year.



A cat is seen in front of the State Hermitage Museum in St Petersburg. — AP photos

## Igor Moiseyev Ballet vows to wow Kuwait



Kuwait's National Council for Cultural Arts and Letters and the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation Embassy of the Russian Federation in Kuwait present the Igor Moiseyev Ballet by artistic director Elena Scherbakova. The event will take place at the Abdullhusain Abduridha Theatre in Salmiya on November 24th and 25th at 7 pm. Kuwait Times interviewed Scherbakova to learn more about the event. Excerpts from the interview.

**Kuwait Times: You are a legendary and an internationally acclaimed dance company that was established in 1943. Could you please explain the secret of your success and the role you played in the development of the company?**

**Elena Scherbakova:** The State Academic Ensemble of Popular Dance was founded by the great Russian choreographer Igor Moiseyev back in 1937. At that time it was the first and the only ensemble of popular dance in the entire world.

Given the success of the first five years of its existence, Moiseyev came up with the initiative of opening a special ballet school for training talented youth. This initiative turned out to be a smart strategic move as 95 percent of the Igor Moiseyev ballet team has always been made up of its school graduates, including myself by the way.

In our days, the Igor Moiseyev Ballet has become a household name in Russia. Being an artistic director of the ensemble, my goal is to treasure and preserve the traditions of Moiseyev and ensure that the bar set by the maestro is held up high.

**KT: This is your first time in Kuwait. Why Kuwait and what are your expectations from the upcoming event?**

**Scherbakova:** The word "Kuwait" itself sounds mysterious and attractive to Russians. So when we received a phone call from the Russian embassy in Kuwait with the proposal to organize a performance here under the auspices of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters, it did not take us long to make up our minds and accept the invitation.

We have always proceeded from the belief that the more countries we cover, the more experience we get and the more nations we make familiar with the Russian unique culture.

We really hail the support provided by the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters along with the Russian Ministry of Culture in cooperation with the Russian Embassy in Kuwait that helped to fulfill our plans.

In light of the recent visit of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to Russia and his meeting with Vladimir Putin, we consider the upcoming show in Kuwait as a next step forward in developing friendly ties between our two countries.

**KT: What program the Igor Moiseyev Ballet will show in Kuwait?**

**Scherbakova:** We will be holding two shows in Kuwait - Nov 24 and Nov 25. both at the Salmiya Theatre, which is also known as the Abdullhusain Abduridha Theatre.

We have prepared a special program for the occasion, which is titled "The Classics of Igor Moiseyev". The program is made up of a bunch of terrific dances. I am not going to disclose the whole of it, but for sure the Kuwait audience will be much impressed by the traditional Russian dance "Summer", the dance of Bessarabian gypsies, the Greek "Sirtaki", the dance of Argentinian cowboys "Gaucho" and the fascinating Russian marine dance "Yablochko".

I do not want to go further into details as I would rather suggest people come and see it.

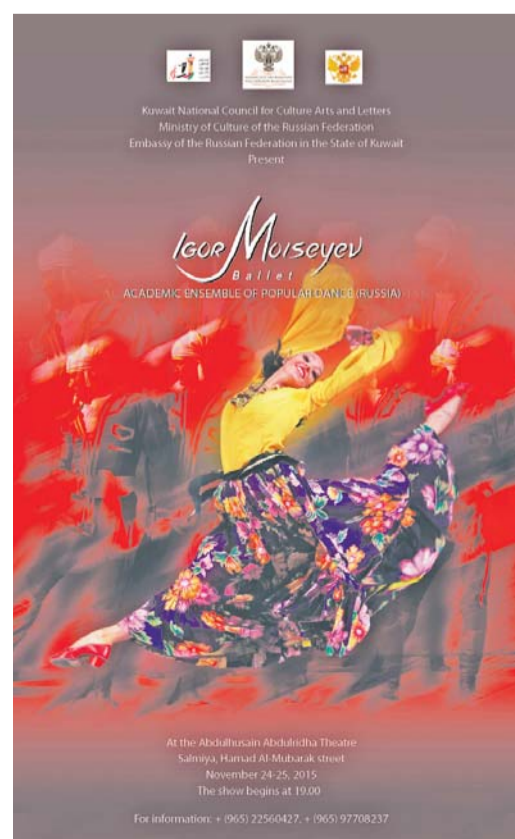
**KT: How many national dances do you currently have in your repertoire? And how do you get your inspiration for choreography of traditional dances from various countries?**

**Scherbakova:** Our repertoire is the personal choreographic works of Moiseyev. He was a real genius. He used to travel a lot around the world with his ballet. Whichever country he went to, he would spot the specifics of its people, dress and traditions, in particular the specifics of its basic dance moves. On his return back home, he would develop these basic

moves into a comprehensive choreographic work.

As a matter of fact, Moiseyev would only stage a dance of the nation that would really impress him by its energy and passion. For instance, the French or the British folk dance would have never drawn his attention because of its slowness in comparison to the Mexican, Argentinian or even Arabian ones.

For his great success and the achievements in world choreography, Moiseyev was awarded with more than thirty orders and medals of different countries.



**KT: How many hours do your dance company members train daily?**

**Scherbakova:** We start at ten in the morning with the so-called one-hour "classical choreography" warm-up. Then we proceed to the studio and carry on for another four hours. After that we have a break and meet again in the studio at seven in the evening for another two-hour practice. I really make our dancers push hard as it is the only way to be a professional and to achieve something valuable in one's career.

The same system existed at the time when Moiseyev was the director of the ballet. Nothing has changed since he passed away in 2007.

**KT: Where have you toured with the dance company this year? And where are you going after Kuwait?**

**Scherbakova:** We try to tour a lot. Actually the international tour records of our ensemble boasts 65 countries including experiences in Great Britain, France and USA in the late 1950s when the "Cold War" was in full swing.

This year we have toured a lot around Russia. We also had a great success at Expo Milano in September, had five full-houses in Poland and enjoyed a hearty welcome in Jordan in October. After Kuwait, we will be heading to Latvia and will end this year with performances in Saint Petersburg and Moscow.

**KT: What is your personal goal as the director of such a legendary ensemble?**

**Scherbakova:** It is to do my best for this legend to live forever. To ensure that the new generations of our dancers well realize the importance and the uniqueness of the Igor Moiseyev Ballet and maintain the high level of its professionalism.

And in a short term - it is to come back to Kuwait with a new program. I really hope to see Kuwait Times readers on Nov 24-25 at the Salmiya Theatre. No one will regret.

Fashion



In this Nov 14, 2009, file photo, US President Barack Obama poses with APEC leaders in traditional shirts for a group photo at the APEC summit in Singapore. — AP photos



In this Nov 23, 2008, file photo, wearing traditional Peruvian ponchos, Thailand's Prime Minister Somchai Wongsawat, top left, US President George W. Bush, top center, Vietnam's President Nguyen Minh Triet, top right, Japan's Prime Minister Taro Aso, bottom left, and South Korea's President Lee Myung-bak, bottom right, wave during the official group photo of the APEC summit, in Lima, Peru.

# Shirt photos offer sometimes awkward moments of APEC unity



In this Sept 8, 2007, file photo, US President George W. Bush, right, wears a Drizabone jacket with APEC leaders during a photo opportunity at the Sydney Opera House in Sydney, Australia.

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summits, which draw the US president and 20 other regional leaders, are sometimes memorable for just one moment: The leaders posing for a group photo in unexpected attire. Former President Bill Clinton started the tradition in 1993, when he handed out leather bomber jackets similar to those worn by American fighter pilots. The US leader apparently wanted his fellow VIPs to feel relaxed at the meetings.

Dubbed the "silly shirts" photo by some, the occasionally awkward ceremony became a signature event at most annual APEC gatherings, elevating native garb of the host countries to a brief moment of world fame. The 21 APEC leaders have posed for together in batik shirts (Malaysia in 1998), Chinese jackets (Shanghai 2001), flowing ponchos (Chile 2004) and in Vietnamese "ao dai" - elegant silken tunics in which several of the leaders were visibly ill at ease - in 2006.

The tradition had a three-year hiatus - in Yokohama, Japan, in 2010, Hawaii in 2011 and Vladivostok, Russia, in 2012 - when the leaders donned regular Western business attire. Then Indonesia and China revived the group photo in traditional garb at the last two APEC summits. The Philippines' barong tagalog, a partially see-through shirt sewn from pineapple fiber and silk that was used at the 1996 summit, may have a re-run when Manila hosts APEC this week. — AP



In this Nov 19, 2005, file photo, dressed in Korean traditional "durumagi" silk robes, APEC leaders pose for an official group photo in Busan, South Korea.



In this Nov 25, 1996, file photo, APEC leaders wearing the traditional "barong tagalog" from the Philippines wave during a group photo in Subic Bay, west of Manila.



In this Nov 21, 2004, file photo, US President George W. Bush, left, and Russian President Vladimir Putin wave to photographers prior to the leaders' group photo at the APEC summit in Santiago, Chile.



In this Nov 19, 2006, file photo, wearing traditional "ao dai," US President George W. Bush, top row left, Russian President Vladimir Putin, top row center, Thai Prime Minister Surayud Chulanont, top row right, Chinese President Hu Jintao, bottom row left, and Chilean President Michelle Bachelet wave during a group photo with APEC leaders in Hanoi, Vietnam.



In this Oct 27, 2002, file photo, US President George W. Bush waves as he poses for a group photo along with Singapore's Trade Minister George Yeo, back left, Prime Minister of Russia Mikhail Kasyanov, front left, Lee Yuan-tseh of Taiwan, front center, and Prime Minister of Vietnam Phan Van Khai, far right, during the APEC summit in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico.



In this Oct 21, 2003, file photo, US President George W. Bush, center top row, smiles with other leaders during a group photo session of the APEC summit in Bangkok, Thailand.



In this Nov 16, 2000, file photo, Russian President Vladimir Putin, left, greets US President Bill Clinton, second right, as Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong, second left, and Taiwanese representative Perng Fai-nan watch as they wear traditional shirts during the APEC group photo session at Jerudong Polo Club in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei.



In this Nov 25, 1997, file photo, APEC leaders, wearing matching jackets, laugh during a group photo opportunity on the campus of the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada.



In this Nov 18, 1998, file photo, dressed in traditional Malaysian batik shirts, from left to right: Russian Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov; Singaporean Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong; Taiwan Chairman of the Council for Economic Planning and Development, Chiang Pin-kung; Thailand Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai; and US Vice President Al Gore, applaud after the reading of the declaration at the conclusion of the APEC summit in Cyberjaya, Malaysia.



In this Oct 21, 2001, file photo, Australian Prime Minister John Howard, left, and US President George W. Bush, wear traditional Chinese jackets as they chat during a group photo session at the APEC summit in Shanghai, China.

# Lifestyle

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2015

Shirt photos offer sometimes awkward moments of APEC unity

39



Afghan boys run as they hopes to sell colored balloons on a street in Kabul, Afghanistan, yesterday. — AP

## 'Kuwait Fashion Week' kicks off next Monday at Symphony Style Hotel

Under the patronage of Sheikha Bashayer Nayef Jaber Al-Sabah

After huge fashion events held recently in New York, Paris and Milan where designers showcased their fall/winter 2016 designs, the Kuwait Fashion Week kicks off next Monday, November 23, featuring the biggest fashion houses and elite designers from Kuwait and the Arab World who will showcase a brand new selection of creative designs in an unprecedented event in Kuwait.

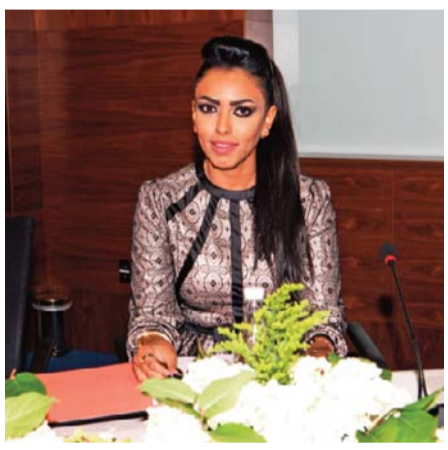


Photo shows Sheikha Bashayer Nayef Jaber Al-Sabah at a press conference in Symphony Style Hotel on Sunday.

The three-day event, organized by Merrill Lynch under the patronage of Sheikha Bashayer Nayef Jaber Al-Sabah, takes place from the 23rd to the 25th of November at Symphony Style Hotel, becoming a stable in the calendar of main

fashion weeks in the world.

Commenting on this event, Sheikha Bashayer Nayef Jaber Al-Sabah says: "This international event will have a deep impact on Kuwait's fashion industry. It is well-known that Kuwaiti women are always keen on carefully selecting their apparel, and standing out in their choices of unique dresses from local and international fashion houses, especially that the Kuwaiti woman is known for being well up-to-date with fashion."

"Fashion shows for designers' groups will be organized in the presence of local and international media, while the designs will be presented by international models. Kuwait Fashion Week's organizing committee is keen on organizing the event on par with the same standards of famous fashion weeks in Paris, London and Milan," she added.

"Kuwait has always been a pioneer in fashion in the Gulf region, and we believe that Kuwait is capable of participating in the fashion industry, and even becoming a fashion exporter," she said.

The event is covered by international fashion media outlets including Fashion 4K TV and Fashion One TV, and features participation of fashion houses and beauty salons including , TM Fashion Group (Tariq Edez, Saied Qubaisi), Gosacci, Atelier Lab (Nizar Romani), Atelier Lioness, Juliette and White, Fadi Nahlah, Atelier Al-Sultana (Haya Al-Bughaili), Anfal AL-Saleh, Brigitte Salon, Elham Shalabi Salon.



Photo shows Sheikha Bashayer Nayef Jaber Al-Sabah (center), Rabab Mouhamad, Marketing and Public Relation Manager and event consultant of 'Kuwait Fashion week' (right), Tarek Ammar, Director of Sales and Revenue Generating at Symphony Style Hotel (second left) and Peter Sculler, General Manager of Symphony Style Hotel at a press conference in Symphony Style Hotel on Sunday. — Photos by Joseph Shagra



Photo shows media attending the press conference in Symphony Style Hotel.



## New York art season chalks up solid sales

The autumn art auction season has wrapped up in New York with successful sales of just over \$2 billion albeit in a more cautious market than the bonanza records chalked up in the spring. The star of the season was an Amedeo Modigliani nude, "Nu Couché"-which went for an eye-watering \$170.4 million at Christie's. The second most expensive piece of art ever sold at auction, the Modigliani nude was bought by Chinese taxi driver turned billionaire Liu Yiqian, one of his country's biggest art collectors. The record, also set by Christie's earlier this year, is held by Pablo Picasso's "The Women of Algiers (Version O)," which fetched a staggering \$179.4 million in a record-breaking spring season.

The fall's second highlight was Roy Lichtenstein's iconic pop art "Nurse," which Christie's sold for \$95.37 million in the same auction. Sotheby's parted with \$1.15 billion of Impressionist, modern, post-war and contemporary art, narrowly beating Christie's \$1.1 billion, but there were fewer star lots than in May and a smattering of empty seats.

The rival houses, both founded in 18th-century London, claimed success and dismissed talk that the art market was in jeopardy due to a flagging Chinese economy and a plunge in world markets in September. But on Friday Sotheby's announced it was offering staff voluntary severance packages following a summer review that decided "the company

would benefit from a lower and more flexible cost structure." "We elected to begin limited cost reduction with voluntary separation programs that enable staff who choose to leave to do so with enhanced benefits," it said in a statement. Sotheby's paid tribute to the "tremendous talent" within the firm and said it looked forward "to entering the promising new year fresh, optimistic, and ready to invest to realize even more success." After the company's evening sale of post-war and contemporary art on Wednesday that well surpassed conservative estimates, Sotheby's auctioneer Oliver Barker rejected talk of a stagnating industry.

### Bit of readjustment

"A lot of money has traded hands over the last 10 days and I think actually in many ways, that is proof enough that the market is still very strong and resilient," he told AFP. The November sales set new auction records-for Modigliani, as well as for a string of 20th century artists including Cy Twombly, Lucio Fontana, Louise Bourgeois and Lichtenstein. "The market is strong," Christie's auctioneer and global president, Jussi Pytkkanen, told CNBC television. "But there's also a little bit of readjustment," he said. "People are a little bit more rational, perhaps a little bit more cautious, which I think is a very good thing."

Among the other big sellers were Picasso's "La Gommeuse" and a Vincent van Gogh, "Paysage sous un ciel mouvementé," which sold for \$67.4 million and \$54 million respectively at Sotheby's. But the week began and ended with a whimper. Sotheby's laid on great fanfare, donning black tie and offering drinks and canapes before the sale of art collected by its late chairman, Alfred Taubman, who served time in jail for price fixing in 2002. The two and a half hour auction saw strong bidding but it just scraped the bottom end of its pre-sale estimate, and top lots failed to sell-an Edgar Degas and a Jasper Johns, both valued at \$15-20 million.

Christie's final Impressionist and modern art sale on Thursday scored no records and exacted some criticism for not including any lots with estimate prices in the \$10 million or above category. But much of the most dynamic bidding of the season was at the lower end of the market, where some works valued \$1-3 million or less went for way over their pre-sale estimates. "Clearly, there is a longer, stronger" clientele at the lower value range, Barker said. — AFP



Dancers Matthew Baker and Jeremy 'Jae' Neal with Abraham performing a scene from 'The Gettin'' during a dress rehearsal before opening night at the Joyce Theater in New York. — AFP