

**FREE**

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**Mastermind of Paris attacks Abaaoud killed in police raid**



**French female suicide bomber one of many in history**



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# KUWAIT POLICE BUST ISLAMIC STATE CELL

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KUWAIT: Photos show FN6 portable air defense systems from Ukraine, which were shipped to IS in Syria through Turkey. — KUNA





KUWAIT: Photos show the six suspects arrested by police yesterday. - KUNA

# KUWAIT POLICE BUST ISLAMIC STATE CELL

## POLICE DETAIN GROUP SUPPLYING FUNDS, WEAPONS TO IS

**KUWAIT:** Kuwaiti security authorities have busted an international cell led by a Lebanese man that was sending air defense systems and funds to the Islamic State group, the Interior Ministry said yesterday. The cell's chief, who was not named, confessed that he raised funds and provided logistical support for the group, which has carried out deadly attacks in Lebanon and France in the past week, the ministry said.

He acted as coordinator for the Islamic State in Kuwait and arranged arms deals and FN6 portable air defense

systems from Ukraine, which were shipped to IS in Syria through Turkey. The ministry did not provide details about the size of the arms deals. Besides the Lebanese mastermind, authorities arrested three Syrians, an Egyptian and a Kuwaiti and said four others were outside Kuwait—two Syrians and two Australians of Lebanese origin.

Several suspected IS members and sympathizers were tried in the Gulf emirate for a suicide bombing in June claimed by the group. A court sentenced seven men to death and jailed eight oth-

ers to between two and 15 years for assisting the Saudi bomber. An appeals court is to issue its verdict in the case on December 13. Earlier this month, the lower court sentenced five men to 10 years in jail each for raising funds for IS. They were charged with raising about 400,000 Kuwaiti dinars (\$1.3 million) and sending it to IS, which has seized control of large parts of Syria and Iraq and carried out attacks throughout the Middle East. Over the past year, Kuwaiti courts have issued several rulings against IS supporters. — AFP





# WHY DON'T PEOPLE RESPECT LAWS HERE?



By Muna Al-Fuzai

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Statistics from the Traffic Department during the first week of November show that 2,065 cars and 44 motorcycles were impounded, while 95 persons were detained for committing violations including running red lights, over-speeding, recklessness and not having a driving license. Ten expats were even deported for driving without a license.

The official figures indicate significant carelessness in obeying traffic laws. This carelessness affects every one of us on the road.

This is why streets are no longer safe. You can kill or be killed or injured because someone out there cares less if he/she lives or dies. Why are people not afraid of traffic laws here? If they don't care about the penalties, at least they should fear for their lives, if not of others. It is certainly puzzling!

I know that some people have a lot of money and couldn't care less about the fines, even though they are stiff, and I know there are those who are not afraid of the police because they have wasta. This kind of ignorance and apathy is dangerous for everyone. Kuwaitis respect the laws of the country they visit, which makes you wonder why they don't respect the laws and regulations in their home country, to the point that it almost becomes common that everyone is breaking the simple laws here, even when it comes to standing in queues. Being a law-abiding citizen is becoming something uncommon.

I believe there are several reasons for this, and the first people

who are guilty are parents and schools. Family, school and society do not bring up the individual to respect the law. When you go to a state where the law applies on everyone, you will be committed to follow the law as everyone does. While in Kuwait, a law-abiding person will feel that he is different from others and everyone may directly or indirectly encourage him or her to break the law because everyone else does. For example, I fasten my seatbelt while driving, but some people I know see this as an exaggeration!

Another reason for people not respecting laws here is because wasta has become more powerful than the writ of the land. This is indeed regretful. Kuwait needs years to change these negative values in the society. This change must start from the individual first, because right now, everyone complains about the absence of the system and compliance with the law, but everyone must begin by himself and his family and be self-motivated, which is stronger than the law.



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# YADAWI: Kuwait's creative collective

By Athoob A. Al-Shuaibi

Anything hand crafted or worked by hand was respected and valued in her family. Unlike many in Kuwait, Lubna Saif Abbas grew up in a family that gardened, that baked and sewed and crafted and everyone pitched in creating in some way. Well known local artisan, beader and caretaker of the Yadawi studio and artisan collective, Lubna talked with Kuwait Times about the origins of her passion for artisanal work and creativity.

*Creating something by hand is therapeutic, says local artisan Lubna Saif Abbas. "You stop thinking of your discontent, you stop thinking of what bothers you or about what somebody else has."*

## The value of handmade

"It is important to promote craft work because you feel better when you make your own things. You sleep better because you're tired at the end of the day. Once you become engaged in something that's good and then when you leave you can keep on doing it, you stop thinking of your discontent, you stop thinking of what bothers you or about what somebody else has. It's therapeutic," explained Lubna.

Kuwait, once renowned in the Gulf and the world for its handcrafted ships and artisanal products has long forsaken the handmade for the branded.

"Kuwaiti society passed seven months of occupation which in the scheme of human history of wars and occupations was a very short amount of time. We would like to see what is the outcome of this? My question to my community is when we run out of oil, what will you do next? and what will you do before to prepare your community to be able to sustain a life with dignity? In a grunder picture, catastrophic things happen in the world, which culture do we think will survive and make it through? We might not have as much as the wealth as we have today unless we're smart and really savvy to start harnessing solar and wind energy, plus other alternatives. We need to build a society of people who are vibrant and active and have the sensibility to not only consume but to be aware of their consumption and also be able to create," Lubna argues.

## Artisanal collective

Begun in 2007, Yadawi is unique in Kuwait, one of the few artisan collectives in the region. "Our collective started as clients then evolved very quickly. We have so many beautiful products



Inks



Stamps





Ink pens



Decopatch art at the Yadawi / LB 'o Jzazz shop in Souq Al Mubarakiya. — All photos by Athoob Al-Shuaibi

and materials that we started exhibiting under Yadawi. Our members who have master a skill started developing programs where they become teachers. In fact, all teachers were Yadawi members because it's a process. They are somebody who understands our vision and has the same sensibility," Lubna said. Yadawi collective represents between four to 10 artisans in Kuwait, both foreigners and locals.

"What we want people to do is invest in themselves. Most of our workshops are technique-and project-based. Accordingly, you learn a technique and you have a project. Now, our prices for our workshops are very reasonable but they're not cheap because the products we use are of quality, talented people come with original designs and there's a lot of time going into this," said Lubna.

#### Teaching for the future

"We are mortal. One way of me having something that goes beyond our mortality is to teach. Whatever you've given, you

would hope that someone would continue with this idea of sharing. We are not here forever. But, at least the things we make will last. Hopefully, the things that I've shared and I've taught, not just myself, but the other people who come here to teach and share, will create a momentum that has nothing to do with me."

"My mother, Lady Z, who I recently lost, asked to build this basement in the Seventies. This is her doing. She's here and I'm so grateful that she allowed me to live my dream to have this place for Yadawi," Lubna said.

Yadawi hosts a variety of workshops throughout the year and promotes the work of its members through markets and a shop located in Souq Al Mubarakiya, which also sells inks, stamps, art supplies and other artisanal items. Thirty to forty art and craft workshops run every year including beading, decopatch, sewing, art clay and calligraphy in both English and Arabic.



Arabic calligraphy

Lubna with  
Her art piece





# INTERNET KILLED THE VIDEO STAR

By Nawara Fattahova

The world is changing at a rapid pace, and many things we liked or were used to are being replaced with newer and more modern innovations and technologies. One of these is the video recorder, which is considered obsolete these days. Nevertheless, a few people are still using this outdated technology, and watch movies, cartoons and other stuff on videocassettes. Video rental shops that were wildly popular in the 1980s shut down a few years ago, but some enthusiasts are still holding on to videotapes.

Fans of this technology use video recorders and tapes to record content from TV. Electronics stores all over Kuwait used to sell these, but they don't anymore. Even popular supermarkets and hardware departments of co-ops used to have them, but no longer. So these users are now struggling to find blank VHS tapes.

### History

The Video Home System (VHS) is a standard for analog recording on videotapes. It was developed by Victor Company of Japan (JVC) in the 1970s. The first videocassette recorder (VCR) to become available was the U-matic system, released in Sept 1971. U-matic was designed for commercial or professional television production use, and was not affordable or user-friendly for home videos or home movies. The first consumer-grade VCR to be released was the Philips N1500 VCR format in 1972, followed in 1975 by Sony's Betamax. This was quickly followed by the competing VHS (Video Home System) format from JVC, and later by Video 2000 from Philips. Subsequently, the Betamax-VHS format war began in earnest.

Sony stopped manufacturing Betamax tapes many years ago and announced that it will stop selling the remaining quantity by next year or earlier if stocks sell out. It already stopped manufacturing the recorders playing these tapes since 2002.

### Where to find it

Scouting various electronic stores around the city, it turned out that the biggest and most popular ones that once

## A hunt for VHS cassette tapes in Kuwait turns up dwindling options.

sold VHS tapes and video recorders are no longer selling them. An older electronics store in Salmiya had only four VHS videocassettes in stock. The salesman at this store told Kuwait Times that they stopped receiving this product a few years ago, although they were the agents of the most popular brand manufacturing this product.

The Friday Market in Rai that sells almost everything may have some stalls selling VCRs and videotapes, and some bazaars selling used items also sold them until recently. Apart from these, some individuals on social media are selling video recorders, but none of them have mentioned selling videocassettes. Another option may be some of the few music shops around the city.

### Replacement

VHS was replaced by optical discs,

which began to offer better quality than videotapes. The earliest of these formats, LaserDisc, was not widely adopted. However, after the introduction of the DVD format in 1997, the VHS market share began to decline. By 2008, DVD had achieved mass acceptance and replaced VHS as the preferred method of distribution.

But even these discs are not much used anymore. Almost near each co-op, there used to be a guy selling DVDs of movies, plays and cartoons, but today they are rarely to be seen. Ditto for roaming vendors carrying suitcases with DVDs, who once could be found almost everywhere. Yet these discs are still available in the market and DVD recorders are still sold, but we don't know until when, as most people now watch everything online.



## 2015 Concert of Hope Plans well on the way!!

Since the establishment of the charity 'Foundation of Hope' the annual Concert of Hope has become one of the most popular events on Kuwait's Social Calendar.

The concert, which is going to take place on November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015 this year, provides an evening of enjoyable first class entertainment for all ages and tastes, as one attendee of last year's concert commented -

*"I just thought I should write to thank you for a wonderful 'Concert of Hope'. What a fantastic evening! The entertainment was first class. We thoroughly enjoyed all of the performances and the organization was perfect. Thank all the Charity volunteers for a most memorable evening and raising money for a very worthy cause"*

According to tradition the newly published diary of 2016 will be launched at the concert.

This Year's Concert has a change of venue and will be held in the prestigious Salwa Sabah Hall Salmiya. A superb buffet dinner will be provided by the Marina Hotel, well known for its excellent cuisine and services.

A good number of tables accommodating 9 to 10 persons have already been reserved by individuals, couples and corporate clients who annually support the Charity.

Enquiries, reservations and any further information may be made through emailing: [foundationofhopeq8@gmail.com](mailto:foundationofhopeq8@gmail.com)



Team members of Foundation of Hope Charity finalizing plans for the forthcoming Concert to take place on 20<sup>th</sup> Nov 2015



# PHF: PARTNER AND ANGEL FOR NEEDY EXPAT PATIENTS

## FUND SEEKING DONATIONS



Ajeel Sultan Al-Atouq

By Ben Garcia

A nonprofit group in Kuwait that provides financial help to expatriates with health problems is seeking donations. The Patients Helping Fund Society (PHF) says that reserves have dwindled and that it expects a financial shortfall as early as next year. Kuwait Times spoke to Ajeel Sultan Al-Atouq, Medical Community Manager to learn more about the non government organization.

PHF generously provides expatriate patients in local hospitals with basic financial assistance that includes paying for medicines and in some cases, paying hospital bills in part or full. Since Kuwaitis already receive free healthcare, hospitalization and medicines, even to the extent of being sent abroad for treatment not available here, the fund focuses specifically on expats.

For more than 35 years, PHF has been operating smoothly and has been extending help to many expatriate patients. However, without individual or company support, they might end up cutting some contributions to needy expats. "Our mission is to help needy and sick expatriate patients and provide them with necessary help," said Atouq.

"The doctors prescribe the medicines, and after evaluation of their needs, we take over and give the maximum help possible if we see the need for it. Throughout the past years, including in 2015, we were running very smoothly and the funding was okay. But in the coming year, we see a shortage of funding and we are worried a bit, because this means we may have to cut aid to our regular recipients," he said. He added PHF patients also get social aid, but this will be cut if donors in 2016 do not loosen their purse strings.

### Cancer Patients

According to Atouq, PHF has spent millions of dinars over the years, with KD 2.3 million in 2015 alone. "We need help; we need more donations in order to continue our work. The biggest chunk of our budget is given to cancer patients, as many expats cannot afford to buy expensive medicines, which are now being



جمعية صندوق إعانة المرضى  
Patients Helping Fund Society

*For more than 35 years, PHF has been operating smoothly and has been extending help to many expatriate patients.*

shouldered by the fund. This year, around KD 600,000 went to cancer patients. The problem is in 2016 and perhaps 2017. We may run out of funds, while the costs of medicines and hospital services are getting higher and higher," he warned.

PHF spends thousands of dinars on about 130 cancer patients out of a total of about 15,000 patients, on whom it spends a very minimal amount. "So you see how the cancer patients are eating up the PHF budget, but we cannot ignore the needs of expat cancer patients in Kuwait," Atouq mentioned. "Cancer medications are very expensive, with the cheapest costing a patient KD 180, while some cancer medications cost up to KD 3,000. We didn't have these medications 10 or five years back. I am just trying to explain to you how costly medicines are, especially for cancer patients," he said.

### Evaluation

Patients get PHF aid after a series of evaluations by social workers in hospitals. "We get a report from them stating a patient's medical conditions and a report about his or her status and situation. We'll evaluate from our side and determine and assess how long we could provide for the patient, depending on the patient's economic conditions," Atouq pointed out.

In many instances, after medication and treatment in Kuwait, if the patient needs to be repatriated to his/her country, the Patients Helping Fund also provides airfare for the patient and his companions. "One of our main commitments to patients is that we don't discriminate based on their religion or ethnic group. We treat everyone equally. What we get is just the medical report and the social study. We see their how much he's earning, so we know how we could be of help, whether partially or fully," Atouq said.

Donations are accepted through their website or by visiting the Patients Helping Fund headquarters in the Sabah Hospital complex. PHF also accepts donations from religious denominations or sects. "For example, if the Christian community would like to donate specifically for their brothers/sisters, we allow this. They can also donate for a specific patient through us. We also accept donations for particular nationalities - for example if you would like to donate specifically for Filipino patients, we allow this. The Kuwait Cancer Control Center (KCCC) refers patients to us and they are the link to us and their patients," he said.

Dr Rameesh Pandita, consultant hematologist at the KCCC, said PHF has been their partner for many years now. "The latest cancer medications are very expensive for ordinary cancer patients, so we refer them to ask help from PHF. Here at KCCC, we have many cancer patients who really need help; if there's no such charity organization like PHF, how could they afford to pay for hospital services and the expensive medications they need? They need support and organizations such as PHF to provide this service," he said.





## KUWAIT BOOK FAIR, AN EVENT FOR ALL FAMILY MEMBERS



**KUWAIT:** Kuwait's Book Fair is an annual event that gathers family members to enjoy the variety of books published by different Arab organizations, covering all categories. Books from international book publishers including Scholastic, Usborne as well as leading booksellers in Kuwait including That Al Salasil are present at this year's book fair. — KUNA



### EU TO GIVE KUWAIT DUE ATTENTION FOR SCHENGEN VISA WAIVER

**KUWAIT:** Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah has stated the Head of the European Union's Delegation Riyadh Ambassador Adam Kulach has told him that the Kuwaiti bid for Schengen visa waiver "is given due attention."

Al-Jarallah told reporters on the sidelines of the Omani embassy celebrations of the National Day Wednesday evening that his meeting with Kulach Tuesday has also touched upon the strong the Gulf-EU ties. He stressed the continuation of dialogue and communication between the two sides. The meeting also tackled the strong relations between Kuwait and the European Union.

Al-Jarallah emphasized the importance of the EU role in defending the Arab and Islamic causes, particularly the Palestinian one. Meanwhile, Al-Jarallah noted that the joint Kuwaiti-Iraqi higher committee would held its fifth session on December 21 and an experts-level preparatory meeting would be held soon to set the agenda. — KUNA

## BUILDING WOODEN SHIPS: A TRADITIONAL KUWAITI CRAFT

By Sarah Al-Mkhaizeem

**KUWAIT:** Many Kuwaitis look at the sea with fondness in their heart especially with the fact that this country used to survive on what the vast ocean had to offer prior to the discovery of oil. Back in the day, Kuwaitis used to venture into the sea to earn a living, sailing on small and large wooden ships made by craftsmen who usually went by the title 'qalalifs'. In the mid-1700s, Kuwaiti-crafted ship earned regional and international praise with states, of what is known now as the GCC countries, commissioning ships to be built for various purposes.

European travelers, who visit the region at that time also showed appreciation to Kuwaiti crafted ships with the most famous praise coming from Lieutenant Colonel Harold Richard Patrick Dickson, a British colonial administrator, who in 1912 claimed that Kuwait "made the finest wooden ship vessels in the region." At that specific year also, some 812 ships sailed from Kuwait. In 1919, the number of ships increased to 1,200, a number reflecting Kuwait's strong sailing heritage.

The process of building ships usually involved a master (Qalaf) who had a number of qalalifs under him. Usually commissioned by merchants and



famous skippers, the qalalifs made it their mission to construct the ships no matter how long or hard the tasks were.

The process of constructing a vessel varies with the bigger ships, used in pearl diving, trade, and goods' transportation expeditions, obviously taking longer periods to make depending on the number of construction crew and available materials.

Small and medium size vessels were also made for leisure, fishing, and nearby

pearl diving ventures. The popularity of the wooden ship industry continued to grow; however, it dwindled by the 1920s due to a number of geopolitical and economic factors.

By the end of World War II and the discovery of oil in 1950, the Kuwaiti wooden ship business continued to fade with 50 vessels operating by that time. Nowadays, a fewer wooden ships still exist to serve as a reminder of Kuwait's old heritage and tradition. — KUNA

### COLD, CLEAR WEATHER EXPECTED TODAY

**KUWAIT:** Cold and clear weather is predicated for today, said a meteorologist yesterday. Acting head of the Kuwait Meteorology center Sami Al-Othman said that the temperatures Friday will be between 24-22 degrees during day time while it drops to 14 to 11 degrees in the evening and early morning.

As of next Saturday, temperatures are expected to reach 22 to 20 degrees during daytime while it will drop to 11 to 9 degrees in evening and early morning, said Al-Othman, adding that the weather Saturday and Monday might be cloudy. — KUNA

### PUBLIC SCHOOLS ON ALERT OVER SWINE FLU DISCOVERY

**KUWAIT:** Public schools are on alert after the discovery of four cases of the swine flu at facilities in Hawalli and Adeiliya areas, said Minister of Education and Higher Education Dr. Bader Al-Issa yesterday.

The minister said that the individuals contracting the disease were currently being treated, adding that necessary precautions were undertaken to prevent the spread of the ailment. The Ministry of Education will continue to coordinate with the Ministry of Health, said Dr. Al-Issa, adding that schools with increasing number of swine flu cases will be shutdown. — KUNA



## KUWAIT CALLS FOR COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

**VIENNA:** Kuwait called on exerting international efforts to combat trafficking in persons in all of its forms according to international treaties in order to protect the victims. This remark was made by Kuwaiti representative Nawaf Ahmad Al-Rejaib yesterday, during the 6th session of the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons at Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

Al-Rejaib, the Second Secretary of Kuwaiti Embassy in Vienna, pointed out that Kuwait is considered an importer of human resources for services and domestic help, noting that there are 600,000 workers in Kuwait which increases the percentage of crimes against all concerned parties. Even though Kuwait calls for protecting all human rights, gather regional and international efforts to combat trafficking in persons and strive to follow all international protocols and regulations yet this crime is still challenging because it keeps changing and evolving.

He added in his speech that Kuwait has followed

few steps to control this crime by establishing the public authority for manpower where work permits, workers transportation and housing are regulated. On domestic help, Kuwaiti parliament approved a law to protect domestic workers from being abused by regulating their work hours, paychecks, end of services bonus and overtime payments. This law obligates employers to respect the rights of their employees and to guarantee swift payments for the latter. He added that Kuwaiti media also plays important role in raising awareness campaigns where employers and employees know their prerogatives and obligations without any misuse or abuse.

### Cooperation to face terrorism

The deadly attacks in Paris embody the importance of boosting international cooperation to counter terrorism in its forms, Undersecretary of Interior Ministry Lieutenant General Suleiman Al-Fahad stressed Wednesday night. Al-Fahad made the statement during a meeting with Director General of the French

National Gendarmerie Denis Favier on the sidelines of the official visit in response to an invitation of French Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed means of promoting cooperation to upgrade efficiency of security personnel, said a statement by the Kuwait's Interior Ministry. Al-Fahad offered deep condolences to the French official over the victims of the "terrorist attacks" in Paris last Friday, the statement added, noting he stressed that Kuwait supports France to combat the "terrorist acts." The Kuwait official underlined the significance of such meetings to exchange expertise and promote cooperation as well as open new horizons pertaining to the security field between the two countries.

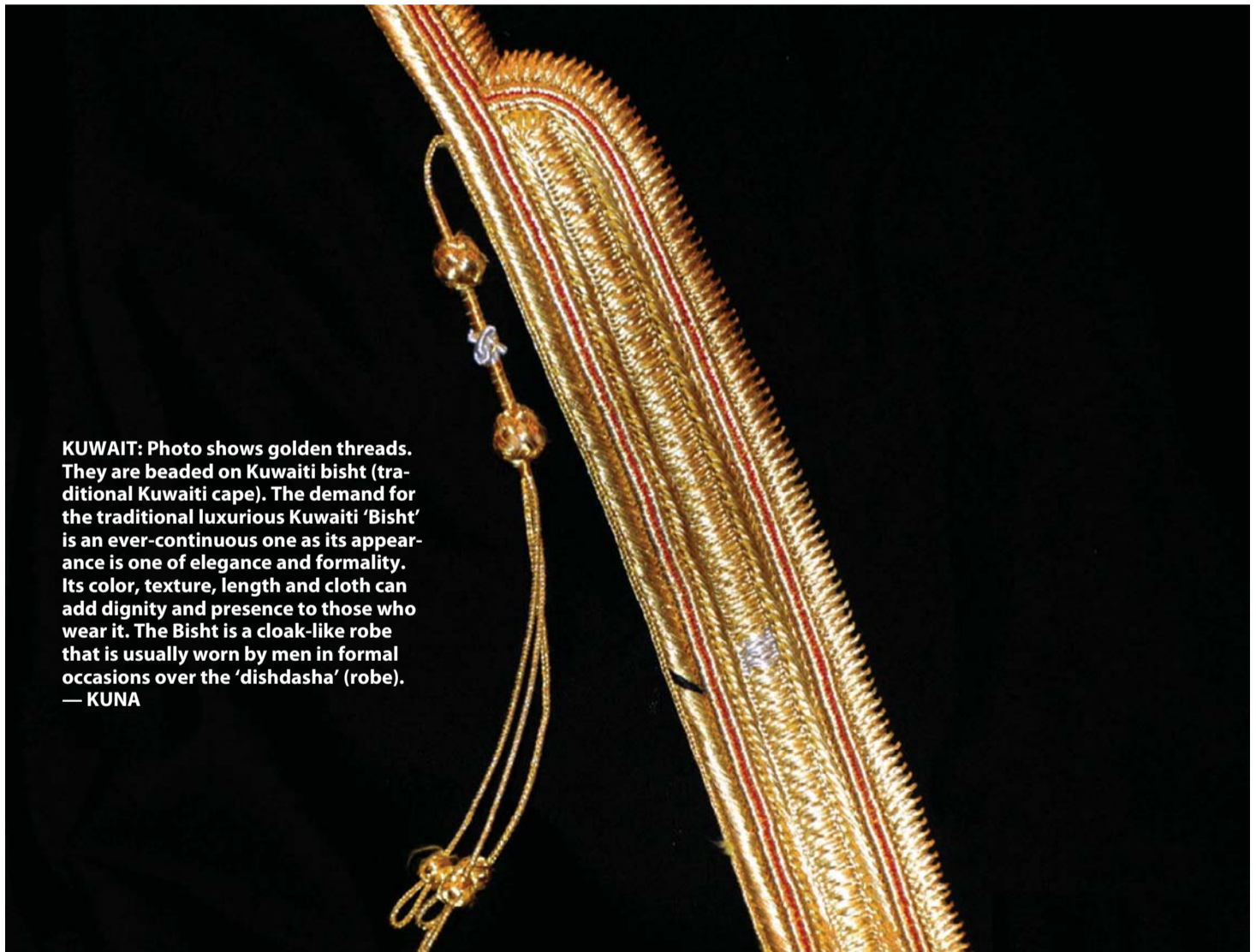
He was apprised of the structure of National Gendarmerie tasked with achieving several missions, including maintaining security among civilians, the statement said. On his part, Favier welcomed Al-Fahad and his accompanying delegation, affirming the solidness of security relations between Kuwait and France. — Agencies

## KUWAIT YOUTH PROJECT WINS AT UAE'S GULF YOUTH AWARD

**ABU DHABI:** Kuwaiti project entitled (80 percent) won the audience's choice category in the Emirates Award for the Gulf Youth 2015, aiming to support youth projects in the GCC countries. The Kuwaiti project, executed by Najat Al-Sayegh, Rabaa Al-Hajry and Rawya Al-Hajry, is targeted at encouraging individuals to create change in society through engaging in sports activities and social responsibility programs. The Kuwaiti youth were presented with the award Wednesday night in a ceremony held in Abu Dhabi, under the patronage of UAE Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al-Nahyan.

In his speech at the event, Sheikh Abdullah stressed the importance of the role played by youth in developing their societies. He noted that youth, who represent the majority of the Emirati society, are in charge of running vital bodies in the country including the Emirates Nuclear Energy Corporation, Masdar City and the Mars Hope probe. He called on different organizations and companies to fully support youth's creative projects to achieve development in the region away from personal or financial tendencies.

Meanwhile, Saudi project (Glowork-Women Employment Organization) seized the first place in the award, where it will be granted a sponsorship of AED 100,000. The second place was won by Emirati project (Slices), aiming to encourage students to follow a healthy lifestyle. The project will receive a sponsorship of AED 70,000. Moreover, the third place was equally shared by UAE project (Shefaa Health Network) and another Saudi project. The Emirates Foundation, in charge of the award, short-listed 15 enterprises out of 200 in the annual contest. The competition aims to encourage young venture philanthropists from across the GCC to develop innovative solutions to regional social issues, and empowering them with a solid platform to deliver sustainable social impact for their communities and countries.— KUNA



**KUWAIT:** Photo shows golden threads. They are beaded on Kuwaiti bisht (traditional Kuwaiti cape). The demand for the traditional luxurious Kuwaiti 'Bisht' is an ever-continuous one as its appearance is one of elegance and formality. Its color, texture, length and cloth can add dignity and presence to those who wear it. The Bisht is a cloak-like robe that is usually worn by men in formal occasions over the 'dishdasha' (robe). — KUNA

## KUWAIT PETROLEUM SEES OIL DEMAND RISING, SUPPLY FLAT IN COMING YEARS

**DUBAI:** Crude oil demand will eventually pick up as Chinese growth recovers in coming years, buoying prices, the chief executive of state energy giant Kuwait Petroleum Corp (KPC), Nizar Al-Adsani, said yesterday. "Demand will pick up and supply will flatten out, given the lack of investment, so the price will be supported," he told a petrochemical conference in Dubai. "I think the growth of the middle class in China and infrastructure spending means you will see more cars and demand for more gas and other products and that demand will eventually con-

tinue to grow," he said.

Still, Adsani said he expected oil prices to remain volatile in coming years, with much depending on how quickly US shale production responded to rising prices and on the extent to which lower investment elsewhere downgraded crude production capacity. He also said he expected competition between OPEC producers and non-OPEC producers to continue. KPC is seeking to grow its refinery business in Asia and is talking to China and Indonesia.

"We are talking to the Chinese and we have a

memorandum of understanding with the Indonesians and we will continue to talk to them but we have nothing concrete yet," Adsani said, adding that a refinery project in Asia could be announced next year. He also said that the Vietnam refinery is 60 percent complete. Kuwait has announced \$120 billion of capital spending on energy over the coming five years. Of that sum, \$50 billion has already been allocated to the Zour refinery project, a clean fuels project, for upstream work and for petrochemicals projects, he said. — Reuters



# International

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2015

**Election a matter of life and death in Egypt's North Sinai**



**'Cam Force One': British PM to get own plane**



**French female suicide bomber one of many**



PARIS: French policemen patrol on the Champs-Élysées avenue, on November 19, 2015, as part of the security measures set following the November 13 attacks. — AFP

## FRANCE 'AT RISK OF A CHEMICAL ATTACK'

MASTERMIND OF PARIS ATTACKS ABAAOUD DIED IN POLICE RAID

**PARIS:** Prime Minister Manuel Valls warned yesterday that France was at risk of a chemical or biological weapons attack, as lawmakers voted to extend a state of emergency imposed after the Paris carnage. Valls warned of the dangers still faced by France as he opened a parliamentary debate that later saw lawmakers extend an extraordinary package of security measures for three months. "We must not rule anything out," Valls said. "There is also the risk from chemical or biological weapons."

He called on France's European Union partners to urgently adopt measures to share airline passenger information. "More than ever, it's time for Europe to adopt the text... to guarantee the traceability of movements, including within the union. It's a condition of our collective security," he said. The state of emergency will be in place for three months from November 26 after lawmakers approved the extension.

Meanwhile, the suspected mastermind of the attacks that killed 129 in Paris was among those killed in a police raid in a suburb of the French capital on Wednesday, the Paris prosecutor said in a statement yesterday. Abdelhamid Abaaoud, a 28-year-old Belgian militant, who had boasted of mounting attacks in Europe for the Islamic State, was accused of orchestrating Friday's coordinated bombings and shootings. Police

originally thought he was in Syria, but their investigations led them to a house in the Paris suburb of St Denis and heavily armed officers stormed the building before dawn, triggering a massive firefight and multiple explosions.

"Abdel Hamid Abaaoud has just been formally identified, after comparing fingerprints, as having been killed during the (police) raid," the statement said. "It was the body we had discovered in the building, riddled with bullets." Prosecutor Francois Molins said the raid in Saint-Denis had stopped a "new team of terrorists" who were ready to launch another attack in a city still mourning 129 dead. At least two other people were killed in the ferocious shootout, including what is thought to be a woman who detonated an explosives vest.

### Raids in Belgium

At least 129 people were killed in the shootings and suicide bombings that targeted a concert hall, bars and restaurants and the Stade de France national stadium, Europe's second deadliest terror attack in history. As the Paris probe widened to countries across Europe, Belgian police staged six raids in the Brussels area linked to a suicide bomber who blew himself outside the French stadium, prosecutors said. Italy was also looking for five suspects after an FBI tip-off

about possible jihadist attacks on landmark sites including St Peter's cathedral in the Vatican, the foreign minister said.

Under one of the measures being adopted in France, police officers will be allowed to carry weapons when they are off duty. Officers will be allowed to use their guns in the event of an attack providing they wear a police armband to avoid "any confusion", according to a directive seen by AFP. Eight suspects were arrested in the massive Saint-Denis raid, but neither Abaaoud, the Belgian suspected of orchestrating the Paris attacks, nor another key suspect, Salah Abdeslam, were among them.

Abdeslam is thought to be one of the only surviving members of the gang. His suicide-bomber brother Brahim Abdeslam blew himself up in a cafe but did not kill anyone else. As international efforts to fight the Islamic State group stepped up, French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius said Russia was "sincere" in wanting to cooperate against IS in Syria. "There is an opening, so to speak, with the Russians. We think they are sincere and we must bring together all our forces," he told France Inter radio. But world powers remain deeply divided over the future of Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad, who has strong backing from Moscow. US President Barack Obama said yesterday that Syria's brutal

civil war could not end while Assad remained in power.

### US warning

US intelligence meanwhile published a report showing it warned in May that IS was capable of carrying out the kind of large-scale coordinated attacks seen in Paris. The assessment from the Office of Intelligence and Analysis, in coordination with the FBI, specifically refers to Abaaoud as a ringleader of Belgian plotters and warned Europe was more at risk of attack than the United States. Abaaoud was previously thought to be in Syria after fleeing raids in his native Belgium earlier this year. IS released a new video threatening New York, and specifically Times Square, although police said there was no "current and specific" threat.

Hours after President Francois Hollande had urged the nation not to resort to anti-Muslim or anti-Semitic reprisals in the wake of the attacks, a Jewish teacher was stabbed and wounded in Marseille by three people shouting anti-Semitic obscenities and expressing support for IS. France is coming to terms with being attacked for a second time in less than year. In January, jihadist gunmen killed 17 people at Charlie Hebdo satirical magazine, on the streets and in a Jewish supermarket.— Agencies



## ELECTION A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH IN EGYPT'S NORTH SINAI

**ARISH:** On Oct 24, Mostafa Abdelrahman stepped out of his home in Al-Arish, the sandswept capital of Egypt's North Sinai province. Within seconds, two men pulled up on a motorcycle and shot him dead. His campaign for parliament was over. The same day, five other candidates pulled out of the race. Abdelrahman's death highlights the dangers of holding elections in a region where the Egyptian military is fighting militants affiliated to Islamic State who have killed hundreds of soldiers and police in the past two years. President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi presents the vote as the last step towards restoring democracy, two years after he ousted Egypt's first freely-elected president, Islamist Mohamed Morsi.

The fighting in North Sinai, a strategically important stretch of desert bordering Israel, Gaza and the international shipping lane of the Suez Canal, intensified soon after Morsi's downfall. With candidates pulling out, some after receiving death threats from militants, and voters saying they do not feel safe enough to vote, those still running believe the election on Nov. 22-23 is likely to have a measly turnout in North Sinai. In Arish, a drab city of 160,000 where 1980s' Mediterranean beach resorts lie abandoned, not a single campaign poster can be seen on the streets. Even a large mosque that was a campaign centre is bereft of banners. Hossam Refai, a local candidate, tried to sound upbeat. "The security situation in Arish is much better than in other towns," he said last month, explaining at the time that he hadn't put up any posters "because officially campaigning hasn't started". Two days after he spoke he pulled out of the race, alarmed and frightened by Abdelrahman's shooting. "If I hang up a banner I will die the next day," said a candidate who remains in the race, requesting anonymity for fear of his life. "The militants threaten us and see our running as siding with the state against them. "Abdelrahman was killed because he started campaigning."

### Those who enter disappear

In nearby Sheikh Zuweid and Rafah, towns close to the Gaza border that have been the scene of the worst fighting, the candidates have all fled, as have more than 3,000 families trying to escape the unrest. The two towns and surrounding villages are organized under one district, with four candidates vying for one seat. Two candidates are now based in Arish and the other two about 370 km away in Cairo. "I can't go out on a tour or talk to citizens because of the fighting and the curfew," said Amal Madi, one of the candidates now living in Arish, where the outskirts look not unlike the Wild West, sand drifting across the horizon.

People preparing to vote are also thin on the ground in Sheikh Zuweid and Rafah. "The roads are closed, the villages are all but empty," said Mona Barhouma, a local activist. "I don't even know where my polling station is." Barhouma used to live in Rafah. Her home was one of thousands that have been demolished in the past year to create a buffer zone with nearby Gaza, an effort by Egypt to end what it says is the smuggling of arms via secret tunnels. "They say of our district: those who enter disappear and those who leave are reborn. So which voter will participate?"

### Don't know about elections

The Egyptian elections are a lengthy process. Some areas began voting last month, while North Sinai, along with 12 other provinces, goes to the polls on Nov. 22-23. Security sources told Reuters the army would send special forces to bolster security at polling stations and on main roads, where checkpoints have frequently been attacked. Like many others, Barhouma believes security fears will drive away voters. —Reuters



**TAEZ:** Tribal fighters prepare to take their positions on a street during fighting with Shiite rebels known as Houthis in Taz, Yemen. —AP

## US URGED TO HALT BOMB SALES TO SAUDI ARABIA

### IRAN ACCUSED SAUDI OF WORSENING YEMEN CONFLICT

**DUBAI:** Human Rights Watch (HRW) has urged the US Congress to block the sale of aerial bombs to Saudi Arabia, warning their likely use in Yemen risked more civilian deaths. The kingdom has led a bombing campaign in its southern neighbor since March, carrying out hundreds of strikes against Iran-backed rebels who had overrun much of the country. Despite widespread criticism of the high civilian death toll, Washington this week approved a \$1.29 billion deal for more than 19,000 smart bombs to replenish the Saudi air force's arsenal. Congress has 30 days to block the sale. "The US government is well aware of the Saudi-led coalition's indiscriminate air attacks that have killed hundreds of civilians in Yemen since March," Human Rights Watch said on Wednesday.

"Providing the Saudis with more bombs under these circumstances is a recipe for greater civilian deaths, for which the US will be partially responsible," HRW's deputy director for the Middle East and North Africa, Joe Stork, said. "The US Congress has played a role in opposing sales of US weapons used in

violation of the laws of war and should do so in this case." HRW said last month that it had documented more than two dozen air strikes by the Saudi-led coalition that appeared to be in violation of the laws of war. The United Nations says more than 5,700 people have been killed in the conflict in Yemen since the Saudi-led military intervention began. Nearly half of them have been civilians.

### Iran slams Saudi

Meanwhile, Iran has called for all sides in Yemen's war to join UN-sponsored peace talks and accused Saudi Arabia of worsening the conflict with its military intervention against Tehran-backed rebels. In talks with visiting UN envoy Ismail Ould Sheikh Ahmed on Wednesday, Iranian officials including Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif backed his efforts to resolve the conflict.

Stressing the UN role "in finding a political solution in Yemen," Zarif called for "the participation of all Yemeni groups" in talks Sheikh Ahmed is hoping to convene in Geneva this month, the IRNA news agency reported. UN efforts

have repeatedly failed to resolve the conflict in Yemen, where the pro-Iran Shiite Houthi rebels have seized control of large parts of the country, including the capital Sanaa. A Saudi-led coalition launched air strikes against the rebels in March and has sent ground troops in support of a fightback by forces loyal to President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi.

In separate talks with Sheikh Ahmed, Iran's deputy foreign minister told the envoy Saudi Arabia's intervention was making security worse. "For the Islamic Republic of Iran, the security of Yemen, Saudi Arabia and the region are important," the ISNA news agency quoted Hossein Amir Abdollahian as saying. "But Saudi Arabia cannot endanger the security of others to provide its own security," he said. Sheikh Ahmed for his part praised Iran as "an important and influential country in the region" which has "a determining role in the fight against terrorism," IRNA reported. The humanitarian crisis in Yemen has been identified by the United Nations as one of the world's worst, with 80 percent of the country's population on the brink of famine. —Agencies

## AMERICANS EVACUATED FROM YEMEN TO OMAN

**MUSCAT:** Three Americans have been air-lifted out of Yemen to Oman, the Omani Foreign Ministry said yesterday, according to a report by the state news agency ONA. The three were flown out of Yemen's capital, Sanaa, which is controlled by the Iran-backed Houthi militia, on an Omani air force flight late on Wednesday, ONA said. The brief statement gave no details on the identities of the Americans, but a Yemeni security official said the men had been detained. "The three

Americans were detained by the security forces run by the Houthis and were held on suspicion of spying," the official said by telephone from Sanaa. Yemen has been split by fighting between the Shiite Houthis and supporters of former President Ali Abdullah Saleh. A Saudi-led coalition joined the fighting on the side of Saleh's supporters in March with air strikes and ground troops. The conflict has since killed thousands, many of them civilians. The US State Department said earlier

this month a US citizen who worked for the United Nations had died after being held in Sanaa by the Houthis. He and another US citizen were detained as they arrived from Djibouti, the UN said. In September, three other US citizen held hostage by the Houthis were released.

### 10 killed in fighting

In another development, Yemeni pro-government forces advancing into the

strategic province of Taz were battling rebels on the outskirts of its second largest town yesterday, military sources said. Eight rebels and two loyalists were killed in the fighting for Rahida, the pro-government sources said. The town lies on the main road from government-held territory towards Taz, Yemen's third largest city, 40 kilometers further north, where loyalist troops have been besieged by the rebels for months. —Agencies



## BALKAN STATES FILTER MIGRANT FLOW TO EUROPE

### PRIORITY GIVEN TO SYRIANS, IRAQIS AND AFGHANS

**BELGRADE:** Balkan countries have begun filtering the flow of migrants to Europe, granting passage to those fleeing conflict in the Middle East and Afghanistan but turning back others from Africa and Asia, the United Nations and Reuters witnesses said yesterday. The move left hundreds of people stranded on borders; on Serbia's frontier with European Union member Croatia, some 400 were denied access to a train and were halted by Croatian police as they tried to cross the border through fields, a spokeswoman for the United Nations refugee agency, UNHCR said.

Others were stuck in no-man's land between Macedonia and Greece, where Macedonia has become clearing ground for a possible fence. What has become the

greatest migration of people on the European continent since World War Two has deeply divided the 28-nation EU and fuelled anti-immigration sentiment across the continent.

#### Balkan trek

Calls by some right-wing European politicians to stop the influx have been fuelled by indications that one of the perpetrators of the Nov. 13 attacks in Paris by Islamist militants, in which 129 people died, reached Europe by infiltrating the chaotic and often unchecked flow of migrants. UNHCR spokeswoman Melita Sunjic said Serbia had implemented a new approach from late Wednesday: "As of 6 pm yesterday evening, Serbia started turning back (to Macedonia)

all but Syrians, Iraqis and Afghans."

Those three nationalities make up the majority of the hundreds of thousands of migrants who have trekked across the Balkans this year in the hope of reaching western and northern Europe, mainly Germany and Sweden. However, Reuters reporters on Serbia's border with Croatia said others from Iran, Libya and Lebanon were also still crossing.

Migrants arrived by bus at a petrol station near the border Serbian town of Sid, where police checked their papers. A police officer said they had been told not to let those from Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, Bangladesh, Pakistan or Somalia board trains to Croatia. Those denied further passage were taken to a nearby camp. Officials in Macedonia and

Serbia said they acted after Slovenia informed them it would no longer grant access to those deemed to be "economic migrants".

"We won't allow anyone to enter Serbia who cannot continue their journey," Serbia's pointman for the migration crisis, Aleksandar Vulin, told reporters. "We must protect our country and that is why we have undertaken reciprocal measures towards those for whom Slovenia and Croatia consider there is no place," he said. A police spokesman in European Union member Slovenia confirmed Ljubljana would start returning "economic migrants" arriving through neighboring Croatia, saying it could only grant passage to those "from countries where there are armed battles".—Reuters

## 'CAM FORCE ONE': UK PM TO GET OWN PLANE

**LONDON:** Britain is to spend up to £10 million (\$15 million, 14 million euros) converting a military plane for official use by Prime Minister David Cameron and senior ministers, according to British media yesterday. The government is set to reveal plans to convert the A330 Voyager as part of its security and defense review on Monday, arguing that having an aircraft akin to the US "Air Force One" would be more secure and save money in the long run.

The jet-a version of the Airbus A330-200 — is a long-haul plane able to carry 160 passengers. But critics accuse the government, which is imposing deep cuts as part of its program to eliminate the public deficit, of hypocrisy. "We have been looking at ways to make better use of the RAF fleet to transport senior ministers and consequently deliver savings for taxpayers," said a government spokesman. "We have decided to adapt one of our existing Voyager aircraft so that, in addition to its primary air tanking role, it can transport ministers and it will also be available for the Royal Family to use."

"So David Cameron cuts tax credits and in return we buy him a £10m private jet. So glad we're all in it together," wrote Twitter user fleetstreetfox. "Cameron gets swanky £10million 'private jet' - at YOUR expense," added the Poole branch of anti-EU party UKIP. Tony Blair was the last leader to push for a prime ministerial jet-so-called "Blair Force One"—but then finance minister Gordon Brown blocked the request. The government claims the plane will save £775,000 a year in charter charges, which currently stand at around £6,700 per flying hour. Downing Street recently paid £100,000 to hire an aircraft to take Cameron and the Royal Family to the funeral of King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia.—AFP



**NEW YORK:** Planes taxi on runways at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York. — AP

## AIRPORT PROFILING A KEY TO THWARTING ATTACKS

### AIR PASSENGER PROFILING GAINING GROUND AMONG WATCHDOGS

**BARCELONA:** Contested in some quarters, air passenger profiling is gaining ground among watchdogs as a defense against terror attacks following two bloody assaults in less than a month. The technique entails closely scrutinizing passengers for identity or behavioral clues, backing classic methods such as baggage and body scans. At Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion International Airport, widely considered to be the world's most secure, all passengers waiting to check in are questioned by security agents who ask questions about their trip, looking for nerves or inconsistent statements. If replies raise suspicions, the passenger is singled out for additional screening which can involve hours of questioning and an exhaustive search of their luggage.

European security experts, at a two-day conference in Barcelona this week, said they were reluctant to recommend going that far, due to the amount of time it would take and the high cost for airports. On the other hand, behavioral profiling is a useful tool that is widening in use, they said. Profiling behaviors consists of "detecting abnormal behaviors throughout a passen-

ger's entire trajectory", from the moment they enter the airport until they board a plane, said Erick Bourai, who is charged with security at Airports Council International Europe.

"Observation is done first at a distance, by specialists," who then question a passenger if they notice anything out of the ordinary, he said on the sidelines of the two-day conference which wrapped up in Barcelona on Wednesday. A coordinated wave of attacks on Paris restaurants, a concert hall and France's national stadium on November 13 left 129 people dead and more than 350 injured. On October 31, a Russian airliner was downed over Egypt's Sinai peninsula, killing all 224 onboard in what Russia said was a bomb attack. "Technologies come and go, but our capacity to detect anomalies in human behavior will never change," said Lauren Stover, head of security at Miami International Airport.

A passenger who appears to avoid security guards, who sweats a lot or is wearing a heavy coat while waiting to board a flight to the Caribbean would all draw attention, she said. "A single behavior is not enough, it is the sum of lit-

tle details," said Ruben Jimenez, head of security at Geneva airport which will start training security guards on how to analyze behavior in 2017. All airport staff, from "duty free" cashiers to waiters at restaurants, can help detect suspicious attitudes, said Stover. At Miami International Airport, which employs 38,000 people, police have since 2005 received a week of training in how to spot abnormal behavior, she said. Security guards receive a day of training while other staff attend a one-hour session on profiling techniques.

#### Profiling risk?

Civil liberties campaigners have warned of the risk of bias or prejudice, if profilers single out people on the basis of religion, ethnicity or skin color. The risks were underscored on Monday when officials at Paris' Orly airport insisted on searching an Algerian minister even though he holds a diplomatic passport, leading to an official protest from Algiers. Jimenez said that on practical grounds alone, selectively choosing certain stereotypes for profiling would be a flaw in a security screen.—AFP



# FEMALE SUICIDE BOMBER IN FRANCE ONE OF MANY IN HISTORY

**BEIRUT:** The woman who blew herself up with an explosive vest in a suburban Paris apartment during a police operation Wednesday was far from the world's first female suicide bomber. While most suicide bombers are men, Islamic militant groups have occasionally deployed women to carry out such attacks. Long before the rise of Islamic radicalism, women suicide bombers were used by leftist and separatist groups in the Arab world and beyond. Here's a look at female suicide bombers over the years:

### Lebanon and Palestinian Territories

During Israel's 18-year occupation of southern Lebanon that ended in 2000, several women belonging to leftist groups blew themselves up targeting Israeli forces. Among those women was Sanaa Mheidly, 17, who blew up a car rigged with explosives in an Israeli convoy in 1985, killing and wounding more than a dozen Israeli soldiers. She became the most prominent and the first to carry out such an attack in the Arab world. In the Palestinian territories, about a dozen women have carried out suicide attacks against Israelis since 2002 - including 27-year-old paramedic Wafa Idris, who blew herself up in downtown Jerusalem on Jan. 27, 2002. It was unclear if she planned to commit suicide. An 81-year-old Israeli man also died in that attack, the first by a Palestinian woman.

### Al-Qaeda in Iraq

A decade ago, Al-Qaeda in Iraq leader Abu Musab Al-Zarqawi sent four members of his group - which would later morph into the Islamic State - to carry out bombings in his home country of Jordan. In that Nov. 9, 2005 assault, Sajida Al-Rishawi and her newlywed husband, Ali Al-Shamari, entered the ground-floor ballroom of Amman's Radisson SAS hotel while hundreds of people were celebrating a wedding reception. Al-Shamari set off his explosive belt among crowd. Al-Rishawi fled. Al-Zarqawi later claimed responsibility for the attack and mentioned a woman being involved, leading Jordanian officials to arrest al-Rishawi. Several days later, she appeared on Jordanian state television, opening a body-length overcoat to reveal two crude explosive belts. Al-Risawhi was executed earlier this year after IS burnt to death Jordanian pilot 1st Lt Muath Al-Kaseasbeh, whose warplane was shot down over Syria in December.

### Turkey

Kurdish women have carried out several suicide attacks in Turkey since the 1980s, as have female members of leftist

groups in their campaign against the government. The most recent attack occurred on Jan. 6, when a Turkish leftist group claimed responsibility for a suicide bombing at an Istanbul police station that killed an officer and wounded another. Authorities said the female bomber in that attack entered the building in the tourist district of Sultanahmet and blew herself



**This file photo shows Iraqi Sajida Mubarek Atrous Al-Rishawi opening her jacket and showing an explosive belt as she confesses on Jordanian state-run television to her failed bid to set off an explosives belt inside one of the three Amman hotels targeted by Al-Qaeda in Jordan. —AP**

up. In a statement posted online, the leftist Revolutionary People's Liberation Party-Front, or DHKP-C, said it carried out the attack. It called the bombing "an act of sacrifice."

### Russia

Female suicide bombers from Chechnya and elsewhere in the North Caucasus were common enough that they became known as

"black widows" in Russia. Many were the wives of or otherwise related to Islamic militants killed by government forces in their effort to suppress the separatist movement. Two of those female suicide bombers were to blame for the 2010 bombings of the Moscow metro, which killed some 40 people.

### Nigeria

In Nigeria, a string of suicide bombings blamed on the militant group Boko Haram increasingly have been carried out by women and girls, some who are elderly and others as young as 10. Unlike many of the bombers used by IS in its Iraq and Syria, however, there are concerns that the Nigerian bombers are being deployed against their will. A military bomb disposal expert has told The Associated Press that many of the explosives in those blasts are remotely detonated, suggesting that the insurgents are strapping explosives to females they hold captive and sending them to their deaths.

### Sri Lanka and India

Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger rebels deployed multiple female suicide bombers as part of a more than two decade-long insurgency. Their bombing campaign against political, military and economic targets was aimed at creating an independent state for the ethnic minority Tamils. A Tamil woman blew herself up in 1991 in southern India, killing Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

### Afghanistan

Female suicide bombers are very rare in Afghanistan, though one such attack was carried out by an elderly woman in Kunar province in 2010.

### Islamic State group

IS proudly posts videos and photographs of fighters who carry out suicide attacks but they never posted any of women suicide attackers. Female fighters are active in the group, however, and have a brigade known as Khansaa. In 2010, Abu Omar Al-Baghdadi, who was then the leader of the Islamic State in Iraq group, said after a Shura Council meeting that women should not carry out suicide attacks. Current IS leader Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi, who replaced the late commander, is believed to still abide by the rule. Mia Bloom, a professor of communications at Georgia State University and author of "Bombshell: Women and Terrorism," said that after a theological discussion, IS told women in October that they could blow themselves up if they are raided in their house. "She can detonate it without anyone's permission," she said. —AP

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## MINNEAPOLIS POLICE SHOOTING STIRS OLD RACIAL TENSIONS

**MINNEAPOLIS:** The fatal shooting of an unarmed black man by a Minneapolis police officer has pushed racial tensions in the city's small but concentrated minority community to the fore, with a police precinct besieged by a makeshift encampment and hundreds of protesters in recent days.

Police have tried to improve race relations in recent years, and succeeded in some areas. But some community activists say racial disparities - high unemployment rates for blacks, a disproportionate number of arrests for minor crimes and inequities in housing and the school system - have been going on for so long that Sunday's shooting of Jamar Clark - and the reaction from the community - was no surprise.

"We call Minneapolis a tale of two cities: The best of times if you're white, and worst of times if you're black," said Nekima Levy-Pounds, president of the Minneapolis chapter of the NAACP, and one of 42 people arrested when protesters shut down an interstate highway Monday night.

Clark, 24, was shot in the head during a confrontation with two officers. Police said he was a suspect in an assault and was interfering with paramedics trying to treat the victim. Police said there was a scuffle, and Clark was shot. Some people who say they saw the shooting claim Clark wasn't struggling and was handcuffed. Police initially said he wasn't handcuffed, but the state agency that's investigating the shooting, the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, said one thing it's looking at is whether Clark was restrained.

The president of the Minneapolis police union, Lt. Bob Kroll, said Wednesday in an email that Clark was "disarming" the officer and was not handcuffed.

The officers involved in the shooting were identified Wednesday as Mark Ringgenberg and Dustin Schwarze, both with seven years of experience including 13 months with the Minneapolis department, but their race wasn't released because it's private under state law. Police in Maple Grove, where Ringgenberg worked before joining the Minneapolis force, said he is white.

Members of the Minneapolis chapter of Black Lives Matter and other demonstrators want police to release video of the shooting, but the BCA has declined to do so, saying it would taint the investigation. The FBI is also undertaking a civil rights investigation.

Tensions ramped up Wednesday afternoon when police moved to clear protesters out of the vestibule of the 4th Precinct station where several had been sleeping since the shooting. They pulled down a pop-up shelter and doused a bonfire, prompting protesters to chant, "Shame on you!" before relighting the flame.

Chief Janee Harteau said police have to keep the vestibule clear for safety. She said police have no plans to pull down some 18 tents or stop protests as long as they are peaceful.

The protests are the latest call for change by a community that has had rocky relations with police. Sunday's shooting took place on the north side, where the population is predominantly black and generally poorer than the rest of the city. The four neighborhoods nearest the shooting are 53 percent black, according to 2010 census data. The city as a whole is 60 percent white.



**MINNEAPOLIS:** Black Lives Matter supporters embrace after Minneapolis police poured water to extinguish an encampment fire as they continued their protest on Wednesday outside the Fourth Precinct in Minneapolis. —AP



**NEW YORK:** Police officers stand guard in Times Square on Wednesday in New York. The New York Police Department says it's aware of a newly released Islamic State group video showing images of Times Square but says there's no current or specific threat to the city. — AP

## FBI, NEW YORK POLICE AWARE OF IS VIDEO, SAY NO SPECIFIC THREAT

VIDEO GIVES GLIMPSE OF TIMES SQUARE, APPARENT SUICIDE BOMBER

**NEW YORK:** There is no "specific and credible threat" against New York City, despite a newly released Islamic State video suggesting America's most populous city is a potential target of attacks such as those in Paris, Mayor Bill de Blasio said on Wednesday. Police Commissioner William Bratton agreed with the mayor during an evening news conference by both men outside a police precinct in Times Square, adding that there was nothing new about the video, which he called "hastily produced."

"There is no credible and specific threat against New York City," de Blasio said, encouraging New Yorkers to "go about their business" as normal, while remaining watchful. Islamic State has claimed credit for Friday's attacks in Paris that killed 129 people in shootings and suicide bombings at a concert hall, restaurants and a soccer stadium in Paris. The assault on the French capital stirred memories in New York of the Sept. 11, 2001, hijacked plane attacks that felled the World Trade Center's Twin Towers, killing more than 2,600 people. The Islamic State video, which runs for nearly six minutes, includes a scene that appears to show a suicide bomber making preparations and zipping up a jacket, according to a description provided by SITE Intelligence Group, a Bethesda, Maryland, organization that tracks mili-



**NEW YORK:** In this photo provided by WNYW Fox 5 NY, New York Mayor Bill de Blasio speaks during a news conference in New York's Times Square on Wednesday. —AP

tant groups. The clip briefly shows Times Square and Herald Square, two Midtown Manhattan crossroads popular with tourists, and a suicide bomber holding what appears to be a trigger. Most of the footage is scenes of Paris and French President Francois Hollande. "Footage of New York shown in the ISIS video was taken from a video released by the group in April of this year. So while NYC is, and has been, a target for ISIS, today's video does not warrant any kind of panic," SITE director Rita Katz said in an email to Reuters.

De Blasio said New York City's police

force of 35,000, the country's largest, was working tirelessly to keep the city safe from another attack. "Just in this last week, we've initiated the first wave of our new Critical Response Command, which will grow to 500 officers specifically dedicated to anti-terrorism activities," he said.

The new unit will supplement an existing 1,000-officer counterterrorism program, police said. The FBI said through a spokeswoman it was aware of news reports about the video and "ongoing terrorist threats to NYC," and would fully investigate. —Reuters

## EX-SUBWAY SPOKESMAN FOGLE SET TO BE SENTENCED FOR SEX CRIMES

**INDIANAPOLIS:** Former Subway spokesman Jared Fogle told a federal judge yesterday that he has agreed to plead guilty to child porn and sex crime charges and that he understands he will likely go to prison. Fogle agreed in August to plead guilty to one count each of travelling to engage in illicit sexual conduct with a minor and distribution and receipt of child pornography. The charges followed a July raid on his suburban Indianapolis home and the

resulting criminal case destroyed his career with the sandwich restaurant chain.

Prosecutors are seeking a 12 1/2-year sentence, while Fogle's attorneys have asked for five years. But federal judges have wide discretion, and US District Judge Tanya Walton Pratt could go beyond the prosecution's recommendation. The child porn charge carries a maximum 20 years in prison, and the sex with a minor count is punishable by up

to 30 years. At the start of the sentencing hearing in federal court, Pratt asked Fogle if he understood the punishment he could face and he answered, "Yes your honor, I do." The 38-year-old Fogle has admitted paying for sex with girls as young as 16 and receiving child pornography produced by Russell Taylor, the former executive director of The Jared Foundation, a nonprofit Fogle started to raise awareness and money to fight childhood obesity. —AP



## STALEMATE IN US-LED AIR WAR AS IS MILITANTS' AMBITIONS GROW

**WASHINGTON:** In measuring progress in the American-led air war against the Islamic State in Syria and Iraq, numbers tell one story but results tell another. Fighter jets, bombers, attack planes and drones are dropping an average of 2,228 bombs per month on targets ranging from training camps and machine gun positions to oil facilities and weapons shacks. The Pentagon says it doesn't do body counts, but the attacks are believed to have killed upward of 20,000 IS fighters. The US price tag: \$5 billion since August 2014, an average of \$11.1 million each day. The bombing has damaged or destroyed hundreds of military vehicles (including American tanks surrendered by Iraqi soldiers), thousands of buildings, hundreds of pieces of oil infrastructure and thousands of fighting positions, among other targets, according to US Central Command figures.

This sounds like a pummeling designed to bury an enemy, particularly one facing the military might and technological power of the United States. But what has been the result? In a word, stalemate, although US military officials say they see the tide gradually turning in their favor. The key word is "gradually." The administration has said from the start that dealing a lasting defeat to IS will take years, that a pell-mell military approach will not work because IS is not a conventional army. But in the aftermath of the Paris attacks, many are asking why the US is not in a bigger hurry.

President Barack Obama says he sees encouraging progress. On Monday he pointed to the liberation this month of Sinjar in northwestern Iraq by Iraqi Kurdish forces, the encirclement of IS-held Ramadi and the severing of a highway serving as a supply route for Islamic State fighters between the northern Iraqi city of Mosul and the militant's self-proclaimed capital of Raqqa in Syria. An Iraqi oil refinery also has been taken from the militants. Yet, as the Paris attacks showed, the group is now acting on global ambitions. It has withstood the aerial pounding by US and coalition warplanes, defended its core territories and apparently used its resiliency and social media savvy to replenish its ranks as quickly as they are reduced. How has it managed this? The answer lies partly in the gradualist US military approach. Instead of bombing every target in sight and sending a US ground invasion force, Obama has chosen to use air power more discriminately to chip away at IS, avoiding targets where civilians are endangered. Rather than sending US ground combat troops, he is waiting for the emergence of local fighters who can do the job. The premise of this strategy, endorsed by the president's national security advisers but doubted by many in Congress, is that although the US military is capable of squashing IS, any such victory would be short-lived without local armies and governments capable of maintaining stability.

Once defeated in Iraq and Syria, IS militants "have to stay defeated, and that means that there have to be capable and motivated local forces that are prepared to sustain the defeat," Defense Secretary Ash Carter told MSNBC in an interview broadcast yesterday. "We know from Afghanistan and we know from Iraq that that's the hard part." The president's new chief military adviser, Gen. Joseph Dunford, defends a US approach focused heavily on avoiding killing civilians.

"We're very careful in terms of civilian casualties, and some have criticized us for that," Dunford said Tuesday. "I will not apologize for that, because we are fighting the long fight, and for us to do otherwise would be shortsighted." In the meantime, IS has leveraged Iraqi and Syrian oil resources to generate nearly \$1.4 million a day through black market sales. Those funds have enabled the militants to replace damaged and destroyed equipment and weapons and to finance their recruiting efforts. Critics of the administration's approach say this is giving IS too much breathing room, enabling it to spread its influence well beyond Syria and Iraq.

In recent days the Pentagon has highlighted attacks on oil-related targets that it previously had passed up or struck too lightly. For example, on Sunday it used A-10 attack planes and AC-130 gunships to destroy 116 tanker trucks in eastern Syria as they lined up near an oil facility in the open desert. On Wednesday the military said it struck two oil and natural gas processing plants near Abu Kamal in eastern Syria near the Iraqi border. A question that has not yet been fully answered by the Pentagon is why it took so long to go after more of those oil-related targets, which are links in an oil business that Col. Steve Warren, a US military spokesman in Baghdad, says generates more than half of the Islamic State's revenue. For all the attention paid to the air campaign and its shortcomings, Carter says the key to ultimate success will be found on the ground. Sufficient numbers of local fighters in Iraq and Syria will have to step forward. Iraq's Sunni Arabs, for example, need to rise up and reclaim what IS has taken from them, Carter said. "This is one of the sad realities," he said. "They're harder to find than you would like." Another reality is that the Obama administration is under political attack for what critics see as a feckless military effort. —AP



**WASHINGTON:** (Left) House Immigration and Border Security subcommittee Chairman Rep. Trey Gowdy, speaks on Capitol Hill in Washington yesterday during the subcommittee's hearing to examine the Syrian refugee crisis and its impact on the security of the US Refugee Admissions Program. (Right) Mark Krikorian, executive director of the Center for Immigration Studies, testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington yesterday. —AP

## US HOUSE BILL SET TO BOLSTER CHECKS ON SYRIAN REFUGEES OBAMA PROMISES A VETO

**WASHINGTON:** House Republicans, saying the public is demanding protection from terrorists, are ready to push legislation erecting fresh hurdles for Syrian and Iraqi refugees trying to enter the United States. But President Barack Obama promised a veto.

While many Democrats mocked the House effort as election-season grandstanding, political pressures were pushing others to support the measure or seek to change other entry procedures. "We are a compassionate nation. We always have been, and we always will be," said Republican House Speaker Paul Ryan. "But we also must remember that our first priority is to protect the American people." Republicans were bringing the bill to the House floor yesterday, less than a week after a burst of bombings and shootings killed 129 people in Paris, wounded many more and revived post-9/11 jitters in the US and other countries. The Islamic State group has claimed responsibility for the massacres. The measure would require the FBI to conduct background checks on Syrian and Iraqi refugees. It would oblige the heads of the FBI and Homeland Security Department and the director of national intelligence to certify to Congress that each refugee "is not a threat to the security of the United States." Republicans said the bill contained no religious tests for the refugees - a split from former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas, Republican presidential contenders who have suggested giving preferences to Christians. Democrats said the measure in effect targeted Muslims, who comprise the majority of Iraqis and Syrians.

In a statement assuring a veto, the White House said the Republican bill would not improve Americans' security. It said the legislation "would unacceptably hamper our efforts to assist some of the most vulnerable people in the world, many of whom are victims of terrorism, and would undermine our partners in the

Middle East and Europe in addressing the Syrian refugee crisis."

The Obama administration wants to increase the 70,000 refugees to be admitted from around the world this year by 10,000, with much of the increase for Syrians.

The White House said that of 2,174 Syrians admitted to the US since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, none has been arrested or deported because of terrorism allegations. Currently, the refugee screening process typically takes 18 to 24 months and includes interviews, fingerprinting and database crosschecks by several federal agencies. Syrians undergo additional screening involving data from the UN Refugee Agency and interviews by Homeland Security Department officials trained to question Syrians. Republicans said that with Islamic State militants openly threatening to attack the US in a recent video, that system isn't sufficient to ensure Americans that refugees entering the United States aren't ter-

rorists. Several conservative Republicans said they'd support the House Republican bill but called it symbolic since Republicans lack the votes needed to override an Obama veto. Many of them are considering pushing the issue in a massive spending bill due by Dec. 11 - a measure that if vetoed would spark a government shutdown. Democrats said the Republican legislation would in effect completely block Syrian and Iraqi refugees from entering the country because officials cannot absolutely guarantee that they wouldn't be threats, and because it would take two years to install new procedures the bill would mandate. Even so, there were signs many Democrats felt uncomfortable flatly opposing the Republican effort. The 15-member Blue Dog Coalition of moderate Democrats said it would support the legislation. Rep. Kurt Schrader, said the measure makes the system "stronger and makes it safer for America to do the right thing by accepting legitimate refugees." —AP

## LOS ANGELES COUNTY OFFICER FOUND SHOT TO DEATH

**DOWNEY, California:** A police officer in the city of Downey was found shot to death in the parking lot of police headquarters and a hunt is on for at least one suspect, Los Angeles County sheriff's officials said yesterday. The officer, who has not been named, was found late Wednesday, according to Deputy Guillermina Saldana. A large perimeter was set up in the neighboring city of Montebello, where SWAT officers swept neighborhoods early yesterday.

Resident Victor Bocanegra said police knocked on his door shortly after 2 a.m. and escorted his family out to the street. "They've evacuated some buildings and some townhomes," Bocanegra told KABC-TV. "My family's scared."

Bocanegra said he saw police put at least two people into patrol cars and drive away. The parking lot at the Downey Police Department was cordoned off by investigators. Downey is a city of about 110,000 residents 10 miles southeast of downtown Los Angeles. —AP





**NAYPYITAW:** Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, center, is escorted by security personnel as she leaves for parliament regular session after meeting with Shwe Mann, speaker of Lower House in Naypyitaw yesterday. —AP

## SUU KYI BEGINS 'RECONCILIATION' TALKS AMID MYANMAR JITTERS

MYANMAR MOVING FROM MILITARY RULE TO DEMOCRACY

**NAYPYIDAW, Myanmar:** Aung San Suu Kyi met Myanmar's influential parliamentary speaker yesterday for key talks as the country moves from decades of military rule toward democracy after landmark polls this month. Uncertainty surrounds the handover of power in the Southeast Asian nation, after Suu Kyi's opposition National League for Democracy swept to victory in the November 8 polls, the fairest elections in 25 years.

She held a closed-door meeting in the capital Naypyidaw with Shwe Mann, a former general with whom she has an amicable working relationship. The pair agreed to a number of shared goals that were later released in a statement by the NLD, including national reconciliation, peace and the smooth running of parliament during the country's political transition.

"We are working on important matters for the country," NLD spokesman Win Htein told AFP earlier.

Suu Kyi has requested three "national reconciliation" discussions, including with the president and army chief. Shwe Mann had at one point been tipped as a potential

compromise candidate for the role.

But he was ousted from the leadership of the army-backed ruling Union Solidarity and Development Party in August, and then lost his constituency seat in the elections. But he continues to wield influence as speaker of the combined national parliament, which reconvened this week for a lame duck session that will last until January.

On Monday he told lawmakers—many of whom have lost their seats to the NLD—to continue their work "faithfully" and to "pave the way" for the next administration.

### Talks uncertainty

There are jitters over Myanmar's transition, specifically who will be the next president—a role denied to Suu Kyi by the army-drafted constitution because she married and had children with a foreigner.

Suu Kyi has requested talks with President Thein Sein and powerful army chief Min Aung Hlaing to try and smooth a change of leadership that will further chip away at the military's influence. Both men have agreed to the meetings and congratu-

lated Suu Kyi on her party's poll victory. But a date for talks has not been set and officials in the president's office have indicated that it could be weeks before they can go ahead. This has jarred nerves in Myanmar, where the NLD's 1990 electoral landslide was ignored by the then ruling junta, who held onto power for a further two decades before ceding to a quasi-civilian regime in 2011.

Thein Sein will remain in office until March under Myanmar's complex system, which enshrines a lengthy power handover as well as continued political and economic clout for the military.

He will wait until after "all the processes of the election" are completed, the President's Office director Zaw Htay told AFP. This could be protracted as election officials wait for final results from a handful of constituencies, while also processing complaints of irregularities from some candidates.

Suu Kyi has opted to take a modest approach to victory so far, dampening celebrations despite her party's 80 percent majority in the combined national parliament. —AFP

## TALEBAN GUNMEN LAUNCH SUICIDE ATTACK NEAR KANDAHAR

**KANDAHAR:** Taliban militants wearing Afghan army uniforms launched a suicide and gun attack on a police headquarters near Kandahar yesterday, killing one soldier before the attackers were shot dead, authorities said. The attack came at dawn in the district of Arghandab, some 25 kilometers (15 miles) west of Kandahar in southern Afghanistan, a relatively quiet area unused to such attacks, which appear to be a sign of the Taliban's alarming new push into urban areas.

Six people—five assailants and one Afghan army soldier—were killed in the attack, police said. "First one attacker detonated his vehicle laden with explosives at the entrance of the Arghandab police headquarters, then four others tried to enter the compound," Zia Durrani, Kandahar police

spokesman told AFP. The attack lasted half an hour before the gunmen were killed by security forces, Durrani said.

Niaz Mohammad Mujahid, police chief for Arghandab district, said that one Afghan soldier was killed and three others were injured. A spokesman for the Kandahar governor confirmed the assault.

The Taliban, who have been fighting a bloody insurgency since they were driven from power in the US invasion of 2001, claimed responsibility for the attack. "When I heard the explosion I thought of my son, who serves in the police force," Shafi Aka, a local Arghandab resident, told AFP.

"I called my son right away and heard him saying, 'We are under attack.'" His son survived the assault. —AFP

## BLOOD MONEY REFORM TO SEE PAKISTANIS GET AWAY WITH MURDER NO MORE

**ISLAMABAD:** Pakistan is set to reform its controversial Islamic blood money laws that allow murderers to escape punishment if they are forgiven by their victim's heirs, a senior official said yesterday.

Critics contend that the law, which was passed in 1990, allows the wealthy and the powerful to walk scot-free from homicide convictions either by intimidating their victim's loved ones, making them a financial offer that they cannot refuse, or both. The Qisas (retribution) and Diyat (blood money) law was famously invoked in the case of Raymond Allen Davis, a CIA contractor who shot two men dead in the eastern city of Lahore in 2011.

The incident sparked a diplomatic furore which was only resolved when Davis was pardoned in return for a \$2.4 million settlement with the men's families. The 2012 killing of 20-year-old Karachi student Shahzeb Khan by two young men who belonged to powerful political families also drew national outrage after Khan's parents pardoned the killers, reportedly due to threats.

But under the proposed reforms, a pardon can only be granted if a murderer has been convicted, according to Ashtar Ausaf Ali, the special assistant to the prime minister on legal affairs.

And a convicted murderer will have to face a minimum of seven years in prison, even if they are pardoned by their victim's relatives and avoid the death penalty, Ali said. "This law has been abused," he told AFP. "This abuse was to the degree that influential and rich people would get away with murder, literally."

Furthermore, a murder convict must have confessed to his crime before a trial has taken place in order to be eligible to seek such a pardon; or have been convicted on the basis of the eye-witness testimony of two upstanding Muslim men—a condition that is unlikely to be fulfilled in reality. —AFP



**RAWALPINDI:** Pakistan's top model, Ayaan Ali, arrives for a court appearance in Rawalpindi yesterday. —AP

## TOP PAKISTAN MODEL INDICTED OVER \$500,000 SMUGGLING CHARGES

**ISLAMABAD:** Award-winning Pakistani fashion model Ayaan Ali was indicted yesterday on charges she tried to smuggle \$500,000 in undeclared cash from Islamabad to Dubai, court officials said. Ali, 22, was arrested in March for allegedly trying to fly out of the Pakistani capital to Dubai with the cash on her person. She was released on bail in July, and on Thursday she appeared in a Pakistani customs court, where a judge "indicted her over currency smuggling charges," a court official told AFP.

The high-profile model pleaded not guilty, the official added. If convicted she faces fines, the confiscation of property, and up to ten years in jail.

The judge fixed the next hearing on December 8 and ordered the customs officials to produce witnesses, the official said. Ali's lawyer Latif Khosa could not be reached for comment with his office saying he was too busy to speak to media. —AFP



## INDONESIA RELEASES PROMINENT PAPUAN INDEPENDENCE LEADER

**ABEPURA, Indonesia:** A high-profile Papuan separatist leader was released from prison yesterday after more than a decade behind bars, a fresh sign that Indonesia may be easing its tight grip on the restive eastern region. Filep Karma, the most prominent of Papua's political prisoners and convicted of raising a pro-independence flag, walked free from jail to an emotional welcome by hundreds of cheering supporters.

His release had been held up for months after he refused to admit guilt in line with demands from the government. In the end, authorities agreed to grant him a sentence remission for good behavior, according to Human Rights Watch.

However 56-year-old Karma told AFP he had been pressured by officials to leave the jail on the outskirts of the city of Jayapura, which he said felt like home after so many years. "When I was jailed, I had in mind that I was going to be released in 2019, and suddenly I was kicked out-so I was shocked," he said.

The move came after Indonesian President Joko Widodo pledged to improve livelihoods in the poor region, where security forces have long faced accusations of rights abuses against the local population in the name of anti-rebel operations.

A low-level insurgency has simmered for decades in Papua, where poorly armed fighters are battling against rule from Jakarta, and the region has a heavy military and police presence.

Dozens of separatists are in jail for committing treason for acts such as raising the pro-independence "Morning Star" flag and taking part in anti-government protests. Karma was the most high-profile of the separatist detainees. He was found guilty of treason and jailed in 2004 after raising the banned flag at a rally.

The United Nations had condemned his detention as "arbitrary", while Amnesty International had designated him a prisoner of conscience. Karma's release came after five political prisoners were freed in May at a ceremony attended by Widodo. The president also pledged to end decades-old reporting restrictions for foreigners in Papua, although rights groups say the government continues to block access.

There are still regular flare-ups of violence in Papua, which consists of two provinces, Papua and West Papua. Jakarta took control of the region, which forms half of the island of New Guinea, in 1963 from former colonial power the Netherlands. —AFP



**ABEPURA:** Papuan pro-independence activist Filep Karma (inside vehicle) shakes hands with his supporters after being released from prison in Abepura, Papua province yesterday. —AFP



**BEIJING:** India's Minister of Home Affairs Rajnath Singh (left) shakes hands with China's Premier Li Keqiang during a meeting at the Zhongnanhai Leadership Compound in Beijing yesterday. —AFP

## BEIJING STRONGLY CONDEMNS IS KILLING OF CHINESE HOSTAGE TERRORISTS COMMON ENEMY TO MANKIND: XI

**BEIJING:** China's president yesterday strongly condemned the killing of a Chinese hostage by Islamic State extremists, saying such groups are enemies of mankind. Though President Xi Jinping expressed resolve to crack down on terrorism, there was no indication that China would change its consistent opposition to outside involvement in the conflict in Syria, where IS has captured a broad swath of territory. Beijing says the Syrians themselves need to arrive at a political solution. IS said in its magazine Wednesday that it had killed two hostages it was holding for ransom - from Norway and China - after they had been "abandoned" by what it called infidel nations.

The Chinese man had been identified as Fan Jinghui, 50, a self-described wanderer from Beijing who once taught grade school and sometimes worked in TV production. China's Foreign Ministry confirmed his killing early yesterday. "China strongly condemns the brutality of the killing of a Chinese national by the Islamic State extremists," the Chinese president said in Manila while attending an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation meeting. He was quoted by China's official Xinhua News Agency. He expressed his condolences to the victim's family.

"Terrorists are the common enemy of humankind," Xi said. "China firmly opposes terrorists of all forms and resolutely cracks down on any crimes that challenge the foundation of human civilization."

Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei said China made all-out efforts to save Fan, but did not specify what actions were taken. Fan also worked in advertising and TV production and described himself as a free spirit during an interview in 2001 by China National Radio.

"I love reading about the history of science," Fan said on the program profiling people without fixed careers. "And the



**BEIJING:** China Hostage Killed Hong Lei Chinese foreign ministry spokesman speaks during a daily briefing at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs office in Beijing yesterday.

ancient Greek great philosophers' pure spiritual pursuit of freedom really gave me a jolt. That great spirit can be seen as the powerful motive for me to go after freedom."

Fan said in the interview that he was born in 1965 and worked as a school teacher for six years after graduating from college. He said he joined an advertising firm in 1994 but left after about a year and later worked odd jobs, including as an off-the-books assistant producer at state TV broadcaster CCTV.

In 2002 he registered his own advertising firm, Beijing Jingcai Yinsu Advertising Co Ltd, according to a corporate database run by the Beijing government. However, the license was revoked from September 2003 until at least 2009, and it is unclear if it was later renewed.

Yesterday, a police car was parked out-

side the middle school where his wife works, and the school gatekeeper told a reporter that she had not come to the office. Calls to her cellphone rang unanswered. No one answered the door at Fan's apartment in a modest residential compound in western Beijing, where elderly people in the neighborhood were patrolling the grounds to keep strangers out.

China has not dispatched troops, planes or any other assets to take part in fighting in Syria. However, Beijing in recent years has shown a willingness to use its military to protect its citizens in conflict zones and dispatched planes and a navy frigate to aid in the evacuation of 35,000 Chinese workers from Libya in 2011. More recently, China sent a naval squadron to Yemen this spring to rescue Chinese citizens and other foreign nationals from fighting. —AP



## OBAMA SAYS CAN CLOSE GUANTANAMO JAIL WHILE KEEPING AMERICANS SAFE

**MANILA:** US President Barack Obama vowed yesterday to press ahead with the release of his plan on how he hopes to close the Guantanamo military prison but said last week's Paris attacks would stoke further congressional resistance to his efforts. Obama drew a link between a bid by Republicans to block the inflow of Syrian refugees to the United States, based on concerns they could ignite Paris-style violence in American cities, and their opposition to the closing of the Guantanamo detention center at the US Navy base in Cuba.

While attending an Asia-Pacific summit in Manila, he spoke amid fresh delays in his administration's submission to Congress of a plan aimed at meeting his long-standing pledge to shut the internationally condemned prison for foreign terrorism sus-

pects. "We can keep the American people safe while shutting down that operation," Obama told reporters at a joint appearance before reporters with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

Obama predicted that the prison's population would be reduced to fewer than a hundred by early next year, an important symbolic milestone. The number has been whittled down to 107 prisoners, mostly through repatriations and transfers to third countries.

The Pentagon had been expected to unveil Obama's Guantanamo closure plan last week, before his departure for summits in Turkey and Southeast Asia, US officials said. But that was held up without explanation, and Obama did not specify any new timeline. The killing of 129 people in gun

and bomb attacks last week in Paris in attacks claimed by Islamic State appears to have complicated Obama's Guantanamo strategy.

Some of Obama's Republican critics have called on him to drop the idea of closing Guantanamo, saying this is not the time to release more inmates overseas or bring them to US prisons.

Obama equated that with calls from Republicans who say that the US acceptance of Syrian refugees should be restricted because militants might slip into the country and carry out attacks, an argument he has dismissed as politically motivated. He reiterated his view that Guantanamo has been "an enormous recruitment tool" for groups like Islamic State, which has seized swathes of Syria and Iraq.

"We are going to go through meticulously, with Congress, what our options are and why we think this should be closed," Obama said. "I guarantee you there will be strong resistance, because in the aftermath of Paris, I think that there is just a very strong tendency for us to get worked up around issues that don't actually make us safer."

Republicans who control Congress have vowed to block Obama's efforts to transfer any detainees to the United States from Guantanamo, which was opened by his predecessor, George W. Bush, after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

The White House has not ruled out the possibility that Obama could use executive powers to shut the prison, but some lawmakers have vowed legal action if he takes that route. — Reuters

## BEHIND POMP OF APEC SUMMIT, CRUSHING POVERTY ENDURES

**MANILA:** Just a few miles from the gleaming venue hosting President Barack Obama and other world leaders sits Manila's slum of slums on a mountain of trash, a potent reminder to the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation bloc that the globalization agenda it promotes has left many behind.

"What's APEC?" asked Winifredo Sumaya, a 60-year-old jobless man standing outside a squalid shack atop "Smokey Mountain" in the Philippine capital's Tondo slum district. The shanty village lies on a massive garbage pile which once billowed smoke, hence its name, until the dump was shut down by the government in the 1990s as it tried to remove an eyesore that symbolized its failure to ease wrenching poverty.

With the closure, hundreds of garbage-scavenging families left in search of a livelihood elsewhere, but others such as the Sumaya family came and went as they drifted in a life of poverty and uncertainty.

It was unlikely Sumaya would know APEC. He doesn't know who Obama is either. The tubercular man dropped out of grade school in Ormoc city in the eastern province of Leyte because his father, a farmer, could no longer afford to pay for education. In Sumaya's low-slung dwelling of scrap wood, tin and plastic there's no toilet, tap water, radio and much less a TV set. Almost everything that his family owns was recycled from nearby garbage dumps, including a baseball cap that he wore backwards, his shorts and a pair of grimy Crocs.

### Diseases

Age and a variety of lung and other illnesses now keep him from wandering much, except when he peddles colorful hand-sewn pillows he and his wife craft from scrap cotton that they buy from Tondo's junk shops.

"We need a small house that can't be taken from us and any job for an old man like me," said Sumaya, when asked what message he would send to the global leaders meeting under extra heavy security in a convention center 11 kilometers (7 miles) away from Manila Bay.—AP



**MANILA:** Winifredo Sumaya, 60-years-old sits in front of his house in the slum "Smokey Mountain" in Manila, Philippines. — AP



**MANILA:** Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau (center) waves to members of the media and summit volunteers as he leaves after a press conference at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit in Manila yesterday.—AFP

## ASIA PACIFIC LEADERS URGE RAMPED-UP TERROR FIGHT

### WAVE OF DEADLY IS ATTACKS DOMINATES APEC SUMMIT

**MANILA:** Asia Pacific leaders called yesterday for more global cooperation in the struggle against terrorism, as a wave of deadly attacks claimed by the Islamic State group dominated the final day of a regional trade summit.

The annual 21-member Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) gathering-hosted this year by the Philippines-is meant to forge trade unity but often finds itself sidetracked by other events.

This week US President Barack Obama has sought to bolster allies locked in a territorial row with China over the South China Sea, which is home to some of the world's most important shipping lanes.

The spectre of terrorism has also hung heavily over the gathering, with France, Russia and Lebanon all reeling from devastating assaults on their citizens that the Islamic State group says it carried out.

"We strongly condemn all acts, methods and practices of terrorism in all their forms and manifestations," the leaders, which included Obama and Chinese president Xi Jinping, said in an end-of-summit declaration. "We will not allow terrorism to threaten the fundamental values that underpin our free and open economies."

"We stress the urgent need for increased international cooperation and solidarity in the fight against terrorism." Earlier in the day Xi spoke out to condemn the murder of a Chinese hostage by the Islamic State, which also claimed to have killed a Norwegian. "Terrorism is the common enemy of human beings," Xi said, according to the state-run Xinhua news agency. The Islamic State group was also a top concern when Obama met newly-elected Canadian counterpart Justin Trudeau on the sidelines of the summit.

Trudeau, who has vowed to pull out Canada's fighter jets from Iraq and Syria, said his country would remain "a strong member of the coalition" against IS.

Obama, meanwhile, reiterated his demand that Syria's civil war would only end if Russia-backed Bashar Al-Assad left power. "I do not foresee a situation in which we can end the civil war in Syria while Assad remains in power," he told reporters after meeting Trudeau.

### Spared violence but fearing it

The populous and economically vibrant Asia Pacific region has largely been spared attacks by the Syria and Iraq based IS group. But some APEC members, such as Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore, fear their nationals fighting for the group might one day return and wreak havoc at home.—AFP



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2015

Friday Times

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## Latin music world honors Brazilian ballad king Carlos

Celine Dion walks on stage to present a Trustees Award at the Lifetime Achievement and Trustees Awards presentation at the Ka Theater in the MGM Grand Hotel on Wednesday in Las Vegas.— AP





ChocQuibTown arrives for the 2015 Latin Recording Academy Person of the Year gala. — AP photos



Alejandro Sanz performs on stage.



Dionne Warwick performs on stage.



Maluma (left) and Leslie Grace perform on stage.



Romeo Santos performs on stage.



Brazilian singer and composer Roberto Carlos performs on stage.



Malu (left) and Melendi perform on stage.



Jesse & Joy perform on stage.

# Latin music world honors Brazilian ballad king **Carlos**

The Latin music world turned out Wednesday to celebrate Roberto Carlos, the Brazilian ballad singer who is one of the region's most successful artists. The 74-year-old nicknamed the "King of Latin Music" was named Person of the Year at the Latin Grammys, a day before the Spanish- and Portuguese-language music industry's biggest award night. "I'm very moved. This is without doubt a very special moment in my life," Carlos, who sported an electric-blue sequined tie for the occasion in Las Vegas, told AFP.

"I'm very proud of everything I've achieved," he said, overcome by emotion. Carlos' career crossed Brazil's borders in the 1970s as he won a following for pop tunes, often ballads about love, that he sung in Spanish, English, French and Italian, along with his native Portuguese. He has sold more than 120 million records in Latin America, topping The Beatles and Elvis Presley in the region. Asked his secret at keeping fans for so many years, Carlos said with a sly smile: "I don't know if there is one. And if there is, I have to find it out."

Dozens of artists joined in the celebration, many of them wearing the singer's signature color white in his honor. The Spanish performer Miguel Bose, who was Person of the Year in 2013, said that Carlos has "for decades made the soundtrack for many hearts." "He created a style and contributed greatly to it. He's one of the greatest," Bose told AFP. Colombian singer Carlos Vives said that the Brazilian's romantic songs "will never go out of style, because that's how you talk about women and love."

Spanish songwriting giant Alejandro Sanz paid tribute with a powerful guitar version of "Lady Laura," and rising stars Leslie Grace and Maluma performed "Jesus Christo," one of the songs in which Carlos reflected on his Catholic faith. Bachata music sensation Roberto Santos played "Un Gato en la Oscuridad" ("A Cat in the Dark"), while fellow Brazilians Ana Carolina and Seu Jorge

teamed up for "La Distancia" ("The Distance"). "I'll never in my life forget this," Carlos told the 1,300-person crowd as he accepted the Person of the Year award.

Carlos offered thanks with a performance in Portuguese of "Emociones" ("Emotions") and, in Spanish, his most famous song, "Un Millon de Amigos" ("One Million Friends"), to which the audience clapped along. The Latin Grammys honored more music greats at the awards yesterday, with tributes to Cuban singer and guitarist Pablo Milanes, Spanish duo Ana Belen and Victor Manuel, and Argentine jazz saxophonist Gato Barbieri. — AFP



Mario Domm and Pablo Hurtado of Camila and Paula Fernandes perform on stage.







An Indian couple rides past a movie hall displaying a poster of the latest James Bond movie "Spectre," in New Delhi, India, yesterday. — AP photos

## Pay attention 007: In India, you can kill - but don't kiss

If the Indian censors have their way, James Bond can make liberal use of his license to kill. But he'll have to cut back on the kissing - by exactly half. The latest installment of the 007 franchise, "Spectre", will be released on Friday with heavy cuts after censors deemed the romantic encounters between Daniel Craig, and co-stars Monica Bellucci and Lea Seydoux, inappropriate for the viewing public. "The committee which was to certify the film thought some of the kissing scenes were too long," said a source familiar with the application to the censors, who asked Sony Pictures cut the kissing scenes by 50 percent.



A file picture taken on October 28, 2015 shows British actor Daniel Craig posing for photographers at a photocall for the new James Bond film 'Spectre' in Berlin.

The studio either had the choice to accept the cuts or apply for an A certificate, which significantly cuts down reach and exhibition." The Censor Board is controlled by India's nationalist government and has turned a disapproving eye on films with steamy sex scenes. It is currently headed by Pahlaj Nihalani, a Bollywood producer who made a campaign video for Prime Minister Narendra Modi last year, and released another promotional video for him last week. Its ruling has been panned by critics on social media, who accuse it of serving the government's conservative moral agenda, stifling freedom of expression. Nihalani could not be reached for comment. Under Indian law, films with an A - or adult - certificate can't be shown on TV.

India still accounts for a fraction of Hollywood's revenues, but franchises like James Bond and the Avengers can beat Bollywood's own productions at the box office. "50 Shades of Grey", the film based on E.L. James's erotic novel, was never released in India even after the studio cut every sex scene. The board rejected it on the basis that the language used in the film was inappropriate. — Reuters

# Springsteen, Legend among performers at all-star concert



Big Sean, left, and John Legend perform at Shining a Light: A Concert for Progress on Race in America at the Shrine Auditorium.

Bruce Springsteen rocked out with John Legend, Eric Church teamed up with Smokey Robinson, and Miguel wailed alongside Tori Kelly at a musical event focusing on race relations in America. Springsteen and Legend launched "Shining a Light: A Concert for Progress on Race in America" at the Shrine Auditorium on Wednesday with a rendition of "American Skin (41 Shots)," a song Springsteen wrote about the 1999 police shooting death of Guinean immigrant Amadou Diallo. "Tonight, as we mourn the loss of life in Paris, let us rededicate ourselves to erasing the hate and to creating an America where we can all move on up together toward justice, community, love,

brotherhood, sisterhood and freedom," said actor Morgan Freeman at the beginning of the evening.

The all-star concert was peppered with several duets, including Miguel and Kelly covering En Vogue's "Free Your Mind" and Nick Jonas joining Andra Day for her "Rise Up." Church was backed up for his song "Kill a Word" by Robinson, as well as Alicia Keys and Aloe Blacc. Legend racked up the most collaborations of the night on stage. After kicking off the concert with Springsteen, he was later united with Pink for "Someday We'll All Be Free" and closed out the event with Big Sean for "One Man Can Change the World." The concert was taped for a two-

hour special that will air Friday across A&E Networks and iHeartRadio radio and TV stations.

Other performers Wednesday included Zac Brown Band, Sia, Rhiannon Giddens, Sting, Ed Sheeran and Jamie Foxx, who brought his 6-year-old daughter, Annalise, on stage with her friends and asked her to recite the books of the Bible. Jill Scott delivered the night's most captivating performance, crooning "Strange Fruit," the protest song popularized by Billie Holiday, in front of giant screens displaying imagery of lynching. The night's performances weren't relegated to singing alone. Nicki Minaj recited the Maya Angelou poem "Still I Rise," while comedian George Lopez poked fun at Donald Trump.

"Demographics in this country are changing every second of every day," Lopez said. "You can build a thousand walls, 100 feet high, and nothing will change that. You know why? Because we've got tunnels." Between performances, videos about racial inequality and violence in Baltimore; Charleston, South Carolina; and Ferguson, Missouri, were broadcast to the audience. Pharrell Williams spoke with families at the South Carolina church where nine black parishioners were shot and killed June 17. He also performed his song "Freedom." Keys visited mothers and children in Baltimore, where protests and rioting followed in April after the death of Freddie Gray, who died after he was injured in police custody. Legend talked with the wives of police officers in Ferguson, where the death of Michael Brown led to protests and unrest. The proceeds from the sold-out event will go to the Fund for Progress on Race in America through the United Way. — AP



Bruce Springsteen, left, and John Legend perform at Shining a Light: A Concert for Progress on Race in America at the Shrine Auditorium on Wednesday in Los Angeles. — AP photos

## Stewart, Kendrick, Mamet star in fashion brand holiday shorts

Following previous success with the short film genre, three fashion brands are kicking off the holidays by debuting even more extensive cinematic campaigns- featuring intricate storylines and serious talent. In the latest installment of Kate Spade New York's "Missadventure" series, brand partner Anna Kendrick finds herself vying for a Town Car on a wintry New York City night with "Girls" actress Zosia Mamet. "We chose to pair Zosia with Anna because there was a wonderful harmony," says the film's director, Marielle Heller, who also helmed 2015 feature film "The Diary of a Teenage Girl." "We thought that while they

share the qualities that make someone a Kate Spade New York girl-intelligence, charm, individuality and curiosity-their personal styles could be authentically distinct, and yet complementary."

That the actresses had never met was important to Heller, whose sassy holiday short "The Joy Ride," released in early November, portrays a budding female friendship through sharp dialogue and Upper East Side-esque attire. This fourth film in the playful series continues the journey of modern heroine Kendrick, who turns everyday conundrums (like getting locked out or dining alone) into opportunities-in a way that

Heller hopes will emotionally resonate. "We believe that if we entertain and engage our customer with stories she connects with, she will understand something about Kate Spade New York that runs deeper than the products we sell," Heller says. "She will be inspired to lead a life she loves, and express herself and that life with our products." British luxury fashion house Burberry is also upping its film game this season. Last year, the brand enlisted David and Victoria Beckham's then-12-year-old son Romeo to play Cupid in "From London With Love," Burberry chief creative and chief executive officer Christopher Bailey's directorial debut. —Reuters







People cycle past way past Dutch painter Hieronymus Bosch's former workshop (in green) in the town he was born and lived, in s'Hertogenbosch, the Netherlands. — AFP photos



A view of the Town Hall.

# Bosch's monsters get new life for 500th anniversary

**M**onsters gorging on lost souls, demons torturing sinners contorted in pain, grinning skeletons awaiting the dying: The nightmarish visions of Hieronymus Bosch have both inspired and terrified for centuries. Now to mark the 500th anniversary of the Dutch painter's death, a small museum in his hometown of 's-Hertogenbosch has pulled off a miracle-bringing together 20 of the last 25 known surviving panels by the man dubbed "the devil's painter." The exhibition at the Noordbrabants Museum opens in February, and marks the culmination of a nine-year quest by director Charles de Mooij to reunite Bosch's unique artistic legacy in the place where he lived, worked and died.

It will also kick off a year of events in 's-Hertogenbosch to honor its most famous son with parades, events and art shows, which will even see some of Bosch's most diabolical creations stalk the streets of the medieval town. Despite the small body of his remaining works scattered in museums around the world-as well as changing tastes over half a millennium-fascination with Bosch has never waned. "He

created his own new imaginary language," De Mooij explained to AFP. "All his paintings have that moralistic approach, have that message that you have to be aware of the evil in your life."

#### Beware evil

Bosch was seeking to warn that as man journeys through life, he has choices to make and should use the teachings of Christ as his "moral compass." "At the end when you are judged ... if you have given way to all those temptations you will go to hell," De Mooij said. Bosch's most famous work, a triptych called "The Garden of Earthly Delights"-a journey from Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden to a terrifying vision of hell-will not be on display. It hangs in the Museo Nacional del Prado in Madrid, and De Mooij knew Spain would never let it travel abroad. "It's a pity that we don't have it, but it's understandable," said De Mooij, comparing it to Holland's most precious Rembrandt, "The Night Watch", which draws crowds to the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam. "Would the Rijksmuseum lend 'The Night Watch'? No never, of course not." But in a

remarkable coup, the Prado has agreed to allow Bosch's "The Haywain" to leave Spain for the first time in 450 years. Among other important works in the exhibition will be "Death and the Miser" currently owned by the National Gallery in Washington, and "The Ship of Fools" from the Louvre in Paris.

#### New Bosch work

Jheronimus van Aken was born in the central Dutch town around 1450 to a family of painters. His father and grandfather were both artists, and Bosch and his two brothers joined the family workshop, which still stands today as a souvenir shop in the town's marketplace. As his fame grew he changed his name to Hieronymus Bosch, taking the name of his birthplace so he could be easily found by wealthy patrons. The white-fronted, three-storey house where Bosch later lived with his wife also overlooks the square, and today houses a shoeshop. Bosch died in August 1516 and is buried in the town's St John's Church, whose demonic gargoyles are thought to have provided material for his paintings.







A bronze statue of late Dutch painter Hieronymus Bosch stands in front of his former workshop.



A view of the canal in the town where late Dutch painter Hieronymus Bosch was born and lived.

He did not leave behind any notebooks and diaries however, and relatively little has been known about the inspiration behind each work. So a six-year research project launched by the museum has sought to shed new light on his legacy, with the findings to be published in a 1,000-page



Charles de Mooij, director of the Noordbrabants Museum poses for a photo at the museum which will host a major exhibition of past Dutch painter Hieronymus in the town he was born and lived.

catalogue in January. Twelve of his panels have also been restored and will go on show to the public. De Mooij said sophisticated photographic techniques including X-rays had been used to “look through the surface” to examine the creative process.

Along the way, a team of three art historians also determined that a drawing called “The Infernal Landscape” is indeed one of Bosch’s works. It will join the 20 paintings and 18 other drawings among about 100 works on display for the February 13 to May 8 “Hieronymus Bosch-Visions of Genius” exhibition. But the Bosch Research and Conservation project also revealed late last month that two paintings long believed to have been by Bosch were not painted by him but likely by his pupils or followers.

What would Bosch make of some of the gruesome events taking place around the world today? De Mooij said the medieval painter’s message was always clear. “I think he would say, evil is everywhere. You will meet it every day in little things, but also in very large things.” — AFP



An outside view of the Noordbrabants Museum which will host a major exhibition of past Dutch painter Hieronymus.



A view of the town where late Dutch painter Hieronymus Bosch was born and lived.



A view of Saint John’s Cathedral (Sint-Janskathedraal) is pictured.



A view of the town where late Dutch painter Hieronymus Bosch was born and lived, in s’Hertogenbosch, southern Netherlands.

## Clothes smarter than you are: Welcome to the future

**W**ish there was a gadget able to transform your boring office uniform into a party outfit, or even a device that guides you straight to new friends? Then call Marcelo Coelho. A researcher with Fluid Interfaces at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology’s Media Lab, Coelho works at the cutting edge of wearable devices that may be smarter than the person wearing them. One of the most promising areas is clothing that integrates computers and can practically think for itself.

“You can program your shirt for it to change color, or move to a different pattern,” he said. “Maybe you’re at work today and want your shirt one way, but you’ll be at a party tonight and want it different.” Another creation is a dress with a hemline that rises and falls or another dress, decorated with gently opening and closing flowers. Coelho, 35, was speaking at MIT’s 2015 EmTech conference Wednesday in Rio de Janeiro, where for two days leaders in emerging technology give glimpses of the future.

The message is that science fiction-like developments are rapidly under way in areas as diverse as drones and medicine. But for Coelho, originally from Brazil, the joy is bringing the mysteries of the lab to everyday situations. Building on that office-to-party scenario, Coelho unveiled a device that would help you find the people you might want to talk to, flirt with or avoid. Shaped like a normal watch, the tiny computer is programmed with personal data—your Facebook information or something more customized—then communicates with other devices in the room. “You go to the event and it can match your wrist band to someone else’s,” he explained. “If you have nothing in common with a stranger at the event, a red light will go on and if you do, a green light will go on.” “You may wonder where all this craziness is going,” he said with a wry smile.

### Robots are the past

The answer to that, says another MIT scientist, Skylar Tibbits, is self-assembly.

No, not self-assembly as in struggling with instructions and wrenches over a bed you just bought in a box. Tibbits means self-assembly as in the thing-the bed, or whatever it may be-assembling itself. This is the idea of 4D printing, Tibbits’ specialty. If 3D printers can produce three-dimensional objects at the touch of a button, 4D means they then go on to transform or organize themselves in useful ways. Unlike robots these materials are not computerized and do not need power like electricity. They react to ordinary forces like pressure or heat or water and change, but are engineered by the scientists so that they change shape in a pre-determined way.

For example, a wet shoe or tire can be made to grow better grip, reverting to normal when dry. Tibbits’ Self-Assembly Lab at MIT, is exploring whether the technology can later be applied to much bigger objects, even in construction. “They are materials that behave like robots, but don’t need robots,” Tibbits said by video link. “We eventually propose that the

materials could assemble themselves from scratch.”

If that doesn’t sound creepy enough, consider what Coelho says is the next-next frontier: not wearable technology, but chips and WiFi devices brought right into the human body. “Technology will slowly migrate into the skin and then behind the skin, becoming indistinguishable from the person,” he told AFP. “I’m working on some stuff in that area that I can’t talk much about.” And with every revolution come new risks of the technology falling into the wrong hands—criminals or repressive governments, for example. “With any technology, it could become something completely dystopian—or amazing and empowering,” he said. Referring to the Manhattan Project scientists who invented the nuclear weapons used by the United States against Japan in 1945, Coelho warned that scientists at the frontier of change need deep consciences. “It took the smartest people in the world to create a machine that could wipe out the planet.” — AFP





# Healthy and tasty weeknight dinners

Weeknights are a scramble when you have kids to feed, a house to care for and work the next morning. It can be a daily challenge to find healthy and great food to make that works with all budgets and doesn't take hours to make. Check out these fun and tasty recipes for quick and easy weeknight dinners.

## CURRIED-CHICKEN AND VEGETABLE PAN ROAST

### Ingredients

- 2 pounds butternut squash in 1-inch cubes (from one 2 1/2-pound squash)
- 1 1/2 pounds Brussels sprouts, halved
- 2 large red onions, cut into thin wedges
- 1 cup canola oil
- Salt and freshly ground pepper
- 1 cup plain fat-free Greek yogurt, plus more for serving
- 2 tablespoons minced fresh ginger
- 2 large garlic cloves, minced
- 1 tablespoon Madras curry powder

- 4 pounds skinless, boneless chicken thighs
- Warm naan, for serving

### Instructions

1. Preheat the oven to 450° and position racks in the upper and middle thirds. In a very large bowl, toss the butternut squash with the Brussels sprouts, onion wedges and 1/2 cup of the canola oil; season with salt and pepper. Spread the vegetables on 2 large, sturdy rimmed baking sheets.
2. In the same bowl, combine the cup of yogurt with the ginger, garlic, curry powder and the remaining 1/2 cup of oil

and season with salt and pepper. Add the chicken and toss until thoroughly coated. Arrange the chicken on top of the vegetables. Roast for about 40 minutes, rotating the pans halfway through, until the vegetables are nearly tender and the chicken is nearly cooked through. Pour off any accumulated liquid in the pans and roast for about 20 minutes longer, until the vegetables are tender and the chicken is lightly browned. Transfer the chicken and vegetables to a platter and serve with warm naan and yogurt.

— Sent in by Mai M







### Ingredients

#### For the dressing:

- ▶ 1 2/3 cups fresh cilantro (from about 1/2 bunch), long, thick stems removed
- ▶ 3/4 cup roasted, unsalted peanuts
- ▶ 1/3 cup Sriracha hot sauce
- ▶ 2 tablespoons finely grated lime zest (from about 3 medium limes)
- ▶ 1/4 cup freshly squeezed lime juice (from about 3 medium limes)
- ▶ 1/4 cup toasted sesame oil
- ▶ 1 tablespoon packed dark brown sugar
- ▶ 2 medium garlic cloves
- ▶ 1 1/2 teaspoons kosher salt

#### For the quinoa:

- ▶ 2 cups quinoa, any color or variety
- ▶ 1 (14-ounce) can unsweetened coconut milk
- ▶ 1 1/3 cups vegetable stock or low-sodium vegetable broth
- ▶ 1 teaspoon kosher salt, plus more as needed
- ▶ 1 (14- to 16-ounce) package firm tofu
- ▶ 2 medium carrots (about 8 ounces)
- ▶ 1 medium broccoli head (about 1 pound)
- ▶ 4 medium scallions
- ▶ 2 tablespoons vegetable oil

#### To garnish:

- ▶ Coarsely chopped fresh cilantro
- ▶ Coarsely chopped roasted, unsalted peanuts
- ▶ Thinly sliced scallions

### Instructions

#### For the dressing:

1. Place all of the ingredients in a food processor fitted with a blade attachment. Process until smooth, scraping down the sides of the bowl as needed, about 1 minute; set aside.

#### For the quinoa:

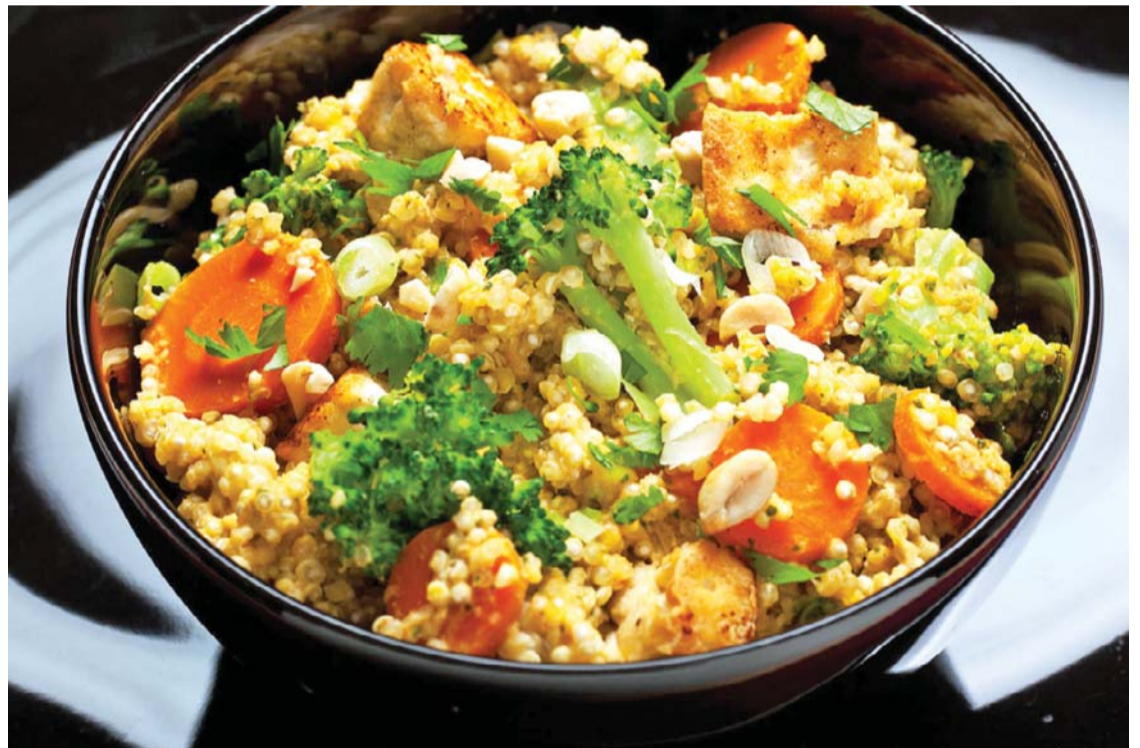
1. Rinse the quinoa in a strainer under cold water until the water runs clear. Place in a large saucepan; add the coconut milk, vegetable broth, and measured salt; and stir to combine. Bring to a boil over medium-high heat. Reduce the heat to low and simmer, stirring occasionally, until the white outer casings on the quinoa have popped, revealing translucent

little beads, about 15 to 20 minutes.

2. Meanwhile, line a large plate with several layers of paper towels. Drain the tofu, cut it into large dice, and place it in a single layer on the paper-towel-lined plate; set aside. Trim the carrots and cut them into 1/8-inch-thick rounds; set aside. Trim the stem of the broccoli to 1/2 inch and cut the head into 1-inch florets; set aside. Thinly slice the white and light green parts of the scallions; set aside.

are golden brown, about 4 minutes. (While the tofu is cooking, line the plate you drained it on with fresh paper towels.) Flip and cook until the other sides are golden brown, about 3 to 4 minutes more. Using a slotted spoon, remove to the paper-towel-lined plate and season with salt; set aside.

5. Add the carrots to the boiling water and cook until crisp-tender, about 2 minutes. Using a slotted spoon, remove them to the bowl with the quinoa.



3. When the quinoa is ready, remove it to a large serving bowl and set aside. Wash the saucepan, fill it with water, and season generously with salt. Cover with a tightfitting lid and bring to a boil over high heat.
4. Meanwhile, heat the oil in a large nonstick frying pan over medium-high heat until shimmering. Add the tofu and cook without stirring until the bottoms

Return the water to a boil, add the broccoli, and cook until crisp-tender, about 3 minutes. Drain in a colander and place in the bowl with the quinoa and carrots.

6. Add the cooked tofu, dressing, and scallions to the bowl and stir to combine. Garnish with additional cilantro, peanuts, and scallions before serving.



## Weeknight Chocolate Pudding

### Ingredients

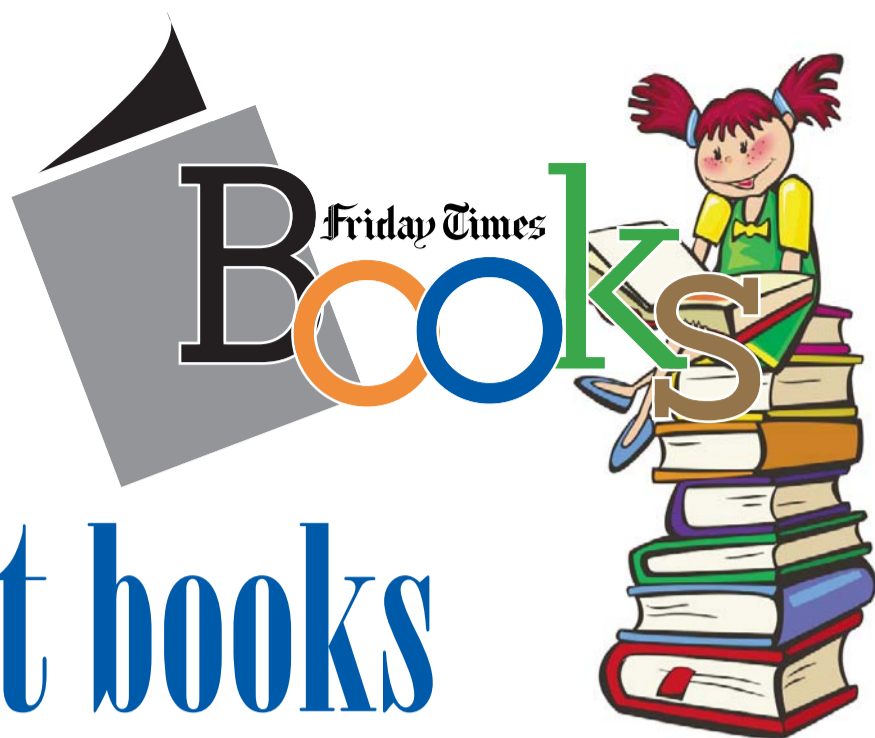
- 2 cups whole milk
- 1 tablespoon unsalted butter
- 5 tablespoons sugar
- 2 tablespoons unsweetened cocoa powder
- 2 tablespoons cornstarch
- 2 tablespoons water
- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla or almond extract

### Instructions

In a medium saucepan, combine milk and butter. Heat over medium-low heat, stirring gently to melt butter. In a small bowl, combine sugar, cocoa and cornstarch - add water and mix to create a paste. Add paste into milk mixture and whisk well to combine.

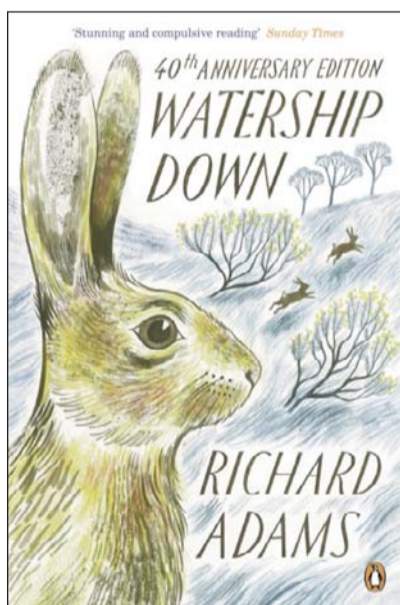
Raise heat to medium and cook, stirring with a wooden spoon until thick and bubbly, about 5 minutes. Remove from heat and stir in extract. Transfer to a bowl or 4 dessert dishes and cover with plastic wrap (make sure the plastic is touching the pudding to prevent a skin from forming). Refrigerate for at least 4 hours.





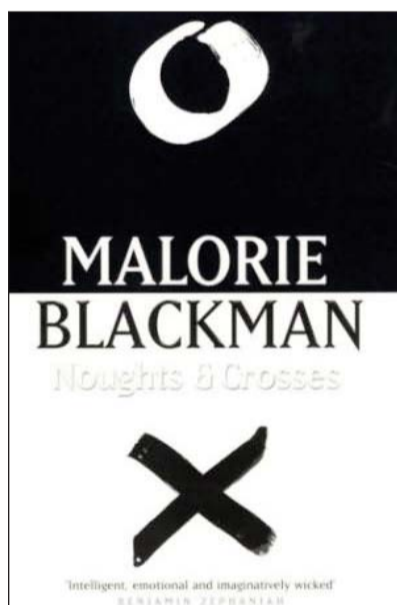
# Best books for kids ages 12-14

Take a look at BookTrust's picks of the best books for 12-14 year olds from the last 100 years.



**Watership Down**  
by Richard Adams (Penguin)

Young rabbit Fiver is convinced that a great evil is about to befall the warren where he lives - but no one will listen to him.



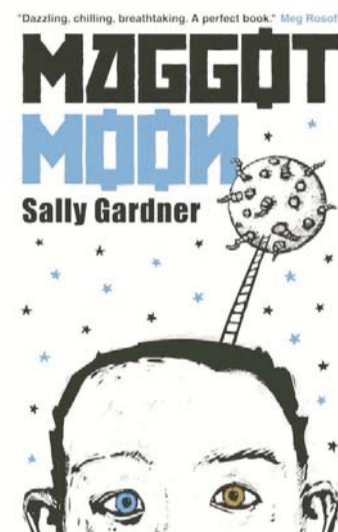
**Noughts and Crosses**  
by Malorie Blackman (Doubleday Children's Books)

Callum is a Nought but his best friend Sephy is a Cross - the daughter of one of the most influential politicians in the country.



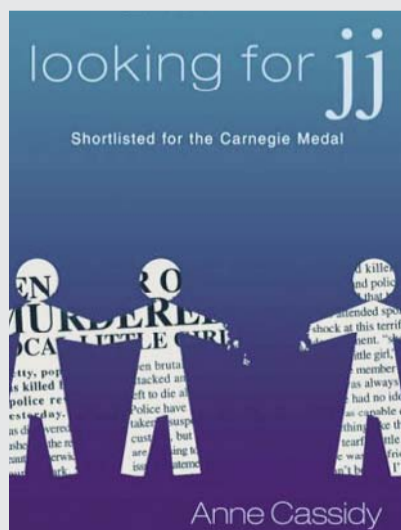
**The Graveyard Book**  
by Neil Gaiman (Bloomsbury)

After his family are killed, Bod is brought up in a graveyard by ghosts.



**Maggot Moon**  
by Sally Gardner (Hot Key Books)

Combining conspiracy theory and dystopia, this hugely original novel is set in an alternate 1950s in which Britain is dominated by the ruthlessly oppressive forces of The Motherland.

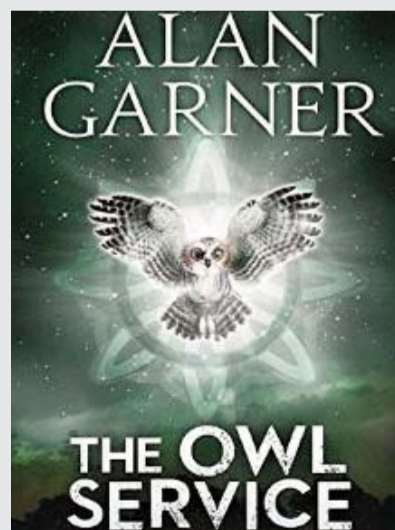
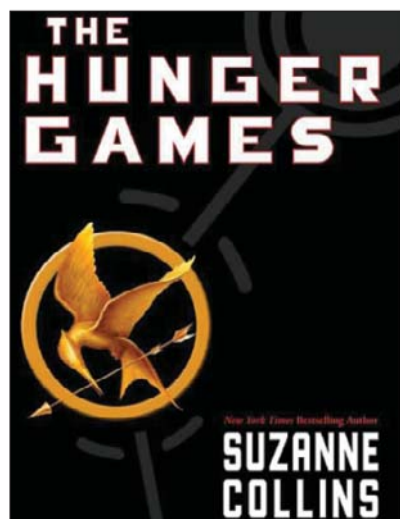


**Looking for JJ**  
by Anne Cassidy (Scholastic)

When a 10-year-old girl kills her best friend, she is convicted of manslaughter and locked away. Seven years later she is released on license with a new identity.

**The Hunger Games**  
by Suzanne Collins (Scholastic)

Welcome to Panem: its Capitol repressively rules twelve satellite Districts, enslaving the populations as workers and controlling them through hunger.

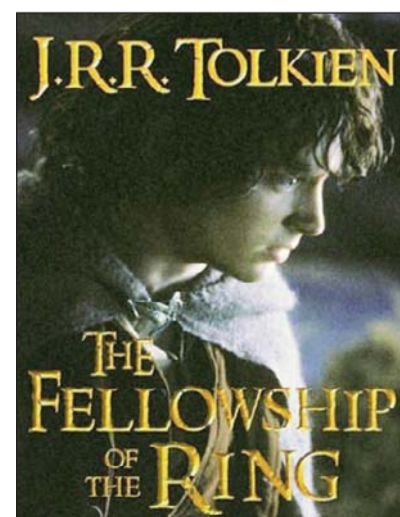


**The Owl Service**  
by Alan Garner (HarperCollins Children's Books)

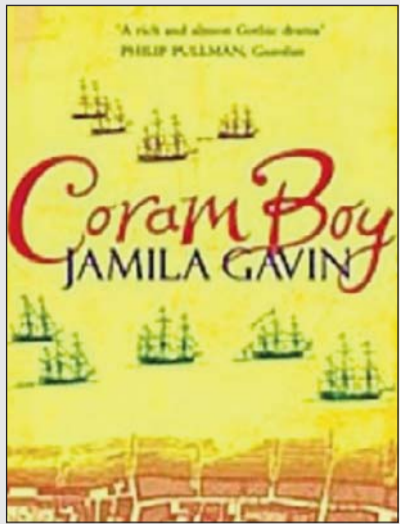
When Alison finds a curious dinner service in the attic, the discovery sets off a strange chain of events that look set to effect everyone's lives.

**The Fellowship of The Ring**  
by JRR Tolkien (HarperCollins)

The first part of JRR Tolkien's epic masterpiece The Lord of the Rings, this is the story of young hobbit Frodo Baggins, who finds himself faced with an immense and terrible duty.





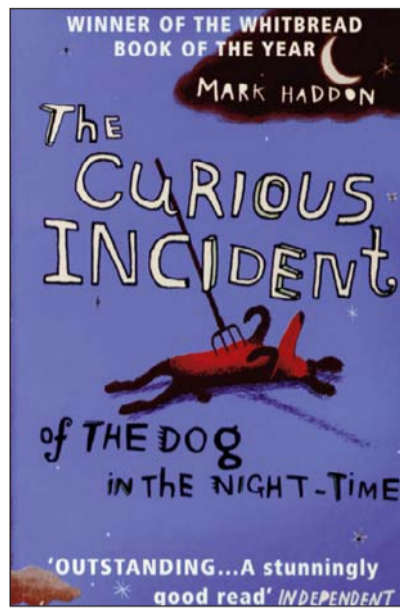


**Coram Boy**  
by Jamila Gavin (Egmont)

Coram Boy is the story of Toby, saved from an African ship as a child, and Aaron, the illegitimate son of the heir to a great estate.

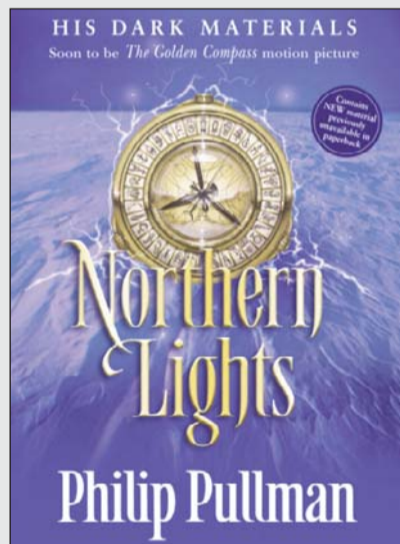
**The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time**  
by Mark Haddon (Red Fox)

This funny, touching and compelling novel was the winner of the inaugural Booktrust Teenage Prize.



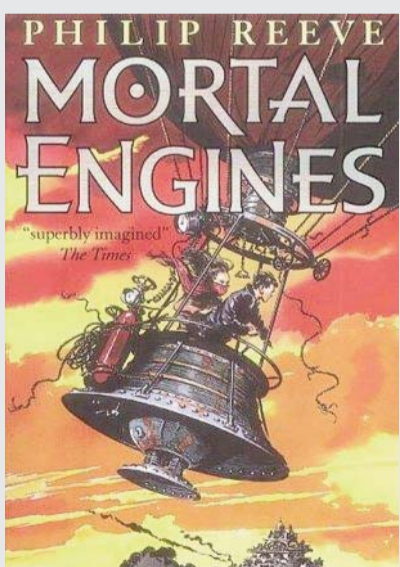
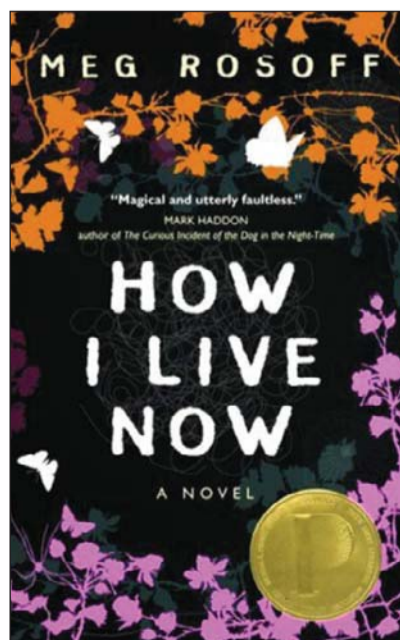
**Northern Lights**  
by Philip Pullman (Scholastic)

This extraordinary fantasy is the first book in Philip Pullman's multi-award-winning His Dark Materials trilogy.



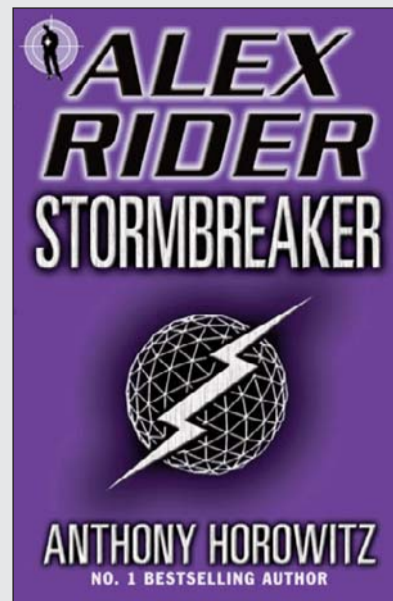
**How I Live Now**  
by Meg Rosoff (Penguin)

Fifteen-year-old New Yorker Daisy is sent to England to spend a summer with her unconventional cousins



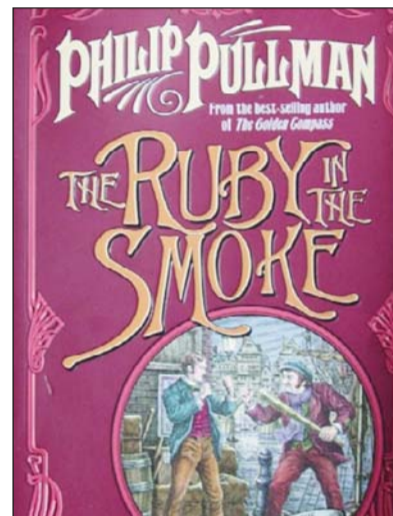
**Mortal Engines**  
by Philip Reeve (Scholastic)

London is on the move again: The traction city trawls the world on wheels, capturing and eating smaller towns.



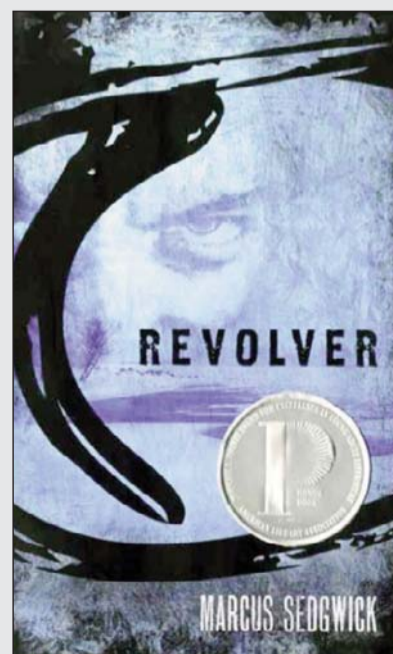
**Stormbreaker**  
by Anthony Horowitz (Walker Books)

Fourteen-year-old Alex Rider finds his life turned upside down on discovering that his late uncle wasn't a mild-mannered banker, but instead a field agent for MI6.



**The Ruby in the Smoke**  
by Philip Pullman (Scholastic)

Determined to discover the truth about her father's tragic death, Sally Lockhart is plunged into a dangerous and terrifying adventure that takes her to the dark heart of Victorian London.

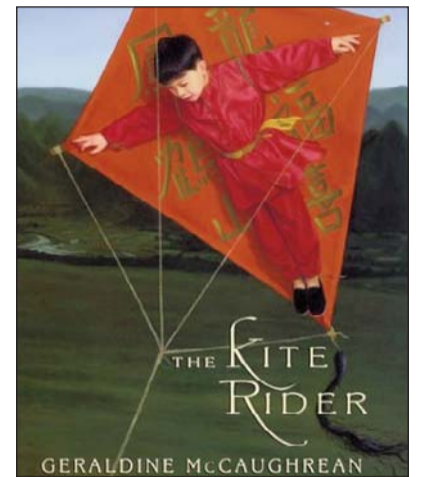


**Revolver**  
by Marcus Sedgwick (Orion Children's Books)

'They say dead men tell no tales, but they're wrong. Even the dead tell stories.'

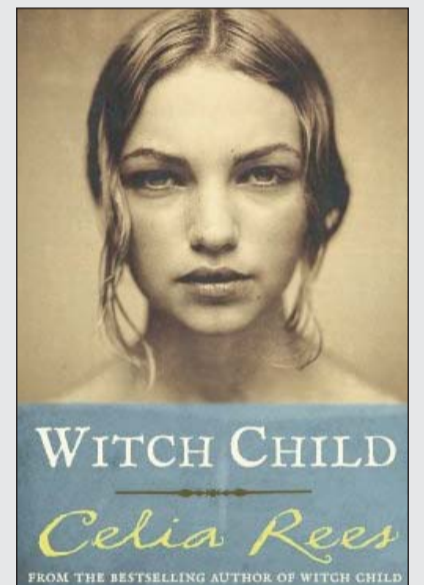
**The Kite Rider**  
by Geraldine McCaughrean (Oxford University Press)

Haoyou feels powerless when the man responsible for his father's death demands to marry his mother. Determined to support her himself, the young boy joins a travelling circus.



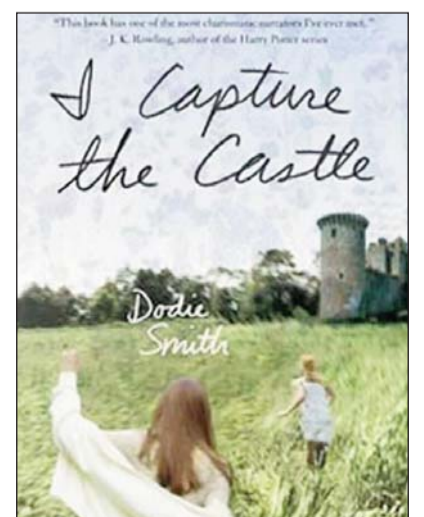
**Witch Child** by Celia Rees (Bloomsbury Children's Books)

This is the gripping tale of Mary, the granddaughter of a witch.



**I Capture the Castle**  
by Dodie Smith (Vintage)

17-year-old Cassandra lives an eccentric existence with her bohemian family in a crumbling castle in the English countryside, in this delightful classic coming-of-age story.







# The Walrus and the Carpenter

from *Through the Looking Glass* by Lewis Carroll

The sun was shining on the sea,  
Shining with all his might:  
He did his very best to make  
The billows smooth and bright—  
And this was odd, because it was  
The middle of the night.

The moon was shining sulkily,  
Because she thought the sun  
Had got no business to be there  
After the day was done—  
"It's very rude of him," she said,  
"To come and spoil the fun!"

The sea was wet as wet could be,  
The sands were dry as dry.  
You could not see a cloud, because  
No cloud was in the sky:  
No birds were flying over head—  
There were no birds to fly.

The Walrus and the Carpenter  
Were walking close at hand;  
They wept like anything to see  
Such quantities of sand:  
"If this were only cleared away,"  
They said, "it WOULD be grand!"

"If seven maids with seven mops  
Swept it for half a year,  
Do you suppose," the Walrus said,  
"That they could get it clear?"  
"I doubt it," said the Carpenter,  
And shed a bitter tear.

"O Oysters, come and walk with us!"  
The Walrus did beseech.  
"A pleasant walk, a pleasant talk,

Along the briny beach:  
We cannot do with more than four,  
To give a hand to each."

The eldest Oyster looked at him.  
But never a word he said:  
The eldest Oyster winked his eye,  
And shook his heavy head—  
Meaning to say he did not choose  
To leave the oyster-bed.

But four young oysters hurried up,  
All eager for the treat:  
Their coats were brushed, their faces  
washed,  
Their shoes were clean and neat—  
And this was odd, because, you know,  
They hadn't any feet.

Four other Oysters followed them,  
And yet another four;  
And thick and fast they came at last,  
And more, and more, and more—  
All hopping through the frothy waves,  
And scrambling to the shore.

The Walrus and the Carpenter  
Walked on a mile or so,  
And then they rested on a rock  
Conveniently low:  
And all the little Oysters stood  
And waited in a row.

"The time has come," the Walrus said,  
"To talk of many things:  
Of shoes—and ships—and sealing-wax—  
Of cabbages—and kings—  
And why the sea is boiling hot—

And whether pigs have wings."

"But wait a bit," the Oysters cried,  
"Before we have our chat;  
For some of us are out of breath,  
And all of us are fat!"  
"No hurry!" said the Carpenter.  
They thanked him much for that.

"A loaf of bread," the Walrus said,  
"Is what we chiefly need:  
Pepper and vinegar besides  
Are very good indeed—  
Now if you're ready Oysters dear,

We can begin to feed."

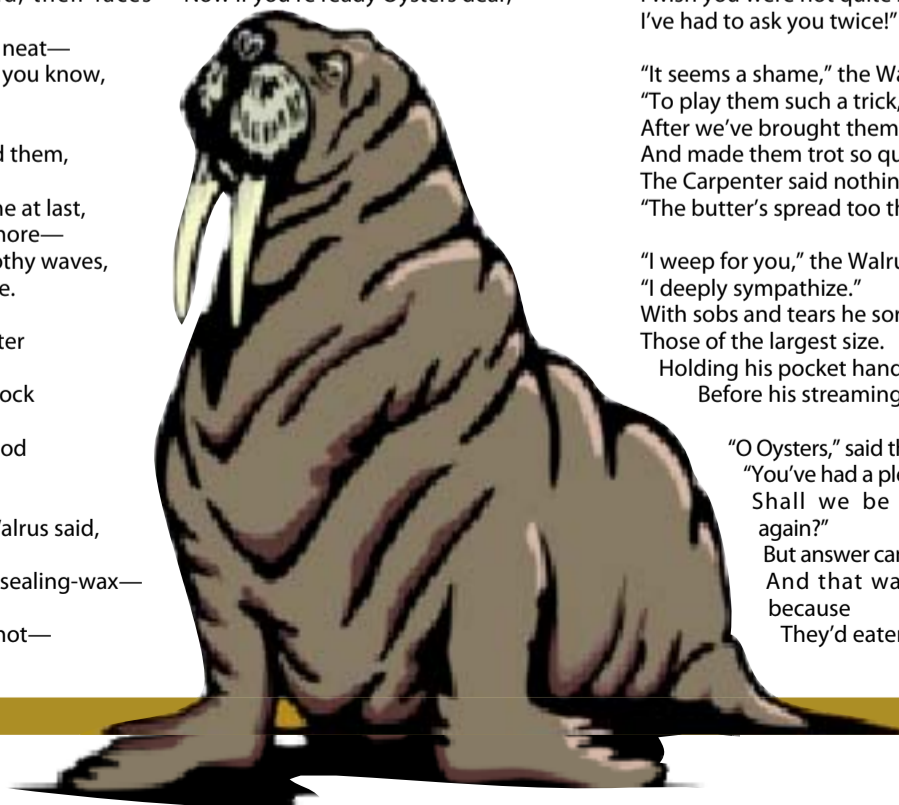
"But not on us!" the Oysters cried,  
Turning a little blue,  
"After such kindness, that would be  
A dismal thing to do!"  
"The night is fine," the Walrus said  
"Do you admire the view?"

"It was so kind of you to come!  
And you are very nice!"  
The Carpenter said nothing but  
"Cut us another slice:  
I wish you were not quite so deaf—  
I've had to ask you twice!"

"It seems a shame," the Walrus said,  
"To play them such a trick,  
After we've brought them out so far,  
And made them trot so quick!"  
The Carpenter said nothing but  
"The butter's spread too thick!"

"I weep for you," the Walrus said.  
"I deeply sympathize."  
With sobs and tears he sorted out  
Those of the largest size.  
Holding his pocket handkerchief  
Before his streaming eyes.

"O Oysters," said the Carpenter.  
"You've had a pleasant run!  
Shall we be trotting home  
again?"  
But answer came there none—  
And that was scarcely odd,  
because  
They'd eaten every one."





# Color the Bunch of Flowers



Q: What do you call an old snowman?  
A: Water!

Q: What's the different between a cat and a comma?  
A: A cat has claws at the end of paws; A comma is a pause at the end of a clause.

Q: Which dinosaur knew the most words?  
A: The thesaurus.

Q: Who did Frankenstein's monster bring to prom?  
A: His ghoulfriend.

Q: What does a nosey pepper do?  
A: Gets jalapeño business!

Q: If money really did grow on trees, what would be everyone's favorite season?  
A: Fall.

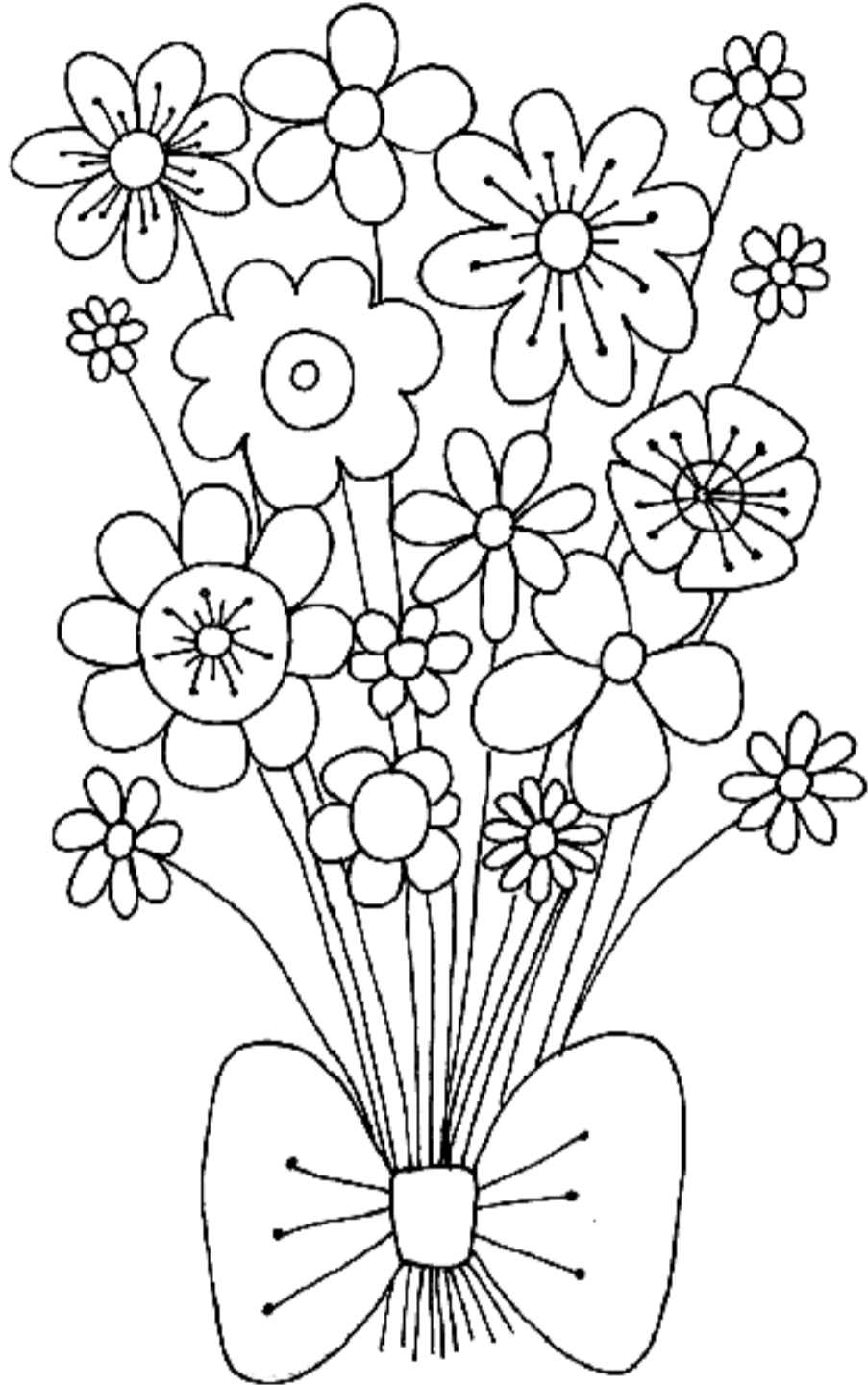
Q: What do you get when you drop a pumpkin?  
A: Squash.

A family of fall leaves were trying to change a light bulb. A squirrel walked by and asked why the bulb wasn't changed yet and the red leaf said, "Because we keep falling."

Q: Who lives in the scary Hundred Acre Wood?  
A: Winnie the Boo.

Q: Why are all Superman costumes tight?  
A: They're all size S.

Q: Why do birds fly south in the Fall?  
A: Because it's too far to walk.



**Daily Chores MONDAY**

Brush Teeth

Read 15 mins

Fold Towels

Silverware

**Daily Chores TUESDAY**

Brush Teeth

Read 15 mins

Make Bed

**MOM'S CHOICE**

**Daily Chores WEDNESDAY**

Brush Teeth

Read 15 mins

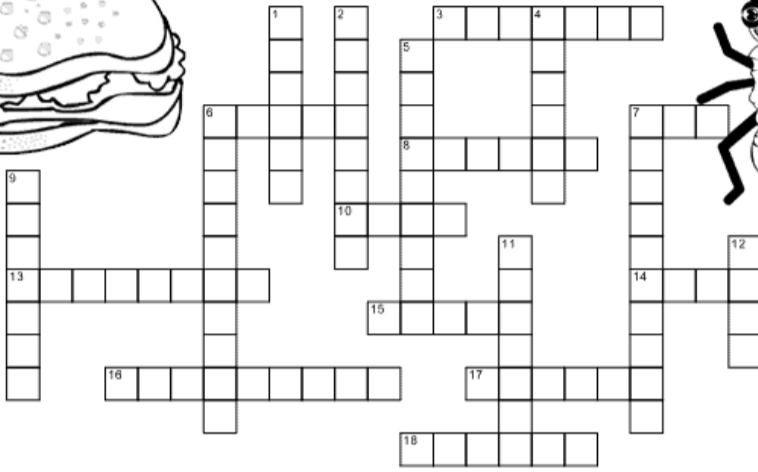
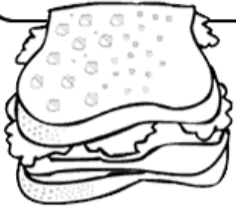
Fold Towels

Pick Up





### Picnic Crossword Puzzle



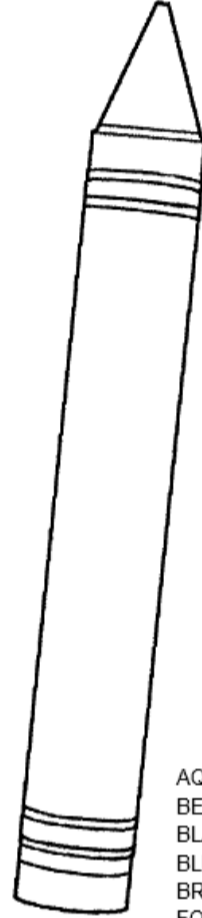
**ACROSS**

3. A fun picnic game played with a disc shaped toy.
6. Coleslaw is a type of \_\_\_\_\_.
7. A popular round-shaped baked dessert that is cut into wedges to serve.
8. One type of container used to carry picnic goodies.
10. It's yummy on the cob.
13. This comes in black lumps and is sometimes used on a picnic grill.
14. This type of weather can often ruin a picnic.
15. Tall and leafy, these provide shady places for your picnic blanket.
16. A bright evening show that sometimes follows a picnic.
17. A square of cloth or paper used to keep things clean when eating your picnic meal.
18. Grilled wiener on a bun.

**DOWN**

1. A picnic container that keeps food cold.
2. Two pieces of bread stuffed with meat, cheese, or other good stuff.
4. Most popular season of the year for picnics in North America.
5. A ground beef patty on a bun.
6. Eye protection from the sun.
7. A fun area for kids inside some parks.
9. Red condiment made from tomatoes.
11. Yellow sauce sometimes used on hamburgers and hotdogs.
12. Tiny picnic invaders.

### CRAYON COLORS



Read the words in the word list below, then find and circle them in the puzzle.

A I F M M U G X F O R E S T K  
 H N L S A Z R E B Z G O L D C  
 V D I C I R U Y G R E E N Z R  
 W I K E V I O L E T O P C W T  
 U G Y V J B L O I Q P W E I T  
 K O I I X L Q J N B A N N Y K  
 C L D L K U E L A V E N D E R  
 A A E O P E N B M C B I E L J  
 L E R S I L V E R P L B G Q T  
 B T L N X L I M E O T G N E E  
 G U Y U A F Y E L L O W A L T  
 K M A M G V A E Q T K K R P I  
 D W R Y L K Y Q E C N B O R H  
 N C G P A U F V U R I O P U W  
 O W F U C H S I A A P D Y P Z

AQUA  
 BEIGE  
 BLACK  
 BLUE  
 BROWN  
 FOREST  
 FUCHSIA

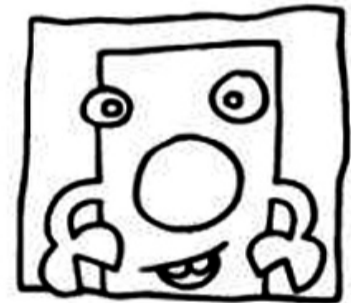
GOLD  
 GRAY  
 GREEN  
 INDIGO  
 LAVENDER  
 LIME  
 MAROON

NAVY  
 OLIVE  
 ORANGE  
 PINK  
 PURPLE  
 RED  
 SILVER

TEAL  
 VIOLET  
 WHITE  
 YELLOW

### Sudoku 9x9 Puzzle - Sheet 1

Every row, column and mini-grid must contain the numbers 1 through 9. Don't guess - use logic!



9	6		8		1		7	4
3		4				2		8
	5							6
	3			7				9
8	9		4		6		3	2
	1			5				4
	4							8
6		1				3		7
5	8		1		7		2	9

4			6	8	1			7
5	9			7			6	4
				9				
3	4			2			9	1
	5	7				6	8	
8	2			6			7	3
				5				
2	6			3			1	5
9			4	1	2			6

7	3							9	5
6			5	8	3				1
			7		9				
2	4			1				8	3
8			2		7				6
1	6			5				7	4
				6		4			
4				1	3	2			9
3	2							4	7



WORD SEARCH

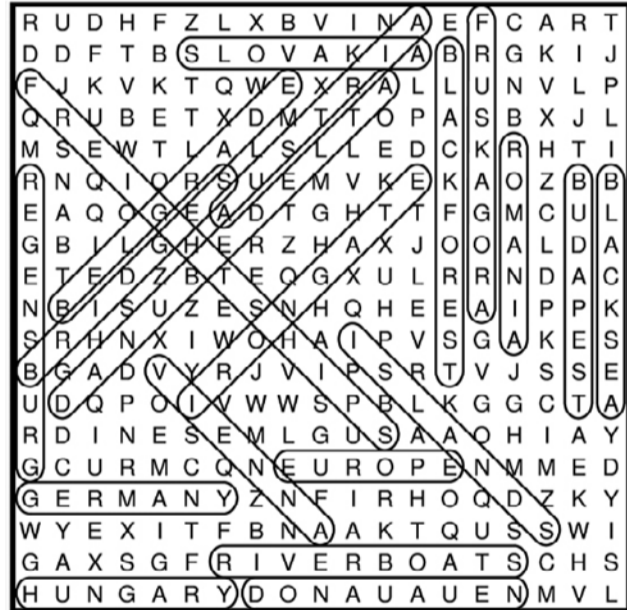
ANCIENT ROME WORD SEARCH PUZZLE



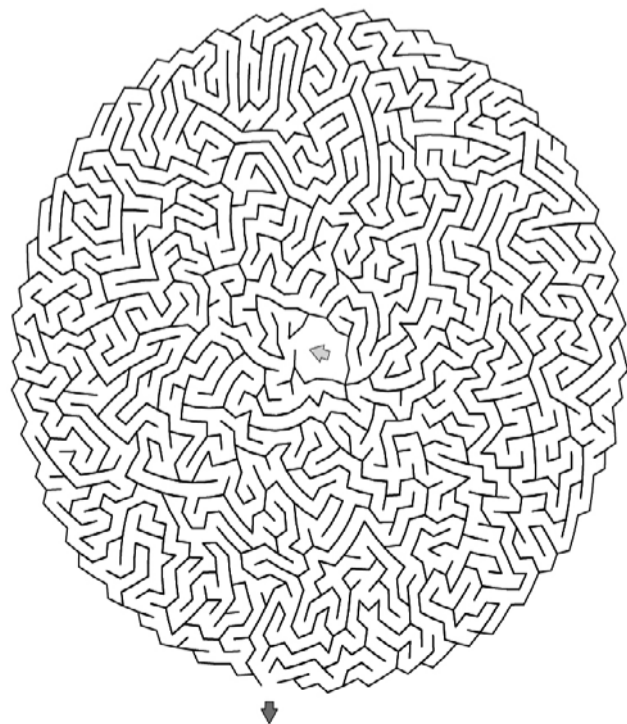
- AUGUSTUS
- BRUTUS
- BYZANTINE
- CALIGULA
- CASSIUS
- CENTURION
- CLEOPATRA
- COLOSSEUM
- CONSTANTINE
- EMPEROR
- GLADIATORS
- HADRIAN'S WALL
- JULIUS CAESAR
- MARK ANTONY
- OCTAVIAN
- POMPEII
- PUNIC WARS
- TIBER RIVER
- TWELVE TABLES
- VESPASIAN

Yesterday's Solution

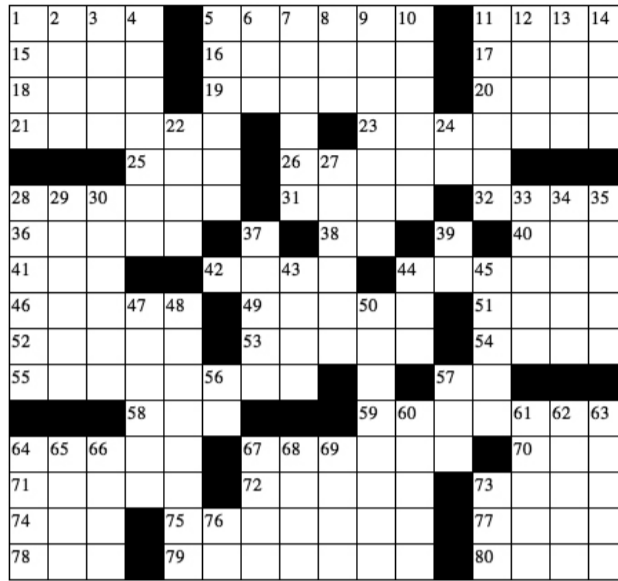
SOLUTION TO ON THE DANUBE PUZZLE



CHALLENGING MAZE



CROSSWORD 1085



ACROSS

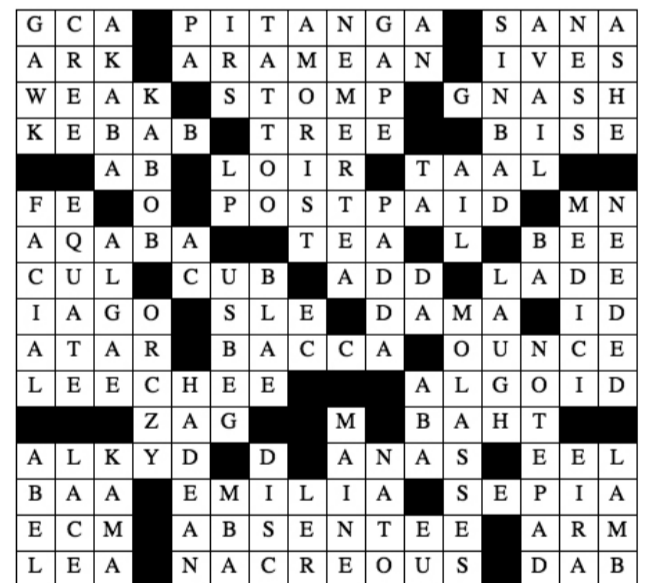
1. Toward the mouth or oral region.
5. Based on racial intolerance.
11. Singing jazz.
15. A coniferous tree.
16. Someone who admires a young woman.
17. Plants with sword-shaped leaves and erect stalks bearing bright-colored flowers composed of three petals and three drooping sepals.
18. Armor plate that protects the chest.
19. The female or generative principle.
20. A quantity of no importance.
21. A high-crowned black cap (usually made of felt or sheepskin) worn by men in Turkey and Iran and the Caucasus.
23. One who reveals confidential information in return for money.
25. An agency of the United Nations affiliated with the World Bank.
26. A peninsula between the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf.
28. King of Saudi Arabia from 1964 to 1975 (1906-1975).
31. Made of or resembling lace.
32. (Roman mythology) A princess of Tyre who was the founder and queen of Carthage.
36. (architecture) Forming or resembling an arch.
38. A radioactive transuranic element.
40. (Irish) The sea personified.
41. A period marked by distinctive character or reckoned from a fixed point or event.
42. (anatomy) A fold or wrinkle or crease.
46. Of a strong pink to yellowish-pink color n 1.
49. A game in which numbered balls are drawn and random and players cover the corresponding numbers on their cards.
51. A primeval personification of air and breath.
52. Cruel or inhumane treatment.
53. A unit of resistance equal to a billionth of an ohm.
54. 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.
55. A large number or amount.
58. Counting the number of white and red blood cells and the number of platelets in 1 cubic millimeter of blood.
59. A Powhatan Indian woman (the daughter of Powhatan) who befriended the English at Jamestown and is said to have saved Captain John Smith's life (1595-1617).
64. A mountain peak in the Andes in Argentina (21,654 feet high).
70. A crystalline rock that can be cut and polished for jewelry.
71. Of or relating to Oman or its people.
72. Property that is leased or rented out or let.
74. A rapid escape (as by criminals).
75. A B vitamin that prevents beriberi.
77. An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa.
78. The federal agency that insures residential mortgages.
79. An archipelago of about 100 islands in the North Atlantic off the north coast of Scotland.
80. A small cake leavened with yeast.

DOWN

1. An organization of countries formed in 1961 to agree on a common policy for the sale of petroleum.

2. Port city that is the capital and largest city of Latvia.
3. A blue dye obtained from plants or made synthetically.
4. Look down on with disdain.
5. A deceitful and unreliable scoundrel.
6. Hormone secreted by the posterior pituitary gland (trade name Pitressin) and also by nerve endings in the hypothalamus.
7. Having a common axis.
8. Irritate or vex.
9. An unfortunate happening that hinders or impedes.
10. Felt hat with a creased crown.
11. In the Arabian Nights a hero who tells of the fantastic adventures he had in his voyages.
12. Decapod having eyes on short stalks and a broad flattened carapace with a small abdomen folded under the thorax and pincers.
13. An officer who acts as military assistant to a more senior officer.
14. A male monarch or emperor (especially of Russia prior to 1917).
22. (Babylonian) God of storms and wind.
24. The branch of computer science that deal with writing computer programs that can solve problems creatively.
27. A wired or starched collar of intricate lace.
29. A unit of weight used in some Spanish speaking countries.
30. (Greek mythology) Son of Daedalus.
33. Tropical American tree grown in southern United States having a whitish pink-tinged fruit.
34. The brightest star in Cygnus.
35. Large long-armed ape of Borneo and Sumatra having arboreal habits.
37. A Russian prison camp for political prisoners.
39. A ductile malleable reddish-brown corrosion-resistant diamagnetic metallic element.
43. A large number or amount.
44. Contemptuous name for a Black man who is abjectly servile and deferential to Whites.
45. Tropical American tree producing cacao beans.
47. A bin that holds rubbish until it is collected.
48. German philosopher and mathematician who thought of the universe as consisting of independent monads and who devised a system of the calculus independent of Newton (1646-1716).
50. Hormone secreted by the thymus.
56. A state in southeastern United States.
57. The 7th letter of the Greek alphabet.
60. Make amendments to.
61. 100 agorot equal 1 shekel.
62. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
63. Naked freshwater or marine or parasitic protozoa that form temporary pseudopods for feeding and locomotion.
65. A woman hired to suckle a child of someone else.
66. A Tibetan or Mongolian priest of Lamaism.
67. Having a long narrow cut.
68. A bluish shade of green.
69. Avatar of Vishnu.
73. A workplace for the conduct of scientific research.
76. A very light colorless element that is one of the six inert gasses.

Yesterday's Solution



Daily SuDoku

	5					7
	6				1	
4		9	1	8		
	2	5				9
9		8	5		6	4
6					5	3
			7	8	2	
		2				7
7						4

Yesterday's Solution

7	2	8	4	3	1	6	9	5
9	3	4	6	2	5	1	7	8
6	5	1	9	8	7	2	3	4
2	7	3	1	6	4	5	8	9
4	1	6	5	9	8	7	2	3
8	9	5	2	7	3	4	6	1
1	8	9	7	4	2	3	5	6
3	4	2	8	5	6	9	1	7
5	6	7	3	1	9	8	4	2



## ANIMAL PLANET HD

00:50 Gator Boys  
01:45 Call Of The Wildman  
02:15 Call Of The Wildman  
02:40 Dr Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet  
03:35 Tanked  
04:25 Austin Stevens: Snakemaster  
05:15 Gator Boys  
06:02 Treehouse Masters  
06:49 Wild Things With Dominic Monaghan  
07:36 Call Of The Wildman  
08:00 Call Of The Wildman  
08:25 Dog Rescuers  
09:15 Austin Stevens: Snakemaster  
10:10 Treehouse Masters  
11:05 Tanked  
12:00 Dog Rescuers  
12:55 Bondi Vet  
13:50 Dr Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet  
14:45 Austin Stevens: Snakemaster  
15:40 Treehouse Masters  
16:35 Tanked  
17:30 Wild Things With Dominic Monaghan  
18:25 In Search Of The King Cobra  
19:20 River Monsters  
20:15 Tanked  
21:10 Roaring With Pride  
22:05 Treehouse Masters  
23:00 River Monsters  
23:55 In Search Of The King Cobra

## Discovery CHANNEL HD

00:20 Fast N' Loud  
01:10 Treasure Quest: Snake Island  
02:00 Fast N' Loud: Demolition Theater  
02:50 Amish Mafia  
03:40 Auction Hunters  
04:05 Garage Gold  
04:30 Baggage Battles  
05:00 How It's Made: Dream Cars  
05:30 How It's Made  
06:00 Mythbusters  
06:50 Troy  
07:40 Superhuman Science  
08:05 What Happened Next?  
08:30 The Pop Illusionist  
09:20 Ed Stafford: Into The Unknown  
10:10 Kings Of The Wild  
11:00 Treasure Quest: Snake Island  
11:50 Fast N' Loud: Demolition Theater  
12:40 Cuban Chrome  
13:30 Fast N' Loud  
14:20 Wheeler Dealers  
15:10 Fast N' Loud  
16:00 Fast N' Loud  
16:50 Fast N' Loud  
17:40 Fast N' Loud  
18:30 Fast N' Loud  
19:20 Fast N' Loud  
20:10 Manhunt With Joel Lambert  
21:00 Misfit Garage  
21:50 Wheeler Dealers  
22:40 Cuban Chrome  
23:30 Chris Ryan's Elite Police

## Discovery SCIENCE

00:40 Storm Chasers  
01:30 You Have Been Warned  
02:20 Race To Escape  
03:10 NASA's Greatest Missions  
04:00 Mythbusters  
04:48 NASA's Unexplained Files  
05:36 Race To Escape  
06:24 NASA's Greatest Missions  
07:12 You Have Been Warned  
08:00 Storm Chasers  
08:50 Food Factory  
09:15 Food Factory  
09:40 How It's Made  
10:05 How It's Made  
10:30 NASA's Unexplained Files  
11:20 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?  
12:10 NASA's Greatest Missions  
13:00 Mythbusters  
13:50 How It's Made  
14:15 How It's Made  
14:40 Food Factory  
15:05 Food Factory  
15:30 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?  
16:20 NASA's Greatest Missions  
17:10 You Have Been Warned  
18:00 How It's Made  
18:25 How It's Made  
18:50 Food Factory

19:15 Food Factory  
19:40 Joe Rogan Questions  
Everything  
20:30 NASA's Greatest Missions  
21:20 Mythbusters  
22:10 NASA's Unexplained Files  
23:00 Joe Rogan Questions  
Everything  
23:50 NASA's Greatest Missions

## Disney Channel

00:00 Violetta  
00:45 The Hive  
00:50 Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
01:15 Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
01:40 Wolfblood  
02:05 Wolfblood  
02:30 Violetta  
03:15 The Hive  
03:20 Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
03:45 Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
04:10 Wolfblood  
04:35 Wolfblood  
05:00 Violetta  
05:45 The Hive  
05:50 Mouk  
06:00 Lolirock  
06:25 Hank Zipzer  
06:50 Girl Meets World  
07:15 H2O: Just Add Water  
07:40 Jessie  
08:05 Wizards Of Waverly Place  
08:30 Wizards Of Waverly Place  
08:55 Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
09:20 Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
09:45 Austin & Ally  
10:10 Austin & Ally  
10:35 H2O: Just Add Water  
11:00 H2O: Just Add Water  
11:25 Jessie  
11:50 Jessie  
12:20 Hank Zipzer  
12:45 Gravity Falls  
13:10 Good Luck Charlie  
13:35 I Didn't Do It  
14:00 Dog With A Blog  
14:30 H2O: Just Add Water  
14:55 Lolirock  
15:20 Austin & Ally  
15:45 Girl Meets World  
16:10 Violetta  
17:00 I Love Violetta  
17:10 Oliver & Company  
18:25 Get Frozen  
18:40 Gravity Falls  
19:05 H2O: Just Add Water

19:30 Violetta  
20:20 I Love Violetta  
20:30 Mulan 2  
21:47 Get Frozen  
22:00 Binny And The Ghost  
22:25 Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
22:50 Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
23:10 Wolfblood  
23:35 Wolfblood

## E!

00:00 WAGs  
00:55 The Grace Helbig Show  
01:25 Kourtney And Khloe Take The Hamptons  
02:20 E! News  
03:15 Giuliana & Bill  
04:10 E! Entertainment Special  
05:05 E! Entertainment Special  
06:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
06:55 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
07:50 Style Star  
08:20 E! News  
09:15 Giuliana & Bill  
10:15 Giuliana & Bill  
11:10 The Grace Helbig Show  
11:35 The Grace Helbig Show  
12:05 E! News  
13:05 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills  
14:05 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
15:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
16:00 Dash Dolls  
17:00 Dash Dolls  
18:00 E! News  
19:00 Hollywood Cycle  
20:00 WAGs  
21:00 Fashion Bloggers  
21:30 Fashion Bloggers  
22:00 E! News  
23:00 House Of DVF

## food network

00:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives  
00:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives  
01:00 Jenny Morris Cooks The Riviera  
01:30 Jenny Morris Cooks The Riviera  
02:00 Australian Food Adventures With Matt Moran  
03:00 Man Fire Food  
03:30 Man Fire Food  
04:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives

04:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives  
05:00 Guy's Grocery Games  
06:00 Chopped  
07:00 Man Fire Food  
07:30 Man Fire Food  
08:00 Chopped  
09:00 Guy's Grocery Games  
10:00 The Kitchen  
11:00 Barefoot Contessa  
11:30 Barefoot Contessa  
12:00 Chopped  
13:00 Guy's Big Bite  
13:30 Guy's Big Bite  
14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives  
14:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives  
15:00 Guy's Grocery Games  
16:00 Chopped  
17:00 The Kitchen  
18:00 The Pioneer Woman  
18:30 Trisha's Southern Kitchen  
19:00 Chopped  
20:00 Guy's Grocery Games  
21:00 Siba's Table  
21:30 Siba's Table  
22:00 Amazing Wedding Cakes  
23:00 Girl Eat World

## itv CHOICE

00:10 The Chase: Celebrity Specials  
01:05 Who's Doing The Dishes?  
02:00 Emmerdale  
02:25 Eggheads  
02:55 Coronation Street  
03:25 Lewis  
04:20 Agatha Christie's Partners In Crime  
05:15 Take On The Twisters  
06:10 Who's Doing The Dishes?  
07:05 Coronation Street  
07:30 Lewis  
08:25 Agatha Christie's Partners In Crime  
09:20 The Chase: Celebrity Specials  
10:15 Who's Doing The Dishes?  
11:10 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway  
12:30 Take On The Twisters  
13:25 Emmerdale  
13:50 Eggheads  
14:20 Coronation Street  
14:45 The Chase: Celebrity Specials  
15:35 Who's Doing The Dishes?  
16:30 The Queen's Sister  
18:20 Take On The Twisters  
19:10 Coronation Street  
19:35 Who's Doing The Dishes?  
20:30 The Queen's Sister  
22:20 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway  
23:40 Eggheads

## OSN FIRST HD COMEDY

03:30 Cristela  
04:00 Marry Me  
04:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon  
07:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers  
08:00 Marry Me  
09:30 About A Boy  
11:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon  
14:00 Cristela  
14:30 About A Boy  
17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers  
18:00 Manhattan Love Story  
19:00 About A Boy  
19:30 New Girl  
20:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon  
22:00 Big Time In Hollywood FI  
22:30 Big Time In Hollywood FI  
23:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers

## OSN FIRST

00:00 Better Call Saul  
01:00 Blindspot  
02:00 Empire  
06:00 Parenthood  
12:00 Emmerdale  
12:30 Coronation Street  
13:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show  
16:00 Emmerdale  
17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show  
19:00 C.S.I. Cyber  
20:00 Blindspot  
21:00 Grey's Anatomy  
22:00 Survivor: Cambodia  
23:00 Devious Maids

## OSN FIRST MORE

00:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show  
07:00 Emmerdale  
08:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show  
10:00 Emmerdale  
12:00 Graceland  
23:00 Banshee

## OSN MOVIES ACTION

00:00 Rush  
02:15 April Rain  
04:00 The Last Castle  
06:15 Last Passenger  
08:00 Closed Circuit  
10:00 Special ID

12:00 Kill Em All  
14:00 Last Passenger  
16:00 Closed Circuit  
18:00 Rush Hour  
20:00 Kill Em All  
22:00 The Day The Earth Stood Still

## OSN MOVIES HD ACTION

00:15 April Rain-18  
02:00 The Last Castle-PG15  
04:15 Last Passenger-PG15  
06:00 Closed Circuit-PG15  
08:00 Special ID-PG15  
10:00 Kill Em All-PG15  
12:00 Last Passenger-PG15  
14:00 Closed Circuit-PG15  
16:00 Rush Hour-PG15  
18:00 Kill Em All-PG15  
20:00 The Day The Earth Stood Still-PG15  
22:00 Turkey Shoot-18

## OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

00:00 Keith Lemon: The Film  
02:00 Life With Mikey  
04:00 Planes, Trains And Automobiles  
06:00 The Last Shot  
08:00 Simon Birch  
10:00 Planes, Trains And Automobiles  
12:00 The Ladykillers  
14:00 The Naked Gun: From The Files Of Police Squad  
16:00 Simon Birch  
18:00 Captain Ron  
20:00 Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues  
22:00 Not Another Teen Movie

## OSN MOVIES DRAMA

01:00 One Chance-PG15  
03:00 Sunlight Jr.-PG15  
05:00 Still Mine-PG15  
07:00 Parkland-PG15  
09:00 The Giver-PG15  
11:00 Still Mine-PG15  
13:00 Paranoia-PG15  
15:00 A Promise-PG15  
17:00 The Giver-PG15  
19:00 Inside Llewyn Davis-PG15  
21:00 Tar-PG15  
23:00 By The Gun-18

## OSN MOVIES HD FESTIVAL

01:00 Playing For Keeps  
03:00 White Bird In A Blizzard  
04:45 Far And Away  
07:15 Jodorowsky's Dune  
09:00 Against The Ropes  
11:00 Far And Away  
13:30 Sunshine On Leith  
15:15 Next Goal Wins  
17:00 Against The Ropes  
19:00 August: Osage County  
21:00 Begin Again  
23:00 Killer Joe

## OSN MOVIES HD KIDS

01:15 Brick Mansions-PG15  
03:00 Get On Up-PG15  
05:15 Robot & Frank-PG15  
07:00 At Middleton-PG15  
09:00 The Hundred-Foot Journey-PG15  
11:15 Night At The Museum: Secret Of The Tomb-PG  
13:00 Free Birds-PG  
14:45 Dinosaur Island-PG  
16:30 The Hundred-Foot Journey-PG15  
18:45 The Expendables 3-PG15  
21:00 Into The Storm-PG15  
23:00 Kill The Messenger-PG15

## OSN MOVIES HD KIDS

01:15 Pim And Pom: The Big Adventure



LAST PASSENGER ON OSN MOVIES ACTION



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2015

- 03:00 Marvel's Doctor Strange
- 04:30 Mamma Moo And Crow
- 06:00 Columbus In The Last Journey
- 10:00 Curious George: Back To The Jungle
- 11:30 Kikoriki: Team Invincible
- 13:15 Tom And Jerry: The Lost Dragon
- 14:45 Bolts And Blip
- 16:15 Jungle Shuffle
- 18:00 Curious George: Back To The Jungle
- 20:00 Jungle Book: Mowgli's Adventures
- 22:00 Bolts And Blip
- 23:30 Jungle Shuffle

**OSN MOVIES HD**  
**PREMIERE**

- 00:00 Men, Women & Children-18
- 02:00 The Magic Of Belle Isle-PG15
- 04:00 Diana-PG15
- 06:00 Return To Nim's Island-PG
- 08:00 When The Game Stands Tall-PG15
- 10:00 Planet 51-PG
- 12:00 Good Deeds-PG15
- 14:00 The Gabby Douglas Story-PG
- 15:45 When The Game Stands Tall-PG15
- 17:45 Into The Woods-PG
- 20:00 Mental-PG15
- 22:00 Sin City: A Dame To Kill For-18



- 03:14 Grojband
- 03:35 Johnny Test
- 05:05 Total Drama: Pahkitew Island
- 05:27 Total Drama: All Stars
- 05:50 Regular Show
- 06:00 The Amazing World Of Gumball
- 07:00 Uncle Grandpa
- 07:25 Adventure Time
- 07:50 Teen Titans Go!
- 08:35 Ninjago: Masters Of Spinjitzu
- 09:00 Ben 10 Omniverse
- 09:45 Regular Show
- 10:30 Clarence
- 10:55 Dreamworks Dragons: Riders Of Berk
- 11:20 Total Drama World Tour
- 11:40 Total Drama World Tour
- 12:05 Johnny Test
- 12:50 New Steven Universe
- 13:02 Steven Universe
- 13:15 Uncle Grandpa
- 13:40 Regular Show
- 14:25 Adventure Time
- 15:10 The Amazing World Of Gumball
- 16:00 Ben 10 Omniverse
- 16:45 Ninjago: Masters Of Spinjitzu
- 17:10 Ninjago: Masters Of Spinjitzu
- 17:30 Teen Titans Go!
- 18:20 Regular Show
- 19:05 The Amazing World Of Gumball
- 19:51 Adventure Time
- 20:15 New Steven Universe
- 20:27 Steven Universe
- 20:40 Uncle Grandpa
- 21:00 Teen Titans Go!
- 21:50 Ben 10 Omniverse
- 22:40 Adventure Time
- 00:10 Regular Show
- 01:40 Total Drama World Tour
- 02:03 Total Drama World Tour
- 02:26 Total Drama World Tour
- 02:51 Grojband
- Discovery ID
- 03:10 Unravalled
- 04:00 Waco: The Survivors' Story
- 04:45 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
- 05:10 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
- 05:30 The Haunted
- 06:20 Forensic Detectives
- 07:10 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
- 08:00 Nightmare Next Door
- 08:50 On The Case With Paula Zahn
- 09:40 Fatal Encounters
- 10:30 Murder Shift
- 10:30 Forensic Detectives
- 12:10 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
- 13:00 The Will
- 13:50 I Almost Got Away With It
- 14:40 California Investigator
- 15:05 Nightmare Next Door
- 15:55 Fatal Encounters
- 16:45 On The Case With Paula Zahn
- 17:35 Murder Shift
- 18:25 I Almost Got Away With It
- 19:15 Forensic Detectives



**SPECIAL ID OSN MOVIES HD ACTION**

- 20:05 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
- 20:55 California Investigator
- 21:20 The Will
- 22:10 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
- 22:35 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
- 23:00 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
- 23:25 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
- 23:50 Blood Relatives
- 00:40 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
- 01:05 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
- 01:30 The Haunted
- 02:20 Ghost Lab



- 03:05 Calimero
- 03:20 Zou
- 03:30 Loopdidoo
- 03:45 Art Attack
- 04:10 Henry Hugglemonster
- 04:20 Calimero
- 04:35 Zou
- 04:45 Loopdidoo
- 05:00 Art Attack
- 05:25 Henry Hugglemonster
- 05:35 Calimero
- 05:50 Zou
- 06:00 Loopdidoo
- 06:15 Art Attack
- 06:35 Henry Hugglemonster
- 06:50 Calimero
- 07:00 Zou
- 07:20 Loopdidoo
- 07:35 Art Attack
- 08:00 Calimero
- 08:10 Zou
- 08:25 Limon And Oli
- 08:35 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 09:05 Sofia The First
- 09:30 Miles From Tomorrow
- 10:00 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 10:30 Doc McStuffins
- 11:00 Sofia The First
- 11:30 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 11:55 Miles From Tomorrow
- 12:25 Doc McStuffins
- 12:55 Loopdidoo
- 13:10 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 13:35 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
- 14:00 Sofia The First
- 14:30 Henry Hugglemonster
- 14:45 Calimero
- 15:00 Doc McStuffins
- 15:30 Zou
- 15:45 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 16:15 Sofia The First

- 16:45 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 17:10 Aladdin
- 17:40 Adventures Of The Gummi Bears
- 18:10 Chip n Dale Rescue Rangers
- 18:40 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 18:55 Cars Toons
- 19:00 Miles From Tomorrow
- 19:30 Sofia The First
- 19:55 Doc McStuffins
- 20:10 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 21:05 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 21:35 Sofia The First
- 22:00 Aladdin
- 22:30 Adventures Of The Gummi Bears
- 23:00 Chip n Dale Rescue Rangers
- 23:30 Lilo & Stitch
- 00:00 Nina Needs To Go
- 00:05 Henry Hugglemonster
- 00:20 Calimero
- 00:35 Zou
- 00:50 Loopdidoo
- 01:05 Art Attack
- 01:30 Henry Hugglemonster
- 01:45 Calimero
- 02:00 Zou
- 02:15 Loopdidoo
- 02:30 Art Attack
- 02:55 Henry Hugglemonster



- 07:00 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero
- 07:25 Supa Strikas
- 07:50 Supa Strikas
- 08:15 K.C Undercover
- 08:40 Lab Rats
- 09:10 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
- 09:35 Kirby Buckets
- 10:00 Kickin' It
- 10:30 Phineas And Ferb
- 10:55 Rocket Monkeys
- 11:20 Booster
- 11:45 Super Matrak
- 12:10 Super Matrak
- 12:40 Mighty Med
- 13:05 Ultimate Spider-Man
- 13:30 Supa Strikas
- 14:00 Kickin' It
- 14:25 Pokemon: XY
- 14:50 Phineas And Ferb
- 15:15 Rocket Monkeys
- 15:40 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero
- 16:10 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
- 16:35 Kirby Buckets

- 17:00 Mighty Med
- 17:25 K.C Undercover
- 17:55 Supa Strikas
- 18:20 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
- 18:45 Mighty Med
- 19:10 Phineas And Ferb
- 19:40 Kickin' It
- 20:05 K.C Undercover
- 20:30 Supa Strikas
- 20:55 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
- 21:25 Kirby Buckets
- 21:50 Kickin' It
- 22:15 Mighty Med
- 22:40 Phineas And Ferb
- 23:05 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero
- 23:30 Phineas And Ferb
- 00:00 Programmes Start At 7:00am KSA



- 03:45 Incredible! The Story Of Dr. Pol
- 04:40 Animal Fight Club
- 05:35 Secret Life Of Predators
- 06:30 The Croc Catchers
- 07:25 Incredible! The Story Of Dr. Pol
- 08:20 Wild Russia
- 09:15 Hidden Worlds
- 09:40 Hidden Worlds
- 10:10 Wild Yellowstone
- 11:05 Ultimate Animals
- 12:00 Monster Fish
- 12:55 72 Dangerous Animals Australia
- 13:50 The Croc Catchers
- 14:45 The Incredible Dr. Pol
- 15:40 Amazonia
- 16:35 Hidden Worlds
- 17:30 Wild Yellowstone
- 18:25 Ultimate Animals
- 19:20 The Incredible Dr. Pol
- 20:10 Amazonia
- 21:00 Hidden Worlds
- 21:50 Wild Yellowstone
- 22:40 Ultimate Animals
- 23:30 Monster Fish
- 00:20 72 Dangerous Animals Australia
- 01:10 The Croc Catchers
- 02:00 Hunter Hunted
- 02:50 Predator Battleground



- 03:15 Sister Wives
- 03:40 The Undateables

- 04:30 Jon & Kate Plus 8
- 05:00 Little People, Big World
- 05:30 Cake Boss
- 06:00 Say Yes To The Dress
- 06:25 Cake Boss
- 06:50 Cake Boss
- 07:15 Cake Boss
- 07:40 Cake Boss
- 08:05 Bakery Boss
- 08:55 Bakery Boss
- 09:45 Toddlers & Tiaras
- 10:35 Toddlers & Tiaras
- 11:25 Say Yes To The Dress
- 11:50 Say Yes To The Dress
- 12:15 Say Yes To The Dress
- 12:40 Say Yes To The Dress
- 13:05 Say Yes To The Dress
- 13:30 Oprah's Master Class
- 14:20 Oprah's LifeClass
- 15:10 Little People, Big World
- 15:35 Little People, Big World
- 16:00 Little People, Big World

- 16:25 Little People, Big World
- 16:50 Little People, Big World
- 17:15 Say Yes To The Dress - Bridesmaids
- 17:40 Say Yes To The Dress - Bridesmaids
- 18:05 Cake Boss
- 18:30 Cake Boss
- 18:55 Cake Boss
- 19:20 Our Little Family
- 19:45 Our Little Family
- 20:10 Oprah's LifeClass
- 21:00 My Five Wives
- 21:50 Our Little Family
- 22:15 Our Little Family
- 22:40 Psychic Matchmaker
- 23:05 Mob Wives
- 23:55 Mob Wives
- 00:45 Living Without Arms: Body Bizarre
- 01:35 Diagnose Me
- 02:25 Monsters Inside Me

**MICHAEL J. FOX**

He's a talent agent.  
She's a thief.  
Looks like they've already got something in common.



**Life with Mikey**

**LIFE WITH MIKEY ON OSN MOVIES COMEDY HD**





**Aries (March 21-April 19)**

You're not one to keep your feelings quiet, yet you might overreact today when dealing with someone who seems to be on your case. Unfortunately, you may not realize how overbearing you sound when defending your position. Your smartest strategy is to downplay any anger that surfaces now so you don't frighten others with your tone. No matter how intense your emotions are in the moment, a more diplomatic approach improves your chances of finding a successful resolution.



**Taurus (April 20-May 20)**

The interpersonal dynamics are more complicated than they appear today. The real reason for a conflict isn't necessarily the obvious one while magnetic Venus squares relentless Pluto, creating discord in love or instigating an argument at work. However, the current disagreement may actually be the designated playing field for a deeper issue that needs your attention. Keep in mind that there's no reason to avoid what you don't understand, especially if you want to see positive change happen.



**Gemini (May 21-June 20)**

Sharing your unfiltered desires can act as an emotional catalyst, transforming them into healthier expressions of your needs. However, talking about psychological issues isn't that simple, especially if you say one thing while meaning something else. Although you may believe your message is clear, others might not understand your intentions. Nevertheless, taking the time to connect with your peers in a deeper way now enriches your relationships and brings comfort to your soul.



**Cancer (June 21-July 22)**

Someone special wants you to engage in a cathartic process today that has the potential to revolutionize your life. Although your initial reaction may be to run for the nearest exit, a magnetic attraction pulls you back, even if you think it's not a great idea. You could try setting clear boundaries to protect yourself from losing control, but you might be unhappily surprised to discover that you're in deeper than you thought now. There's no need to retreat; ultimately, a change will do you a world of good.



**Leo (July 23-August 22)**

You aren't feeling as casual with your heart as you expected today; something has drastically changed and you're more inclined to play to win. You may suddenly realize that you're in over your head as the fervent Venus-Pluto square increases the heat on a romance. Oddly enough, you're simultaneously drawn toward a more metaphysical orientation to love. Tread carefully and maintain a healthy balance between a physical and a spiritual approach to relationships.



**Virgo (August 23-September 22)**

Uncomfortable feelings trigger serious issues around your basic values and how they conflict with someone else's. Differences seem insurmountable today if you and your partner possess divergent views. Various attempts to convince the other person of his or her guilt are fruitless. Rather than shifting blame to anyone else now, try a more cooperative approach based on mutual respect. Follow your dream while encouraging others to follow theirs.



**Libra (September 23-October 22)**

There might be hidden truths that need to be spoken today. Or, maybe, someone is keeping his or her true feelings secret. Removing yourself from danger is always wise, but this situation is less about being safe than it is about your fear of being alone. Fortunately, resourceful Venus is in your corner now, enabling you to calm down and figure out how to overcome the resistance. Your natural inclination to create harmony will set the right tone for an honest conversation.



**Scorpio (October 23-November 21)**

Honoring your integrity is your top priority as you strive to uncover a complex set of emotions that have all but disappeared. However, you're astute enough to realize that sharing all your feelings could be counterproductive now. Stress arises from not knowing how much you should reveal while sweet Venus squares domineering Pluto. Fortunately, there's no hurry to take action today; wait a few more days before climbing too far out on a limb or you might fall flat on your face.



**Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)**

Your thinking shifts today as you grow less interested in prolonging a recent drama. Mercury steps into your farseeing sign, drawing your attention toward the intriguing adventures down the road. You may try to avoid negativity or jealousy, but can't get past your feelings in the present moment. You prefer to take the high road and move on, but denial won't solve the underlying problems. Your friends might offer useful advice, but you will have to ask nicely for their help before they're willing to give it.



**Capricorn (December 22-January 19)**

Naturally you aim to be practical in all your endeavors, yet circumstances pull you into a heavy emotional stew today where nothing is clear. You could be annoyed with someone who pushes your buttons, but then won't interact with you in a constructive discussion. Even if you are willing to talk about your feelings, you may be at cross-purposes with one another. Nevertheless, don't be overly concerned if you can't resolve the discord today because the energies will change significantly over the days ahead. No one said that love would be easy, but it shouldn't have to be so hard.



**Aquarius (January 20- February 18)**

Everyone seems to be taking your dreams more seriously these days, yet you're afraid this creative phase won't last too much longer. You can stir up an emotional drama with a close partner today, especially if he or she thinks that your long-term plans are illogical. Be careful, because you could become obsessed with a new idea now, even if it ultimately makes little sense. Listen to the advice you receive with a flexible mind and an open heart.



**Pisces (February 19-March 20)**

Your attraction to a loved one is complicated by unexpressed negativity today. Or, perhaps you believe others are attempting to coerce you into agreeing with them. Thankfully, you're too clever to be dominated by someone's show of force and you can quickly escape from the clutches of insecure emotions now. Stay vigilant; it may require a few more days until you're able to put some time between you and your past.

**COUNTRY CODES**

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



## FIGHT AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS HINGES ON INDIA STEPPING UP FUNDING: WHO

ACTIVISTS BLAME DEATHS ON POOR OVERSIGHT, URGE ACTION

**NEW DELHI:** India is critical to the global fight to end an epidemic of tuberculosis by 2030 and must step up funding to control the disease, the World Health Organization said, citing concerns over broader cutbacks in government health programs. India is the world's TB hotspot as it accounts for 23 percent of global cases and the most deaths - 220,000 last year - from the bacterial lung disease that spreads through coughs and sneezes.

Campaigners blame the deaths on weak infection controls, poor oversight and low health spending. Still, India's TB program reduced the prevalence of the disease by more than half to 211 cases per 100,000 people from 1990 to 2013. "India is a positive, successful story up to a certain point. From now on, that positive story won't be sufficient and they'll need to do more," Mario Raviglione, director of the WHO's TB program, said in a telephone interview from Geneva. "When you have a government that cut money to health, you cannot be satisfied. This is a major gap that has to be fixed."

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been facing criticism for keeping a tight leash on social outlays - the government last year cut the federal health budget by 20 percent citing underutili-

sation of funds. An internal assessment report in July showed India's TB program was off track due to funding problems - New Delhi approved \$243 million for TB control during 2012-2015, lower than the requested \$432 million. A health ministry official denied current shortages, but said the government is assessing how much additional funding would be needed to achieve the 2030 TB target, which he said was ambitious. Other countries facing significant tuberculosis risk include Indonesia and China.

### Daunting task

Combating TB is a daunting task in India due to widespread insanitary conditions, poverty and a lack of public hospitals. Low public awareness and social stigma attached to the killer disease also hinder eradication efforts. India also needs to upgrade laboratories to better detect the disease - the government last year tracked down 25,000 of the WHO's estimated 47,000 multi-drug resistant TB cases that, Raviglione said, was "not sufficient" but better than before. TB killed 1.1 million people globally last year, for the first time rivalling HIV/AIDS as a leading cause of death from infectious diseases. "If India doesn't invest on TB, then there will be very little progress at the global level," said Raviglione. —Reuters

## WITH SOLAR OVEN, KENYA WOMEN BAKE THEIR WAY TO A BETTER LIFE

**MSUMARINI:** In this rural village in Kilifi County, on Kenya's east coast, a group of women run a thriving bakery. On a good day, they make dozens of large cakes and over 100 cupcakes. And they don't even have a kitchen oven. Instead, the members of the Imani Women Group bake their cakes using only a wooden box and the sun. They earn enough money to help support their families and send their children to school. Constructed out of timber, leather and foil, the box can bake cakes in about two hours without electricity or charcoal. It works by trapping the heat of the sun, essentially turning the box into a mobile oven.

For the 22 members of the women's group - whose name "Imani" is the Swahili word for "faith" - the simple wooden box has become a source of empowerment and income, securing livelihoods and transforming families. The group started its baking business in 2014, as part of an initiative by German development group Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevölkerung to boost women entrepreneurs in the village. Group members approached a local carpenter, who built them a box oven for 15,000 shillings (around \$150).

About the size of a large suitcase, the box is lined with black leather and fitted with a top layer of foil. The foil reflects the sun's rays into the box, where the heat is absorbed by the thick leather lining. A glass lid creates an airtight seal that keeps in the heat. While baking, the women keep moving the box to ensure it faces the sun. On a bright day, they can produce up to 150 cupcakes, which they sell for 10 shillings (10 cents) each, and 30 bigger

cakes that go for 200 shillings (\$2) each. The chairwoman of the Imani group, Hadija Betinga, describes the bakery as green, cost-effective and convenient.

"Had we been using firewood or charcoal for baking, the story would have been different as operating costs would be high," she said. "And we would be polluting the environment." According to the 2005 Kenya Integrated Household Budget Survey, taken every 10 years, limited access to electricity means about seven of every 10 rural households in Kilifi County rely on kerosene for lighting, and wood or charcoal for cooking. Over-dependence on wood is a problem in a country that already consumes about 6,850 metric tons of charcoal daily, which translates into an estimated 2.5 million tons of unsustainably harvested wood each year, according to a 2013 survey by the World Agroforestry Centre.

### Cash and education

Sustainable cake-making is proving lucrative. On a sunny day each group member can earn up to 300 shillings, money that many have used to start other businesses. And by selling clothing or rearing poultry, the women can supplement their incomes when the weather is too cloudy to bake. Taking advantage of Msumarini village's lush coconut plantations, the group also uses its solar oven to process natural coconut oil, which it sells at 500 shillings per half litre. A mix of grated coconut and water is placed in the box and left for two days to melt. The mixture separates into water and a layer of floating oil, which the women skim off to package and sell. —Reuters

CLINIC  
PAGE



Kuwait Times  
THE LEADING INDEPENDENT DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem  
فهد علي المخيزيم

Consultant Pediatrician استشاري أطفال  
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## KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (12/11/2015 TO 18/11/2015)

<b>SHARQIA-1</b> THE FORGOTTEN SPECTRE THE FORGOTTEN SPECTRE THE FORGOTTEN	12:45 PM 2:45 PM 4:45 PM 7:45 PM 9:45 PM 12:45 AM	<b>ATOMIC EDEN</b> ATOMIC EDEN ATOMIC EDEN	9:00 PM 11:15 PM 1:15 AM
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<b>SHARQIA-3</b> THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY-PART 2 PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO SPECTRE	11:30 AM 2:15 PM 5:30 PM 8:45 PM 12:05 AM	<b>360°-1</b> FIELD OF LOST SHOES SPECTRE SPECTRE SPECTRE SPECTRE	11:45 AM 2:00 PM 5:00 PM 8:00 PM 11:00 PM
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<b>MARINA-1</b> FIELD OF LOST SHOES THE FORGOTTEN FIELD OF LOST SHOES PINOCCHIO THE FORGOTTEN FIELD OF LOST SHOES THE FORGOTTEN	12:45 PM 2:45 PM 4:45 PM 6:45 PM 8:45 PM 10:45 PM 12:45 AM	<b>BAIRAQ-1</b> THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY-PART 2 THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY-PART 2 THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY-PART 2 THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY-PART 2 THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY-PART 2	12:45 PM 3:45 PM 6:30 PM 9:15 PM 12:05 AM
<b>MARINA-2</b> SPECTRE SPECTRE SPECTRE SPECTRE SPECTRE	12:30 PM 3:30 PM 6:30 PM 9:30 PM 12:30 AM	<b>BAIRAQ-2</b> SPECTRE PINOCCHIO SPECTRE PINOCCHIO SPECTRE SPECTRE	12:30 PM 1:30 PM 3:30 PM 6:45 PM 8:45 PM 11:45 PM
<b>MARINA-3</b> THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY-PART 2 THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY-PART 2 THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY-PART 2 THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY-PART 2 THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY-PART 2	1:00 PM 3:45 PM 6:30 PM 9:15 PM 12:05 AM	<b>BAIRAQ-3</b> PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO FIELD OF LOST SHOES PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO FIELD OF LOST SHOES FIELD OF LOST SHOES	1:00 PM 2:15 PM 4:15 PM 7:30 PM 10:45 PM 12:45 AM
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<b>AVENUES-2</b> PINOCCHIO PINOCCHIO PINOCCHIO PINOCCHIO	12:00 PM 2:15 PM 4:30 PM 6:45 PM	<b>LAILA</b> PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO NO WED THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY-PART SPECTRE THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY-PART 2	4:00 PM 23:30 PM 7:15 PM 10:15 PM

**Kuwait Times**  
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### MATRIMONIAL

**Seeking** suitable alliance for a B.S.E Nurse working in M.O.H Kuwait (RC girl/ 27 years/ 160 cm) from Trichur district, Kerala, proceeding for vacation coming March. Contact: [rkalleli@gmail.com](mailto:rkalleli@gmail.com) (C 5076)  
19-11-2015

### SITUATION WANTED

**Accountant** (Indian) having 23 years of experience in Middle East doing all kinds of Accounts up to Finalization & Audit Reporting, looking for a placement with transferable Iqama. Contact: 97934610. (C 5075)  
16-11-2015

### CHANGE OF NAME

**Old name** Murtaza, new name Murtaza Shabbir Saifuddin, Address - Dhiya New Abadi, VPO Partapur, Banswara Raj, India, Passport No. G0081303. (C 5079)  
18-11-2015

### SITUATION VACANT

**Wanted** Indian female cook for a small Kuwaiti family. Contact: 99574355 (C 5077)  
17-11-2015

### Prayer timings

<b>Fajr:</b>	<b>04:54</b>
<b>Shorook</b>	<b>06:16</b>
<b>Duhr:</b>	<b>11:34</b>
<b>Asr:</b>	<b>14:31</b>
<b>Maghrib:</b>	<b>16:50</b>
<b>Isha:</b>	<b>18:11</b>

## Hospitals

<b>Sabah Hospital</b>	<b>24812000</b>
<b>Amiri Hospital</b>	<b>22450005</b>
<b>Maternity Hospital</b>	<b>24843100</b>
<b>Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital</b>	<b>25312700</b>
<b>Chest Hospital</b>	<b>24849400</b>
<b>Farwaniya Hospital</b>	<b>24892010</b>
<b>Adan Hospital</b>	<b>23940620</b>
<b>Ibn Sina Hospital</b>	<b>24840300</b>
<b>Al-Razi Hospital</b>	<b>24846000</b>
<b>Physiotherapy Hospital</b>	<b>24874330/9</b>

## Clinics

<b>Kaizen center</b>	<b>25716707</b>
<b>Rawda</b>	<b>22517733</b>
<b>Adaliya</b>	<b>22517144</b>
<b>Khaldiya</b>	<b>24848075</b>
<b>Kaifan</b>	<b>24849807</b>
<b>Shamiya</b>	<b>24848913</b>
<b>Shuwaikh</b>	<b>24814507</b>
<b>Abdullah Salem</b>	<b>22549134</b>
<b>Nuzha</b>	<b>22526804</b>
<b>Industrial Shuwaikh</b>	<b>24814764</b>
<b>Qadsiya</b>	<b>22515088</b>
<b>Dasmah</b>	<b>22532265</b>
<b>Bneid Al-Gar</b>	<b>22531908</b>
<b>Shaab</b>	<b>22518752</b>
<b>Qibla</b>	<b>22459381</b>



# Friday Times BUSINESS

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2015



New bond scheme for Mideast, N Africa: WB

SYRIA'S 'BREAD BASKET' WORST HIT IN FIGHTING THIS YEAR: FAO Page 39

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## ENERGY FORUM

### Kingdom of Bahrain, 19 November 2015



MANAMA: (From left): Bahrain's Energy Minister Dr. Abdul Hassain bin Ali Mirza, Egypt's Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Tarek Al-Molla and United Arab Emirates undersecretary of Energy Ministry Dr Matar Hamed Al-Neyadi, answer questions during the opening day of Energy Forum in Manama yesterday. (Inset) Saudi Arabia's Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Ali Ibrahim Naimi addresses delegates. —AP



## SAUDI ECONOMY SQUEEZED BY LOWER OIL PRICES

### NAIMI SAYS OIL INVESTMENTS MUST CONTINUE TO MEET DEMAND RISE

**RIYADH:** Saudi Arabia's construction industry faces difficult times ahead as the prospect of state budget cuts adds to painful labor reforms, according to major builder Al-Khodari, in a sign of the strain on an economy squeezed by lower oil prices. Companies in the sector have benefited from a construction boom over the past decade as the world's top oil exporter has taken advantage of high crude prices to spend heavily on transport, social infrastructure and industrial facilities. But prices have more than halved since last summer due to a global supply glut and the volume of building projects looks set to shrink as the government, facing a mammoth budget deficit, starts to economize by slowing or shelving some plans.

Construction firms, including foreign companies operating there, have also been hit hard by labor reforms by a government seeking to reduce its reliance on oil, and also avoid the kind of social unrest seen elsewhere in the Arab world.

It has been pushing companies to hire more Saudi citizens instead of cheaper foreign workers, in order to move Saudis out of the state sector and into private industry. It is also keen to keep a lid on an unemployment rate standing at 11.6 percent. "I think we should expect the difficult situation in the (construction) sector to go on for 18 more months," Fawwaz Al-Khodari, chief executive of Abdullah Abdul Mohsin Al-Khodari Sons, told Reuters in an interview.

"Companies are facing troubles mainly due to the labor reforms. We will see the result of the budget deficit later, but now we are in a situation where the pain is already there."

Brent crude prices have fallen to around \$45 a barrel from over \$115 in June last year, slashing Saudi Arabia's oil export cash - so-called petrodol-

lars - which traditionally account for around 90 percent of its state revenues.

The Saudi finance minister said in September that the government was delaying some construction projects but those deemed important for the economy would go ahead. He did not elaborate. "I believe many projects that are not seen as being essential will be first to be shelved, including those that were tendered but not awarded," Khodari said.

For example, a plan to build soccer stadiums around the country may be seen as non-essential, while projects such as housing, hospitals and schools look likely to go ahead, he said.

Saudi officials could not be reached for comment. The labor reforms, introduced in 2011, has hit companies' profits as they compete to hire the limited number of Saudis willing to work in the sector, and also face higher costs obtaining work permits for foreigners.

Another uncertainty facing the sector is whether the government will raise subsidized domestic fuel prices next year to save money. The oil minister said last month that such reforms were being considered. Khodari said that depending on their size, fuel price hikes could have a considerable impact on companies which operated large fleets of vehicles and equipment, such as his own.

#### CAUTIOUS BIDDING

Some media reports have speculated that Saudi government bodies are delaying payments to contractors because of worsening cash flow - something the government has not commented on. However, such delays were common around the Gulf because of bureaucratic inefficiency even

when oil was high, and Khodari said he did not see a general, oil-related slowdown in payments.

"We have always had certain clients that had slow payment processes, even when spending was very high. But since we have other clients that are paying timely, this leads us to believe that it is more an administrative issue within some institutions and therefore cannot generalize."

However, the uncertain outlook for some projects is making contractors more cautious bidding for them, and many have decided to tender for fewer bids, Khodari said. He aims to raise the share of non-government contracts at his firm's business to 35 percent by 2018 from 15 percent of the present backlog. His firm reported a 14.3 million riyal (\$3.8 million) loss for the third quarter against a 15 million riyal profit a year earlier, its first net loss since its 2010 initial public offer. Revenue fell 17.5 percent and new contract awards slumped to 31 million riyals from 554.6 million riyals. Khodari said he expected an upward trend in profit margins, which started in 2014, to resume, without being specific on the timeframe.

#### Investment

Saudi Arabia's oil minister Ali Al-Naimi said yesterday that future oil investments should continue to meet an anticipated global growth in crude demand by more than 1 million barrels per day. "Demand for oil is continuing to rise," Naimi told an energy conference in the Bahraini capital Manama. "To meet this growing need, there should be a continuation if not an increase in the pace of investments in the petroleum industry to guarantee the stability of the market on the short and long term."

Oil prices will start improving next year and

OPEC's decision last year to not cut supplies was the right one, the United Arab Emirates' energy ministry said yesterday.

"We believe that OPEC policy is the right one... Next year will see improvement in prices... In 2016 we could witness some correction in the market," Matar Al-Nyadi, undersecretary of the UAE's energy ministry, told an industry conference in the Bahraini capital Manama. —Reuters

## SAUDI TELECOM OFFERS TO RAISE STAKE IN KUWAIT'S VIVA TO 100%

**DUBAI:** Saudi Telecom Co said yesterday it has submitted an offer to increase its stake in Kuwait's VIVA to 100 percent that is pending approval from Kuwait's market regulator. STC's voluntary offer document proposes to purchase all issued shares in the Kuwaiti firm it does not already own. Its current stake in VIVA, which only listed on Kuwait's bourse in December 2014, is 26 percent, it said in a bourse statement.

VIVA made a net profit of KD33 million (\$108.7 million) in the nine-months ending September, up 12 percent year-on-year. Viva's current market capitalization is \$1.52 billion, Reuters data shows. Meanwhile, Viva shares hit 5-month high yesterday on Kuwait Stock Exchange after STC buy offer. Its shares jumped 5.4 percent to 970 fils, highest since June 11. —Reuters



## News

In brief

**US dollar down  
against KD at 0.303**

**KUWAIT:** The US dollar was down vis-a-vis the Kuwaiti dinar yesterday exchanging at KD 0.303 while the euro was up to 0.325 as compared to Wednesday's rates, the Central Bank of Kuwait said. The Sterling pound rose to KD 0.464 and the Swiss franc was stable at KD 0.299 while the Japanese yen remained at KD 0.002.

**Kuwait oil price down  
29 cents to \$35.58 pb**

**KUWAIT:** The price of Kuwaiti oil went down by 29 cents to reach USD 35.58 per barrel Wednesday after it was \$38.87 pb the day before, said a statement by Kuwait Petroleum Corporation yesterday. Experts predicted that the global prices of oil will remain at their current low rates till the end of this year and possibly continue to do so by the beginning of 2016. They attributed their forecasts to the increasing supplies of oil at the world markets.

**Saudi-based APICORP  
mulls debt issues**

**DUBAI:** Saudi Arabia-based Arab Petroleum Investments Corp. (APICORP) hopes to issue one or two debt deals in the coming year, the energy investment company's chairman told Arabiya television. "We hope next year to have one or two offerings around \$1 billion and we expect, God permitting, that prices will be better than they were during our first offering," chairman Abed bin Abdulla Al-Saadoun said in an interview. APICORP, owned by the governments of the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries, debuted in the international bond market in late October and raised \$500 million through a sukuk issue.

**IBQ launches \$500m  
five-year bond**

**DUBAI:** International Bank of Qatar (IBQ) has launched a \$500 million five year debut bond issue, which it expects to price later yesterday, a document from lead arrangers showed. Final pricing was set at 200 basis points over midswaps, after setting initial price thoughts in the area of 200 basis points over midswaps on Wednesday. The Regulation S Senior offer would come under the A2/A+ rated IBQ's \$2 billion euro medium-term note program. Citigroup, QNB Capital and Standard Chartered Bank are the joint lead managers and Union National Bank is the co-lead for the transaction.

**GULF MARKETS RISE, EGYPT  
BUOYED BY WB PROMISE****MIDEAST STOCK MARKETS**

**DUBAI:** Middle East stockmarkets firmed yesterday, with Saudi Arabian Mining Co (Ma'aden) rising on news of a major loan and Egyptian shares climbing on the prospect of Cairo receiving \$1 billion from the World Bank. Ma'aden were up 3.9 percent by 0943 GMT after local, regional and international banks committed to a 11.5 billion riyal (\$3.1 billion) loan for its phosphate business, replacing existing debt on more favorable terms.

Riyadh's Tadawul index rose 1.1 percent to 7,032.70 points, heading for a third session of gains in the four days since it hit a two-year low on Sunday. A marginal recovery in oil prices helped lift Saudi petrochemical shares. Saudi Basic Industries Corp (SABIC) gained 1.5 percent.

UAE markets also rose, driven by buying in stocks usually targeted by retail traders. Dubai contractor Arabtec jumped 4.4 percent, trimming year-to-date losses to 57.4 percent.

Dubai's benchmark climbed 2.16 percent to 3,249.59 points, heading for its third gain since Sunday's 11-month low. "There are broad-based buying opportunities, but stock selection is becoming key," Hootan Yazhari, head of MENA and Frontier Markets Equity Research at BofA Merrill Lynch, said in a report about shares that have become attractive after a sharp correction during the summer. "We retain our bias for markets with robust macro, attractive valuations, consistent earnings delivery and/or superior earnings growth," he added, mentioning UAE as the firm's top regional pick.—Reuters



**MATSAPHA:** Workers of a foreign-owned textile factory sew on machines during their shift in the factory on the outskirts of Matsapha, Swaziland. Unable to fulfill the criteria required by Washington regarding human rights, Swaziland in January 2015 lost the benefit of AGOA, the US program allowing it to be exempt from taxes to export its products.—AFP

# NEW BOND SCHEME FOR MIDEAST, N AFRICA: WB

## EDUCATION, INFRASTRUCTURE AND JOBS IN FOCUS

**BEIRUT:** A new international bond and grant scheme to help countries dealing with the fallout of war and instability in the Middle East and North Africa should be in place by spring, a senior World Bank official said. In a Reuters interview, Hafez Ghanem, the World Bank's vice president for the Middle East and North Africa, said the type of investment targeted by the plan - education, infrastructure and jobs - was vital to addressing the region's refugee crises.

He said that humanitarian aid alone was not enough and the alternative was "one or two lost generations" in a region with 15 million refugees or internally displaced people.

Ghanem spoke during a visit to Lebanon, which is struggling to cope with more than 1 million registered Syrian refugees who account for a quarter of the population.

He said he could not remember a time in his nearly three-decade career of such high demand from middle-income countries for assistance. "The demand on our support is very high right now and it is going to increase, because as you bring peace through political or security measures, to make the peace hold, you need to give people opportunities and hope," he said.

"We are trying to raise more resources, that is why we have proposed this financing mechanism." The World Bank, United Nations and Islamic Development Bank last month announced the initiative that would ask donor countries to provide guarantees for bonds raising money for certain projects ranging from support for refugees to rebuilding to allow displaced people to return home. Some would be Islamic bonds, or sukuk, targeting investors in the region, where conflicts are raging in Syria, Iraq, Yemen and Libya. The proposal also includes asking donors for grants to cut the interest rate for states hosting refugees.

"If we agree and succeed in putting this together, it's not a one-shot deal. It's something that will have to be done over several years, and the amount of work that is needed, the projects that will need to be imple-

mented, none of us can implement them very quickly," Ghanem said.

**REBUILDING LIBYA, YEMEN, SYRIA**

"We are talking development projects, investments in education, health, infrastructure. So the way I see it is we will start gradually," he said. "We are not envisioning an amount right now."

"The big amounts will be required when you do the reconstruction say in Syria, or in Yemen, or Libya, but right now you cannot do that." The aim is to have the financing mechanism in place by spring, he said. Governments that had expressed interest in

the plan included the Group of Seven nations, Nordic states, the Netherlands, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Qatar. He said a forthcoming meeting would include beneficiary states including Jordan, Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco and Lebanon. Lebanon's response to the refugee crisis and other problems has been hampered by its own internal political conflict. Lebanon's parliament convened for the first time in a year last week to approve laws including one allowing implementation of a \$600 million dam to be built with World Bank financing. The project has been held up for more than a year.—Reuters

**ECB'S VISCO: PARIS ATTACKS  
HIT EURO-ZONE RECOVERY**

**PARIS:** Last week's attacks in Paris threaten to hurt an economic recovery in Europe which is already fragile due to the slowdown in emerging economies, European Central Bank Governing Council member Ignazio Visco said yesterday.

Speaking at a conference in the French capital on long-term investment financing, Visco, who is governor of the Bank of Italy, said the attacks "certainly add their negative weight on confidence and raise the level of uncertainty". He added that this may make a much-needed recovery in investment in Europe "more difficult to sustain".

On Friday at least 129 people were killed in Paris in attacks for which Islamic State has claimed responsibility. After a limited move toward safer assets in the immediate aftermath, financial markets have largely discounted any impact.

However, with soldiers on the streets and security alerts high in

many European capitals, few policy-makers have yet turned their attention to the possible economic consequences of the threat.

A survey by the Piepoli Institute published in Italian daily La Stampa yesterday found 50 percent of Italians said they would change their behavior by travelling and going out less to entertainment venues from concerts to stadiums and museums. Euro-zone growth slowed unexpectedly in the third quarter, data showed last week. Weaker foreign trade held back leaders Germany and France, and much of the rest of the bloc underperformed. That reinforced expectations that the ECB will expand monetary stimulus at its next policy meeting on Dec. 3. Visco said investments in Europe, unlike in the United States, were far from fully recovering from their pre-crisis peak in 2007, and they remained particularly weak in Italy and Spain, the largest economies on the euro-zone's southern rim.—Reuters



## FITCH REMOVES 'PARTIAL DEFAULT' FOR UKRAINE

**WASHINGTON:** Ratings agency Fitch removed its "partial default" rating for Ukraine Wednesday after the country completed its bond restructuring deal and resumed servicing its debts.

Fitch upgraded its rating to a still basement-level CCC, noting that the restructuring, agreed to in August but only completed last week, had allowed Kiev to issue new bonds against those defaulted on in October in a move to make the country's finances more sustainable.

The restructuring lengthens the payment period on Ukraine's massive debt and was a crucial component of the International Monetary Fund's \$17.5 billion financial rescue of the country agreed to in March.

"Public debt sustainability has improved," Fitch said. "Reduced refinancing needs and a pipeline of official financing give the public and external finances some breathing room and lower the risk of a sovereign debt crisis over the short- to medium-term."

Kiev still has to resolve a \$3 billion debt dispute with Moscow, which could threaten the overall program. Moscow has insisted that Ukraine repay by December the loans Russia made to then-president Viktor Yanukovich ahead of his ouster in February 2014. On Monday, Russia said it has a new proposal on how to resolve the dispute, but gave no details. Last week, Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk reiterated that Kiev would not offer Moscow "better conditions" than to private creditors. —AFP



**FRANKFURT:** A trader watches his screens when the German stock index DAX went over 11 000 points at the stock market in Frankfurt yesterday. —AP

## RUSSIA, CHINA SIGN CONTRACT WORTH OVER \$2BN FOR SU-35S

**MOSCOW:** China is to buy a batch of 24 Sukhoi-35 fighter jets from Russia in a deal worth more than \$2 billion, an industry source told Reuters yesterday, in a move that may help the Kremlin's strained finances. A spokeswoman for Russian state holding Rostec confirmed a deal between the two countries had been signed involving Su-35 fighter jets, but declined to provide details.

The deal makes China the first foreign buyer of the Su-35, one of Russia's most advanced military aircraft, and is one of the largest contracts for military jets to have ever been signed between the two countries. Russia and China have been in talks for several years over the Su-35s, and in 2012 the two sides signed a preliminary agreement for Beijing to buy some of the jets, the Kommersant newspaper reported.

Arms sales are a rare bright spot in an otherwise gloomy economic picture for Russia, whose economy is suffering from weak oil prices and Western sanctions over the Ukraine conflict.

Moscow has sought to deepen trade and financial ties with Beijing following the chill in relations with the West over Ukraine, but some analysts are skeptical as to whether the drive has yielded much in the way of early results. It is not clear when China will pay Russia the more than \$2 billion fee for the Su-35 jets. —Reuters

## US TRADE CZAR CONFIDENT OF 2016 CONGRESS VOTE ON TPP

**MANILA:** US Trade Representative Michael Froman said yesterday he expected Congress to vote on a 12-nation Pacific Rim free-trade deal early next year. The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), which aims to liberalize trade for 40 percent of the global economy, must be ratified by US Congress but opposition from many Democrats and some Republicans could mean a vote is unlikely before President Barack Obama leaves office. "We can get it done as early as we can next year," Froman told Reuters on the sidelines of an Asia-Pacific summit in Manila.

Froman said the Obama administration would consult with lawmakers "to find the best window to move this forward but we have to get it done as quickly as possible."

Obama last week urged Congress to "move promptly" early next year to approve the trade deal, in line with his target to have it passed before the November 2016 presidential elections. —Reuters

## SYRIA'S 'BREAD BASKET' WORST HIT IN FIGHTING THIS YEAR: FAO

### MAIN WHEAT GROWING AREAS IN NORTH IN RUINS

**AMMAN:** Intensified fighting in Syria's main wheat growing areas in the north this year will make it even more difficult for farmers to access fields and could hamper planting more cereals this season, a senior United Nations food agency official said.

Conditions for farmers were deteriorating despite a favorable weather outlook indicating a good rainy season for a second year in a row, said the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization's assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for North Africa and the Near East.

"The conflict in Syria has further escalated and its impact on production has worsened," Abdessalam Ould Ahmed said. "Conditions are extremely difficult inside Syria today for agriculture production and there are many disincentives for farmers to keep farming on their fields, including security concerns, difficulties to store and sell their products."

"Fighting has intensified in Syria's bread basket provinces," he said referring to the provinces of Hasaka, Raqqa and Deir Al-Zor that alone account for nearly 70 percent of the country's total wheat production. These areas have seen heavy fighting this year between the Kurdish YPG militia, backed by US-led air strikes, and Islamic State militants. It is the heaviest fighting in those areas since the start of the war.

Fighting has also intensified in Aleppo province, in the rich agricultural

Sahl Al-Ghab Plain in Hama province, and in the northwestern province of Idlib, all of them arable areas. The growing conflict would hamper the planting season even if rains were excellent as in last year, Ould Ahmed said.

Last year's rainy season, which came early and helped timely planting, was the best in a decade, helping boost wheat production to an estimated 2.445 million tons of production in 2015, significantly better than the drought-stricken year before. Barley production was 986,000 tons in 2015, the best since 2006 even though it came from a smaller cultivated area, the FAO official said.

But the heavy rainy season did little to halt the drop in the cultivated area in 2015, which had fallen "systematically" since the start of conflict in 2011, with the estimated harvested wheat areas now the smallest since the 1960s.

Wheat production was still 40 percent lower than pre-conflict levels. The FAO was expanding operations across Syria with more seed distribution and boosting technical assistance in both state and non-government controlled areas to partially slow the shrinkage in farmland, Ould Ahmed said.

#### TRANSPORT, INFLATION, FUEL

Ould Ahmed also warned that the scale of conflict was worsening the already difficult conditions the farmers are facing in the storage, transport and marketing of agricultural goods.

Inflation has also risen due to the depreciation of the local currency against the dollar and higher fuel costs alongside chronic shortages of fertilizers have pushed up the cost of production, he added.

"The difficulty facing farmers in transporting their harvest across frontlines where each time they cross they have to pay a part of their product are all going to get worse," he said. Lower food production was now making Syria more dependent on food handouts by the World Food Program (WFP) and other agencies. Import needs were also growing even though the presence of millions of refugees outside Syria had in general reduced food needs inside the country, he added.

"Imports will grow but they would be more expensive due to insurance premiums that have increased dramatically, making the cost of a ton of imported wheat to Syria much higher," Ould Ahmed said. Now more than half of Syria's population were undernourished and food-insecure in a country that once was self-sufficient and which is now producing only half the food it consumes, according to Ould Ahmed, citing FAO statistics.

The agricultural sector was also dealt a heavy blow by the breakdown of a centralized government system that provided farmers with subsidized seeds, fuel and an elaborate attractively priced buy back of wheat immediately after the harvest. —Reuters





**BEIJING:** Visitors getting a closer look at Chinese subway train models at an exhibition in Beijing. China's railway equipment exports increased by 34.7 percent annually from \$80 million in 2001 to \$3.74 billion in 2014, with one of China's top two bullet train makers CNR Corp recently secured a deal to supply metro trains to the US city of Boston. —AFP

## ROYAL MAIL SHARES RISE AFTER INCREASED COST CUTS FORECAST

### H1 REVENUE LITTLE CHANGED AT 4.4BN POUNDS

**LONDON:** Britain's Royal Mail has projected an increased level of cost cuts as it battles to boost the profitability of its domestic letters and parcels business, helping send its shares up more than 6 percent to a three-month high. Prospects of Royal Mail, privatized in 2013, hinge on its ability to cut costs and modernize its operations in order to help win more of a parcels market buoyed by a boom in online shopping.

Announcing first-half results, the company said it expected costs in UK letters and parcels to be at least 1 percent lower for the full year, having previously said it expected a 1 percent reduction.

Chief Executive Moya Greene told Reuters the group had kept a tight grip on costs and had put in extensive preparations for the Christmas period,

important for its full-year outcome.

"Everything that can be operationally, we have done ... At Christmas, we know it's our time to shine," she said. Royal Mail said it had managed to reduce operating costs through measures like job cuts, managing its vehicles better and boosting its processing and delivery productivity.

"We know that change in the operation is necessary and all the things that we did over the past two years now have given us the platform that has allowed us to accelerate that," Greene said. Royal Mail, which also reported a better than expected performance from its European parcels arm GLS, said UK parcel volume grew 4 percent in the first half, driven by new customer wins and initiatives.

The shares hit their highest since

mid-August and were 6.1 percent higher at 482 pence by 0904 GMT, making it one of the biggest gainers on the FTSE 100 index.

"With limited revenue growth potential in the near term, it's down to ongoing cost control to improve earnings," said Panmure analyst Gert Zonneveld, who has a "hold" rating on the stock. The company posted revenue little changed at 4.4 billion pounds (\$6.7 billion) for the six months ended Sept. 27, in line with analyst expectations. Adjusted pretax profit fell 16 percent to 240 million pounds, though excluding so-called transformation costs including pension expenses the group said operating profit was flat. The company will pay a first-half dividend of 7 pence per share, up from 6.7p. —Reuters

## CHINA CUTS RATES ON LOANS TO SMALL BUSINESSES

**BEIJING:** China cut interest rates yesterday on loans by small lenders that finance the country's entrepreneurs in a new move to shore up lackluster economic growth.

Beijing has cut its benchmark lending rate six times since last November as economic growth slowed. But those cuts applied to large state-owned banks that lend mostly to government companies, not to entrepreneurs who generate most of China's new jobs and wealth.

Yesterday, the People's Bank of China cut the rate on a one-week loan by small banks and credit cooperatives from 5.5 percent to 3.25 percent. The rate for an overnight loan was cut from 4.5 percent to 2.75 percent. Communist leaders have affirmed their support for a "new normal" of slower, more self-sustaining growth based on domestic consumption instead of trade and investment. But they are trying to keep a 5-year-old economic downturn from deepening too sharply and causing a politically dangerous spike in job losses.

Growth fell to a six-year low of 6.8 percent in the latest quarter, less than half the past decade's peak of 14.2 percent in 2007.

The International Monetary Fund and private sector forecasters expect growth to fall to 6 percent or lower over the next two years. President Xi Jinping said Nov. 3 that the country needs at least 6.5 percent a year through the end of this decade to achieve the ruling Communist Party's goal of making the population "moderately prosperous."

Communist leaders have promised to open state-dominated industries wider to private sector competitors, but have yet to cut back the privileges of state companies, which include monopolies and low-cost loans. —AP



**GHAZIABAD:** Indian workers prepare jaggery, a traditional cane sugar made from sugarcane juice extract, at a jaggery plant in Muradnagar in Ghaziabad yesterday. —AFP

## CHEAPER CURRENCY NO CURE FOR BRAZILIAN EXPORTERS

**JARAGUA DO SUL:** To hear Brazil's government tell it, businesses like Jamo Equipamentos should be booming. With Brazil locked in its worst recession in three decades, the maker of heating equipment, like other exporters, should at least be enjoying a newfound competitive advantage: the plunge in the currency, which has lost a third of its value against the dollar this year. A weaker Brazilian real makes Jamo's products cheaper in China, India and other foreign markets. Brazil's government hopes the company and other manufacturers will take advantage and drive an export-led economic recovery. But

a host of factors still hold exporters back, from a depreciation of currencies in many buyer markets to a reliance on imported raw materials to a global trade slump.

"It's only part of the equation," says Giovanni Ghizoni, one of Jamo's founders in the small, southern state of Santa Catarina. He expects exports this year to account for about 20 percent of revenues, about the same as in the past few years.

"To say the currency will save us is just rhetoric," he says. The rhetoric is increasingly common from President Dilma Rousseff's govern-

ment, scrambling to find glimmers of good news as the economy shrinks an expected 3 percent or more this year.

"An expansion of exports is what will launch the resumption of our growth," Rousseff told state governors at a recent gathering in Brasilia, the capital. Problem is, export revenues have actually fallen about 16 percent this year, hurt by sharp declines in the price of commodities, like iron ore, soybeans and oil, that make up roughly half of Brazil's exports.

For manufactured goods, key to any export-fueled recovery, export revenues have fallen by

10 percent. Global trade is now in its worst slump in decades. For the first time since the 1990s, the start of the recent era of globalization during which trade grew twice as fast as the world economy, trade is barely keeping up with even meager economic growth.

"Brazil is in for a surprise if it thinks now is a good time to increase exports," says Rubens Ricupero, an economist, former finance minister and former general secretary of a United Nations trade agency. "Even if it were suddenly as competitive as China, the global marketplace isn't buying." —Reuters



## TWO-HAT DORSEY IS KEY FIGURE IN SILICON VALLEY

**SAN FRANCISCO:** With the market debut of mobile payments startup Square, Jack Dorsey becomes a pivotal figure in Silicon Valley as the chief executive of two major publicly traded tech companies. Dorsey, who last month returned as CEO on a permanent basis at Twitter, will be managing two firms with multi-billion dollar valuations which are both struggling to achieve profitability.

Square begins trading Thursday on the New York Stock Exchange on Dorsey's 39th birthday, at a time when tech startups are pulling in billions in venture capital even amid fears of a "bubble" in private markets. Some analysts question whether Dorsey can successfully steer both firms, despite some comparing the Silicon Valley wunderkind to late, legendary Apple co-founder Steve Jobs.

Whatever the perception, Dorsey has been a driving force behind Square and Twitter.

### Self-taught coder

Dorsey taught himself how to write computer code by the time he was a teenager. He has spoken in interviews of being fascinated by maps and trains, and of how listening to emergency service radio dispatchers as a boy got him intrigued with the power of communicating with short bursts of words. Like many Silicon Valley celebrities, from Mark Zuckerberg and Jobs to Bill Gates or Michael Dell, Dorsey dropped out of college, never graduating from either of the universities he attended, one in his native Missouri and the other in New York.

Dorsey is credited with coming up with the idea for Twitter when eventual co-founder Evan Williams gave workers at blogging startup Odeo two weeks to work on fun new projects as a way to break up the daily routine. Dorsey went on to found Square in 2009 and is the payments firm's largest stakeholder, with a share of about 26 percent, according to a Square filing.

Forbes on Wednesday ranked Dorsey as the 11th richest US entrepreneur under the age of 40 and estimated his net worth at \$2.2 billion.

### New beginnings

Dorsey ran Twitter in 2007-2008 and served as interim chief executive after Dick Costolo resigned in June. Dorsey was pushed out of the chief chair his first time around. He was said to have made a better engineer than a boss at the time, known to leave early for personal pursuits such as sewing or yoga classes.

Sporting dreadlocks and a nose ring back then, he was accused of poor management and was finally replaced by Twitter's other co-founder, Williams. More recently, Dorsey has sought to revamp his image. With the dreadlocks gone, he has been moving to mend relationships between Twitter and developers and to reassure investors he is up to the task of leading two major companies. Dorsey last month apologized to developers while stressing the importance of the mission of Twitter. He also said that he is giving a third of his Twitter shares to employees of the San Francisco-based one-to-many messaging service.

### Trimming Twitter for flight

The move to pump up the supply of shares available to reward workers could be intended to boost moral in the aftermath of job cuts made after Dorsey retook the helm. Twitter in early October said it was slashing eight percent of its workforce as newly returned chief executive Dorsey outlined his "roadmap" to boost users and revenues at the money-losing messaging platform.

The company, which has not yet turned a profit, has struggled to expand its user base, lagging rival networks such as Instagram and well behind the much larger Facebook.

"Twitter is unique because it is a brand, a bird, a logo that just about everyone on the planet has seen. It stands for something," he said at the company's developer conference.

"Twitter empowers the conversation that the world needs to see." Matthew Kennedy at Renaissance Capital has said it's not clear if Dorsey can effectively lead both companies, especially with Twitter being dogged by concerns of sluggish user growth. "He's got to turn around Twitter while managing Square's offering," Kennedy said. "He's got a lot on his plate, and there could be some concern." — AFP



**TOKYO:** An international freighter berths at the international cargo terminal at Tokyo's port yesterday.— AFP

## BANK OF JAPAN HOLDS FIRE ON STIMULUS DESPITE RECESSION

### MONTHLY EXPORTS FALL, GDP CONTRACTS

**TOKYO:** Japan's central bank yesterday held fire on expanding its monetary easing program, even as the world's third-largest economy slipped into its second recession in two years and monthly exports fell.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has been trying since late 2012 to revitalize Japan's economy through his signature "Abenomics" policies, with aggressive monetary easing by the Bank of Japan (BoJ) at its foundation.

Some analysts anticipate the BoJ will be forced to expand its massive 80 trillion yen (\$665 billion) annual asset-buying scheme, launched more than two years ago to kickstart growth and end deflation—the chronic decline in prices that has sapped growth for years. But the BoJ opted to do nothing at the end of its two-day policy meeting, as it did last month—when expectations were even higher it would take action but before news Monday that growth in gross domestic product (GDP) contracted for a second straight quarter.

"While the Bank of Japan literally ignored the renewed fall in (the third quarter) GDP in today's policy statement, we think that a likely moderation in underlying inflation will eventually force policymakers to introduce more stimulus," Marcel Thieliand, Japan economist at Capital Economics said in a statement.

Asked about his views on the consecutive declines in GDP growth—the technical definition of a recession — BoJ Governor Haruhiko Kuroda told a news conference that the economy is

better than the figures suggest. Consumer spending is "resilient" and exports broadly positive, meaning that "final demand as a whole is rising", he said.

### 'Gradual recovery path'

"This is in line with the evaluation that Japan's economy is on a gradual recovery path." And in data released earlier Thursday, the finance ministry announced that exports declined in



**TOKYO:** Bank of Japan (BOJ) governor Haruhiko Kuroda answers questions during a press conference following the conclusion of the two-day policy board meeting at the BOJ headquarters in Tokyo yesterday.—AFP

October for the first time in more than a year, as economic growth in giant neighbor China slows. Overseas shipments by value declined 2.1 percent, the first fall since August of last year, while the value of exports by Japanese companies to China shrank 3.6 percent in October, the ministry

said, as growth in the world's second-largest economy slows.

"Japan's economy has continued to recover moderately, although exports and production have been affected by the slowdown in emerging economies," the bank said in a statement yesterday.

"Inflation expectations appear to be rising on the whole from a somewhat longer-term perspective, although some indicators have recently shown relatively weak developments," it said in the dry, carefully phrased language of global central banks. The BoJ last month was forced to cut its growth outlook and pushed back the timeline for a key inflation target as earlier, more optimistic predictions failed to come true. Kuroda said the timeline for the central bank's two-percent inflation target "depends on crude oil prices," reiterating that it now expects the achievement will come around late next year or early 2017.

The BoJ's bond-buying scheme has led to a sharp decline in the yen, seen largely as a positive as it can make Japanese products cheaper overseas. But a lacklustre global economy, characterized by the slowdown in China and weakness in emerging markets, are posing challenges to Abe's play for a recovery. Last month, the International Monetary Fund cut its growth forecast for the world economy for this year to 3.1 percent from the previous 3.3 percent, warning of increasing risks from the slowdown in China. — AFP



## WOODS NAMED VICE-CAPTAIN FOR RYDER CUP

**LOS ANGELES:** United States captain Davis Love III, looking for passion and experience, has appointed 14-times major winner Tiger Woods as one of five vice-captains for next year's Ryder Cup at Hazeltine National in Chaska, Minnesota. Woods, 39, is a veteran of seven Ryder Cups as a player, most recently in 2012 under Love's captaincy, and is battling to recover from a nagging back injury that led him to undergo two surgeries over the past two months.

Love also announced on Wednesday that Steve Stricker and Jim Furyk would be vice-captains, joining Tom Lehman who was introduced in February as the first of five assistants under a new management system unveiled by the PGA of America to help revive US fortunes. The Americans will be bidding to end a dismal stretch of eight defeats by Europe in the last 10 editions of the biennial team competition when the 2016 Ryder Cup is held from Sept 30-Oct 2, and hope to benefit from several changes made following the recommendations of a task force that was assembled.

"These three guys, joining Tom Lehman, will send a message to our team that we are really serious about this Ryder Cup," Love said during a news conference on the eve of this week's RSM Classic, the PGA Tour event which he hosts at Sea Island Golf Club on St. Simons Island, Georgia. "We are ahead of the game this time and it lets potential team members know that we are going to do whatever it takes to put them in the best position to win in 2016."

Furyk, 45, has played in nine consecutive Ryder Cups while Stricker, 48, who has represented his country three times in the team competition, will repeat the role he served as an assistant to then-captain Tom Watson at Gleneagles in Scotland last year. "Two things that excite me about these vice-captains is ... to a man, they said, 'We will do anything you ask us to do to make this Ryder Cup successful,'" said Love. And second, these four guys bring over 50 years of combined Ryder Cup and Presidents Cup experience to the table, so I have surrounded myself with passionate people who have a tremendous amount of matchplay experience. They'll also be my eyes and ears from event to event next year on Tour. That's invaluable and, as captain, I am grateful for their commitment, dedication and passion to win."—Reuters

## SPORT GENERATES \$1BN ANNUALLY FOR DUBAI

**DUBAI:** Sport contributes \$1.08 billion to Dubai's economy per annum, a report by consultants Deloitte revealed yesterday. Golf is the biggest contributor, providing \$270 million - or 25 percent - of the emirate's total sports revenue in the 12 months to Sept 1, 2015, Nick Tarratt, director of European Tour International - Dubai, told a news conference. These figures included indirect earnings such as from hotel stays and airline tickets, the report said.

Golf's direct contribution was \$131 million over the same time period, the report revealed. Of this, tournaments such as the \$8 million DP World Tour Championship - the European Tour's season finale, which began on Thursday - and February's Desert Classic provided \$80 million. Dubai is home to 11 golf courses and these generated \$11 million per annum, international visitors accounted for \$38 million and others \$2 million.

The report did not provide comparative figures for the prior year and Tarratt declined to give a forecast for the following 12 months. The report also did not give revenue figures for other sports. The emirate's other sporting events include the Dubai World Cup - the world's richest horse race - and the \$5 million Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championships. — Reuters



**DUBAI:** Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland tees off during the DP World Tour Championship yesterday.—AFP

## BOGEYS DENT DONALD'S START

FUNG IN FRONT IN MANILA • SCOTT LEADS IN MELBOURNE

**DUBAI/MELBOURNE/MANILA:** Former world number one Luke Donald was left frustrated after some late bogeys marred a blistering start to his first round at the season-ending DP World Tour Championship yesterday. Donald sunk birdies on the opening three holes of Dubai's earth course, bogeyed the fourth and then picked up shots at the next three greens to be five under after seven holes. "It was a game of two halves. I got off to a great start, I was really hot out of the gate," Donald told Reuters.

Bogeys on eight, 12 and 18 - plus a birdied 11th - dragged the 37-year-old down the provisional leaderboard. "Five under through 11, I would have hoped to have finished lower, but there a lot of positives," said the Englishman. "The first 12-13 holes, there wasn't much wind. The conditions were perfect, (but) the wind then started to pick up a bit. The course is in great shape, the greens are soft and pure, so if you're in control of your ball you can make birdies."

The world number 77 ended 2011 as the world's top-ranked player but has endured a difficult few years, slipping to his lowest rank for more than a decade and without a European tour victory since 2012. "It has been a tough season and I want to finish on a high. I feel like I'm going in the right direction," said Donald, who tied for fifth at last month's British Masters. The Tour has changed its member requirements for next year so that players must compete in at least five tournaments per season - excluding majors and World Golf Championship (WGC) events. Previously, the minimum was 13 including these elite tournaments.

"If that change hadn't come into effect I would have struggled to get my number of events - now my schedule will be very similar," said Donald, who

also plays on the US PGA Tour. His next tournament on the European circuit will be May's BMW PGA Championship at Wentworth.

In Melbourne, Adam Scott showed his growing comfort with the short putter as he lit up Huntingdale Golf Club with a seven-under 64 to take a one-shot lead after the opening round of the Australian Masters yesterday. The former world number one made the most of benign conditions on a muggy, overcast morning and rolled in five birdies on his last eight holes on the storied sandbelt course in Melbourne.

Strong winds later in the day made it difficult for the chasing pack but Western Australian Daniel Fox roared home with five birdies on his last five holes to finish with a 65, one off the pace in outright second. Three other local professionals - Peter Wilson, Matthew Stieger and Mathew Goggin - were two strokes further adrift on four-under. For Scott, now world number 12, it was a pleasing return to form after a forgettable week at the WGC-HSBC Champions in Shanghai, where he finished 70th in the limited field.

### Solid Play

"Everything panned out today," Scott, Australia's only US Masters champion, told reporters after his bogey-free round. "I played really solid so it's nice to see a little bit of the work I've been doing last week and early this week fall into place in the tournament situation." The 2012 and 2013 winner, Scott is bidding for his third Masters in the last four years but first at Huntingdale, where he missed out in playoffs at the 2002 and 2003 tournaments.

Scott possesses one of the finest swings in the game but has long battled for consistency on the greens and has gradually switched to the short putter after years of using a broom-

stick-style club. Anchoring, or the practice of using a part of the body to help control the swing of a putter, is banned from 2016, and Scott was one of the more prominent exponents. The transition has led to mixed results but he was pleased to need only 28 putts for his round after hitting 16 out of 18 greens in regulation.

"I feel like it's in a good spot," the 35-year-old said of his putting. "But hopefully there are more good weeks and the confidence continues to build." John Senden, a two-time US Tour event winner, shot two-under to be five off the pace. Rising American talent Bryson DeChambeau, who became only the fifth player to win the US Amateur and the NCAA championship in the same season this year, shot two-under in Scott's group.

In Manila, Nicholas Fung said he was riding a wave of confidence from a runner-up finish last week as he shot a six-under-par 66 to lead the Manila Masters by a stroke yesterday. The 25-year-old Malaysian drained seven birdies at par-72 Manila Southwoods Golf and Country Club to hit the front after round one. Fung finished behind Thailand's Dhanthai Boonma at last week's World Classic Championship in Singapore and he said he was still in the groove in Manila.

"My game is feeling good and I have been playing well. I left a couple of shots out there but it's okay. I am feeling very confident," he said, in comments released by the Asian Tour. I like playing here. It is always good to come back as I always feel comfortable. My runner-up finish last week definitely gave me a boost in confidence. It's good to come into the week with good form." Thailand's Poom Saksansin and Hung Chien-yao of Taiwan shared second spot, a shot ahead of a group of seven bunched on 68. — Agencies



## SOTNIKOVA SET FOR CUP OF RUSSIA RETURN

**MOSCOW:** Olympic champion Adelina Sotnikova will be in the spotlight when she makes her comeback at Moscow's Cup of Russia, the fifth in the six-leg ISU Grand Prix of figure skating series starting today. The Grand Prix season continues after the cancellation of last weekend's Trophee Bompard following terror attacks in France. And the return of 19-year-old Sotnikova, a surprise gold medal winner ahead of South Korean superstar Kim Yu-Na at her home Olympic Games in Sochi in 2014, will take centre stage as she returns after missing all of last season because of an ankle injury.

Sotnikova has not competed at any major international competition since the Olympics in February 2014 and tore an ankle ligament the following November. "I had certain problems with motivation after my recovery from injury," admitted two-time European silver medallist Sotnikova. "But after a short period of hesitation I understood that I'm too young to finish my career. I want to show the fans something different, some new features of my skating. "I was really missing the competitions throughout this year. I want to feel adrenalin in my blood ahead of the new start again," added the

former four-time national champion who competed in the 2015 Russian version of 'Dancing with the Stars'.

Sotnikova's best finish in her hometown event was a bronze medal in 2011 and she will likely face serious competition from compatriot Evgenia Medvedeva, this season's Skate America winner, and Russian national champion Elena Radionova, a world bronze medallist and runner-up in last year's Grand Prix final. Japanese duo Rika Hongo, second in the Cup of China, and Yuka Nagai, third in Skate Canada, will also be looking for podium finishes again.

As Sotnikova is only competing in the Cup of Russia she cannot qualify for the Grand Prix final, with skaters needing to participate in a minimum of two events. Reigning world champion Javier Hernandez of Spain, this season's Cup of China winner, looks clear favourite in the men's section of the event. Russia's Artur Gachinski, the 2011 world championships' bronze medal winner and veteran Sergei Voronov, the European bronze medallist, are expected to challenge him along with Japan's Takahiko Kozuko, the 2011 world championships' runner-up.—AFP

## ENGLAND DROP BELL FOR S AFRICA TOUR

**DUBAI:** England have dropped under-performing batsman Ian Bell from their Test squad for the forthcoming tour of South Africa, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) announced yesterday. With 7,727 runs, Bell is the eighth-highest Test scorer in England's history, but the 33-year-old has struggled for form of late and has scored only one Test century since July 2014.

Batsmen Nick Compton and Gary Ballance both earn recalls, but Adil Rashid drops out, leaving Moeen Ali and Samit Patel as England's frontline spinners. "Ian Bell has been an outstanding player for many years and undoubtedly still has plenty to offer England in the future," national selector James Whitaker said in a statement on the ECB website. "It was clearly a difficult decision, but he has struggled for runs in recent series and we felt that it was the right time for him to take a break and spend time working on his game out of the spotlight."

Reacting on Twitter, Bell said: "I'm absolutely gutted not to be selected for the tour to South Africa. I certainly feel I could have contributed out there and have been working tirelessly to get into the best possible condition for the tour. I'm going to enjoy a winter break with my family for the first time in 11 years and come back determined to win my place back. Wishing all the guys selected the best of luck." England arrive in South Africa on Dec 11 and are due to play four Test matches, five one-day internationals and two Twenty20 internationals between late December and late February.

Fast bowlers Mark Wood and Steven Finn both miss out through injury, while Nottinghamshire batsman Alex Hales and Surrey left-arm fast bowler Mark Footitt are the only uncapped players in the squad. Compton and Hales will compete for the right to open the batting with captain Alastair Cook after Ali failed to impress in the recent three-Test series with Pakistan in the United Arab Emirates, which England lost 2-0. Middlesex batsman Compton scored two centuries in nine Tests before being dropped in 2013, while Yorkshire's Ballance, who last featured in this year's Ashes, has four centuries in 15 Tests.

"The inclusion of Nick Compton and Gary Ballance alongside Alex Hales, Joe Root and James Taylor gives (head coach) Trevor Bayliss and Alastair Cook plenty of options in the top order," Whitaker added. "Adil Rashid showed plenty of promise in the UAE, but with the conditions in South Africa making the likelihood of playing two spinners extremely remote, he misses out. "We feel this provides an excellent opportunity for him to spend some time developing his white-ball skills in the lead-up to the ICC World T20 in March."—Agencies



**DUBAI:** England's Ian Bell leaves the pitch after he was dismissed during the Pakistan and England Test match at the Dubai International Stadium in this Oct 25, 2015 photo. —AP



**COLORADO SPRINGS:** Sir Craig Reedie, WADA Foundation President and IOC Vice President of the United Kingdom talks to the media during the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) Foundation meeting on Wednesday.—AFP

## ATHLETES UNEASY OVER RUSSIANS AT OLYMPICS

### WADA SUSPENDS RUSSIAN ANTI-DOPING AGENCY

**COLORADO SPRINGS:** The prospect of Russian athletes being welcomed back into the fold for the Olympics is causing alarm amongst rivals, with questions swirling over whether the country can rebuild a credible anti-doping regime in time for Rio. Track and field has been plunged into the worst crisis in its history over the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) report which uncovered a sophisticated state-supported doping program pervading all levels of Russian athletics.

The International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) slapped a provisional suspension on Russia last week while WADA on Wednesday suspended the scandal-tainted Russian Anti-Doping Agency (RUSADA), ruling it was non-compliant with the body's code. Technically, the decision heightens the possibility of Russian athletes being barred from taking part in Rio next year. That eventuality remains remote however.

Both the IAAF and WADA have expressed desire to oversee a rehabilitation of anti-doping practices in Russia that brings them back into compliance with global standards. But the notion of Russian athletes being allowed to compete in Rio has caused disquiet amongst competitors past and present. Addressing WADA's board meeting in Colorado Springs on Wednesday, US track and field great Ed Moses said he believed Russian athletes should be barred as a deterrent.

#### 'Enough is Enough'

"The only sanction is to say that enough is enough. It is to state loudly and clearly that the Russian athletics team cannot go to Rio," said Moses, who also called for WADA's independent commission to widen its mandate by investigating doping across all Russian sports. "I had many close friends who had irreplaceable moments stolen from them," said Moses,

referring to the drug-tainted era of the 1970s and 1980s in which he competed. "My hope is that there is not a generation of athletes that have their dreams stolen from them too."

Moses' comments struck a chord with Kirsty Coventry, the Zimbabwean double 200m backstroke champion from the 2004 and 2008 Olympics who will compete in her final games in Rio. Coventry, who sits on WADA's athlete committee, said many fellow swimmers had contacted her to express alarm about Russia, adding that she also wanted to see a wider probe into Russian sport. "There's a lot of concern. I've had a lot of swimmers get in touch with me to ask what can we do," Coventry said. "Speaking as an athlete that's going to be competing in Rio I want to know that I'm competing against clean athletes and not be suspicious. It's my last Olympics and I don't want to be up there thinking 'Oh crap, she might be doping'." —AFP



# NFL TO DEFEND \$1BN CONCUSSION SETTLEMENT

**PHILADELPHIA:** The NFL will ask a US appeals court to uphold a potential \$1 billion plan to settle thousands of concussion lawsuits filed by former players. Critics appealing the settlement on Thursday complain it protects some retirees at the expense of others. The awards could reach several million dollars for men with Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis and advanced dementia. However, they do not cover depression, seizures and mood disorders, which some experts link to concussions.

There also are no awards for future cases of chronic traumatic encephalopathy, the brain decay found after the suicides of Junior Seau, Dave Duerson and other troubled ex-players. "Class counsel bargained away the rights of more than 20,000 former NFL players - many of whom are suffering the serious effects of CTE, fairly called 'football's industrial disease'. This alone is reason to reject the settlement," lawyer Steven F Molo wrote on behalf of clients appealing the settlement.

Prior deaths involving CTE can trigger awards of up to \$4 million, but the negotiators set a cut-off date to avoid incentivizing suicides. The problem cannot currently be diagnosed in those

who are living. Senior US District Court Judge Anita B Brody approved the settlement plan last year, after persuading the NFL to remove a \$765 million cap. The settlement would provide baseline neurological testing and related medical claims for 65 years. Negotiators said the players would have had a tough time proving their case in court.

"(Their) claims faced substantial legal and evidentiary hurdles," NFL lawyer Paul Karp wrote in an appellate brief. Instead, he said, they "secured relief that provides immediate, significant, and enduring benefits." Former US Solicitor General Paul Clement will argue for the league before a three-judge panel of the 3rd US Circuit Court.

The lead players' lawyers who negotiated the deal say clients like former Philadelphia Eagle Kevin Turner, battling ALS, need the money immediately for their care. The lawyers stand to collect up to \$112 million in fees from the NFL if the deal goes through. The league expects about 6,000 former players, or nearly three in 10, to develop Alzheimer's disease or moderate dementia. They likely would get an average of \$190,000, given reductions based on advanced age, other medical conditions and their time in the league. — AP



**WASHINGTON:** In this June 25, 2014 file photo, former NFL football player Kevin Turner, who suffers from Lou Gehrig's disease, listens during testimony before the Senate Special Committee on Ageing hearing regarding concussions and the long term effects of brain related sports injuries. — AP

## LIN DAN CRASHES OUT OF HONG KONG OPEN

**HONG KONG:** Chinese badminton superstar Lin Dan crashed out of the second round of the Hong Kong Open yesterday to little-known hometown player Ng Ka-Long, raising questions about whether the two-time Olympic champion's dominance on court is waning. Lin, considered by many to be one of the true greats of the sport, looked sluggish compared to his 21-year-old opponent, who managed to take nine points off the Chinese player before conceding a shot.

It was the first meeting of the pair, and will likely be memorable for the young Hong Konger who was playing in front of an enthusiastic home crowd as he dismissed Lin 21-8, 21-18 in 33 minutes. "I think I am quite patient today and I am calm in doing some net shots and some lifting so I can better control the game. I think he didn't play his best today, so I can have a chance to beat him," said Ng. Lin has won just one Super Series title this year - in Japan in September - and failed to get past the first round at the French Open last month, but the 32-year-old has dismissed retirement rumours, saying he is aiming for next year's Olympics in Rio de Janeiro.

World number one Chen Long beat Thailand's Boonsak Ponsana to set up a quarter finals revenge match against Malaysian rival Lee Chong Wei, who beat him in Sunday's China Open final. China's Chen, who is gunning for his seventh major title of the year in the southern Chinese city, swept aside Boonsak 19-21, 21-8, 21-13. "Overall I am satisfied even though the first set took a moment to find my rhythm. Overall it was good," said Chen.

Lee - fresh from back-to-back wins in China and France - beat Germany's Marc Zwiebler 21-12, 21-12 for his place in the last eight. Former world number one Lee has made a strong return to the badminton circuit after an eight-month doping this year, silencing those sceptical of the veteran's chances to qualify for the Olympics to fight for a so-far elusive gold medal. China's Tian Houwei also went through when he beat defending champion Son Wan-Ho of South Korea 21-13, 21-17.

In the women's competition, world number one Carolina Marin of Spain downed Japanese rising star Akane Yamaguchi 21-19, 21-8 to reach the last eight. "She is a good player. It was a tough match. She always fights until the shuttle is on the floor. So that's why the first set was very close," Marin said of her teenage opponent, who is tipped as a strong prospect on the women's circuit in coming years. — AFP

## HOSSA SCORES IN OT TO LIFT BLACKHAWKS OVER OILERS

**EDMONTON, Alberta:** Marian Hossa scored 1:08 into overtime, and Artemi Panarin had a goal and two assists as the Chicago Blackhawks beat the Edmonton Oilers 4-3 on Wednesday for their third consecutive victory. Patrick Kane had two assists and extended his point streak to 14 games but had his goal streak ended at seven. He leads the NHL with 13 goals and 30 points. Hossa turned a long pass from Brent Seabrook into a breakthrough and beat Anders Nilsson with a slap shot from in close.

Panarin, a 24-year-old rookie, has points in six straight games, amassing five goals and five assists in that time while on a line with Kane and Artem Anisimov. Duncan Keith and Andrew Shaw also scored for the Blackhawks. Corey Crawford made 34 saves. Benoit Pouliot, Jordan Eberle and Leon Draisaitl scored, Teddy Purcell had two assists and Edmonton lost its third straight. Draisaitl tied it with 2:46 remaining off a feed from Taylor Hall.

### CAPITALS 2, RED WINGS 1, OT

Evgeny Kuznetsov scored 45 seconds into overtime to lift Washington over Detroit. Alex Ovechkin was held without a goal for the fourth straight game and remained tied with Sergei

Fedorov for the NHL's career lead among Russian players. Justin Williams scored for the Caps on a first-period power play after Dylan Larkin had opened the scoring for Detroit. Braden Holtby had 25 saves for Washington, including two stops on clean break-aways during regulation. Kuznetsov won it with his sixth goal of the season, skating in on Petr Mrazek from the right wing and beating the Detroit goalie to the far post.

### JETS 4, CANUCKS 1

Mark Scheifele and Drew Stafford each had two goals and an assist as Winnipeg ended a six-game losing streak. Mathieu Perreault had three assists and Ondrej Pavelec made 29 saves for the Jets. Stafford put Winnipeg up 1-1 late in the second period with his first goal in 12 games. He scored again with 1:34 left in the game into an empty net. Winnipeg was outscored 27-10 during its skid and had allowed 5.25 goals per game over its past four.

Ryan Miller stopped 30 shots and the Canucks lost their fourth game in a row. This was the last in a seven-game trip — Vancouver's longest this season. Daniel Sedin scored on the power play for Vancouver 6:44 into the second period.



**DETROIT:** Detroit Red Wings center Riley Sheahan (15) skates through Washington Capitals defenseman Taylor Chorney (4) and Jay Beagle (83) in the second period of an NHL hockey game on Wednesday. — AP



# FRIDAY COURT WIN DESERT BULLS TROPHY 2015

**KUWAIT:** Over four weeks from Oct 9, 22 teams competed intensely in the knockout matches of the Desert Bulls Trophy 2015. After a string of closely-fought thrilling matches, the best four teams, namely Friday Court, 7 to 7 Cricket Club, Winners Abbasiya and Sparks 11 played the semi-finals and fought for a spot in the finals. The grand finale was played on Oct 30, 2015

at 1:00 pm at TCR cricket ground in Abbasiya. The semifinals were played at 10:30 am in the morning and despite the weather conditions, 7 to 7 Cricket Club defeated Winners Abbasiya in a thrilling chase and Friday Court defeated Sparks 11 comprehensively to reach the finals. In the finals, after winning the toss, Friday Court decided to

bat first, and made a huge score of 116 runs in 8 overs. 7 to 7 could only make 59 runs, giving Friday Court a huge victory and the title of the Desert Bulls trophy 2015 Champions. Despite the cloudy and rainy weather conditions, the finals were witnessed by at least over a 100 people who gathered to watch the game, thereby signifying its popularity in Kuwait.



# HARDEN, ROCKETS PULL OUT WIN AFTER FIRING MCHALE

**HOUSTON:** James Harden scored 45 points, including all nine for Houston in overtime, as the Rockets beat the Portland Trail Blazers 108-103 on Wednesday after firing coach Kevin McHale earlier in the day. Corey Brewer made an off-balance 3-pointer to force overtime and Harden took over from there, finishing with 11 assists, eight rebounds and five steals as the Rockets capped an emotional day at the Toyota Center. It almost ended with a fifth straight loss before Brewer made his shot with 0.9 seconds remaining in regulation to tie the game at 99.

Just hours after McHale was fired, the Rockets played much of the game with sloppy mistakes and dreadful shooting. Interim coach J B Bickerstaff, son of longtime NBA coach Bernie Bickerstaff, served in his first game as head coach. The Blazers dropped their seventh straight, their worst losing streak since closing 2012-13 on a 13-game skid. Damian Lillard led Portland with 23 points. Houston snapped its longest skid since the 2012-13 season. Dwight Howard hauled in 19 rebounds, and Trevor Ariza had 18 points.

## SPURS 109, NUGGETS 98

Tony Parker scored a season-high 25 points as the San Antonio never trailed in beating Denver for its sixth straight victory. Kawhi Leonard added 20 points, Tim Duncan had 12 and LaMarcus Aldridge 11 for the Spurs, undefeated at home after five games. Patty Mills was 3 for 6 on 3-pointers in scoring a season-high 17 points. Denver rookie Nikola Jokic had 23 points off the bench, and Gary Harris added 15. The Spurs were without Manu Ginobili, who will miss the next two games with bilateral hip tightness.

## MAVERICKS 106, CELTICS 102

Dirk Nowitzki scored 23 points and Wesley Matthews had 18 as Dallas erased an 18-point, first-half deficit to defeat Boston for its fifth consecutive win. Zaza Pachulia had 14 points and 12 rebounds for the Mavericks. Deron Williams added 16 points, including consecutive key baskets. Isaiah Thomas led Boston with 19 points. Jared Sullinger had 18 points and 12 rebounds, and Avery Bradley scored 18 as the Celtics had a three-game winning streak snapped.

Dallas trailed 89-82 with just under 8 minutes to play before going on a 14-2 run over the ensuing 5:04. The Celtics closed to 104-102 and had a chance to tie or take the lead, but Raymond Felton stole the ball from Thomas in the closing seconds.

## PACERS 112, 76ERS 85

Paul George scored 34 points and C.J. Miles added 20 to lead Indiana to a rout of winless Philadelphia. T J McConnell scored 16 points for Philadelphia, which dropped to 0-12 while setting a sea-

son high with 31 turnovers. The 76ers are within five losses of matching last season's franchise-worst start and six defeats from tying the NBA record, set by the 2009 Nets, for longest losing streak to begin a season. Philadelphia opens a six-game road trip on Friday in Charlotte.

It was the 76ers' 22nd loss in a row dating to last season, four from equaling the NBA record they already share with Cleveland. George, who has scored at least 26 points in eight straight games, finished 13 for 24 from the field and 5 for 10 from 3-point range.

## BULLS 103, SUNS 97

Jimmy Butler scored a season-high 32 points as Chicago beat Phoenix for its fourth victory in a row. Pau Gasol added 17 points and eight rebounds, Kirk Hinrich scored 14 and former Phoenix guard Aaron Brooks had 12 points as Chicago ended the Suns' three-game winning streak. Bulls guard Derrick Rose sat out with a sore left ankle. Butler's 3-pointer with 1:08 to play gave Chicago a 99-92 lead, and he followed it up with a dunk with 9.2 seconds left. Brandon Knight paced Phoenix with 23 points.

## HAWKS 103, KINGS 97

Paul Millsap scored 23 points, including a running one-hander with 15.7 seconds remaining as Atlanta held off Sacramento. The Hawks, who had lost four of five, appeared in good shape when Lamar Patterson hit a layup off an extra pass from Thabo Sefolosha, pushing Atlanta to a 99-88 lead with 2:49 left. The Kings responded by going on a 9-0 run, putting Atlanta on the cusp of another tough defeat. The Hawks had lost their previous two games by a combined three points.

Millsap, who also had 16 rebounds, made sure they didn't drop another close one. After a timeout, he drove past Rudy Gay and put up the shot that essentially sealed the victory. After Marco Belinelli committed the last of Sacramento's 20 turnovers, Sefolosha came up with the ball and knocked down two free throws for the final margin. DeMarcus Cousins scored 24 points and pulled down 12 rebounds for the Kings. Rajon Rondo managed a triple-double with 12 points, 12 rebounds and 10 assists. Dennis Schroder, starting at point guard in place of injured Jeff Teague, had 22 points for the Hawks.

## THUNDER 110, PELICANS 103

Russell Westbrook had 43 points, nine rebounds and eight assists as Oklahoma City recovered from a slow start to beat injury-depleted New Orleans. Enes Kanter added 24 points and 14 rebounds for the Thunder, who bounced back after blowing fourth-quarter leads

in losses to Boston and Memphis. The Thunder (7-5) are 2-2 without star forward Kevin Durant, who missed his fourth straight game with a hamstring injury. Ryan Anderson scored 30 points for New Orleans (1-11), which lost its fifth straight game. The Pelicans suited up only nine players, with standout forward Anthony Davis sitting out with a shoulder injury sustained Tuesday against Denver.

## HORNETS 116, NETS 111

Nicolas Batum had 24 points and eight assists as Charlotte held off Brooklyn. Al Jefferson and Kemba Walker chipped in with 18 points apiece for the Hornets, who have won six of nine to get back to .500. Marvin Williams scored 14 points and Jeremy Lin had 13 points and nine rebounds off the bench for the Hornets (6-6). Thaddeus Young had 27 points on 11-of-17 shooting for the struggling Nets. Brook Lopez added 23 points. Batum bounced back from a 1-of-9 shooting night Tuesday against New York and returned to the form that earned him Eastern Conference player of the week last week.

## MAGIC 104, TIMBERWOLVES 101, OT

Evan Fournier scored 26 points and hit a 3-pointer with 3.1 seconds left in overtime to push Orlando past Minnesota. Elfrid Payton had 24 points and six assists for the Magic. Tobias Harris finished with 12 points and 11 rebounds. Andrew Wiggins led the Timberwolves with 28 points. Karl-Anthony Towns had 21 points and 12 rebounds.

Towns made two free throws with 40.6 seconds left in overtime to tie it at 101. Minnesota had Fournier trapped behind the 3-point line, but he split the defenders and drilled the winning shot. Minnesota forced overtime when Wiggins banked in a driving layup with 2.1 seconds left to make it 93-all. Towns then blocked a layup by Harris at the buzzer.

## JAZZ 93, RAPTORS 89

Alec Burks made the go-ahead jumper with 1:12 left and scored nine of his 13 points in Utah's big fourth quarter, helping the Jazz beat Toronto. Derrick Favors had 18 points, 11 rebounds and a clinching three-point play for the Jazz, who trailed by six midway through the final period before an 11-2 run gave them their first lead since the second quarter.

Rodney Hood had 16 points, six rebounds and four assists for the Jazz. Gordon Hayward finished with 17 points and seven rebounds. Luis Scola carried the offensive load for Toronto in the first half with 18 points and finished with a season-high 22. Kyle Lowry scored 20 and had six assists. — AP



## PREVIEW

## FRANCE ON ALERT FOR LIGUE 1 RESUMPTION

**PARIS:** Tight security will overshadow the resumption of Ligue 1 action in France today when Nice host Lyon, one week on from the terror attacks in Paris that left 129 people dead and 350 injured. France were playing Germany at the Stade de France on November 13 when three explosions were heard outside the national stadium. Three suicide bombers killed themselves along with one bystander. Junior Sports Minister Thierry Braillard with French football officials took the decision on Tuesday to allow Ligue 1 and Ligue 2 matches to go ahead under heavy security, but without away fans.

"Sporting competitions must continue because if we suspend them, that is what

these barbaric people want, which is to destabilise our daily way of life," explained Braillard. League president Frederic Thiriez said security forces across the country were too stretched to allow fans to travel. Speaking ahead of Tuesday's friendly between England and France at Wembley he said: "The Interior Ministry does not have sufficient mobilised forces to guarantee at the same time the presence of away supporters and overall security."

Popular sports daily L'Equipe paid tribute to the United Kingdom after fans sang La Marseillaise ahead of the match, as part of a series of tributes. The French national anthem will also be sung at all domestic matches this weekend in respect to the vic-

tims. "THANK YOU" (to the British) was the newspaper's front page headline after England carved out a meaningless 2-0 win in the capital with Prince William and British Prime Minister David Cameron in attendance.

As both European football's governing body UEFA and the French government were moved to dispel fears over France's ability to host Euro 2016, the French league returns but under a tight security blanket. Paris Saint-Germain, a healthy 10 point clear of Lyon, travel to Lorient tomorrow, Laurent Blanc's French champions notably affected by the attacks. Argentine midfielder Javier Pastore lost two friends at the Bataclan concert hall where 89 people were

murdered.

"Two of my friends were at the Bataclan and they have a restaurant about 300-metres from where I live. They were at the concert and sadly they are dead," explained Pastore. "I am very sad about what has happened in France, not only for the French but also the world. It is a shock to find the city in this tragic situation," he added.

Marseille's international midfielder Lassana Diarra was another top flight player touched by the atrocities as his cousin Asta Diakite was also killed in the massacre at one of Paris' most popular music venues. "Lass (Diarra) is hurting to the bone over a person who is very close to him," explained France coach Didier Deschamps.— AFP

## PREVIEW

## BUNDESLIGA SECURITY UNDER SCRUTINY AFTER BOMB SCARE

**BERLIN:** Hamburg host second-placed Borussia Dortmund today in the first of the weekend's Bundesliga fixtures with security under scrutiny after the Paris terror attacks and bomb scare in Hanover. Bundesliga chiefs insist it will be business as usual in Germany's top two tiers with the weekend's blue riband game seeing Schalke host Bundesliga leaders Bayern Munich in Gelsenkirchen, which will be at 79,000 capacity.

But whether the weekend's Bundesliga program should take place at all has been debated after Tuesday's Germany-Netherlands friendly in Hanover was called off due to a bomb scare, further shaking German football. It came just four days after the Germany team experienced first-hand last Friday's terrorist attacks in Paris. Armed police are expected to be seen at most grounds for the weekend's fixtures with the German Football League (DFL) insisting safety is the top priority.

Senior police figures have urged German fans to abandon their usual practise of defying stadium rules by bringing noisy flares into grounds and firing them during matches, which could spark panic in the current tense climate. There will be a minute's silence before kick-off at all Bundesliga grounds to remember the victims of the Paris attacks which killed 129 people. Players in the top two tiers will wear black armbands.

Dortmund's CEO Hans-Joachim Watzke says the show must go on at Hamburg's Volksparkstadion ground. "There is no alternative. We must show the civil courage and must not allow ourselves to capitulate to fear," he said. "Or else it allows those (terrorists) to celebrate, who should not be doing so." Hamburg coach Bruno Labbadia admits the scenes from Paris and Hanover have added an element of fear to the German football landscape.

## 'It's Important We Play'

"It is the first time that it (terrorism) comes so close to the football," said the Hamburg boss. "Of course it troubles us, but I think it's important we play." Pep Guardiola's Bayern start a busy week in Gelsenkirchen as they host Olympiakos in the Champions League on Tuesday, then play Hertha Berlin in Munich the following Saturday in the league. Unbeaten in this season's Bundesliga, Bayern are five-points clear and their Champions League defeat at Arsenal is the only blot on their copy book. They will be without Spain midfielder Thiago Alcantara, who has reinjured the medial ligaments in his right knee which he has already ruptured three times in his career and is expected to be out for up to four weeks. Like all other clubs, the reigning champions are reviewing their security arrangements. "We've been in intensive discussions with the safety authorities and police for several days. Once these are completed, we'll provide information," said Bayern's media director Markus Hoerwick. Hosts Schalke are fifth in the table, but winless in their last five games in all competitions. Captain Benedikt Hoewedes is back from a hand injury and says their best chance of breaking their streak "is by sticking together. We're always stronger at home".— AFP



**LONDON:** England's midfielder Raheem Sterling (left) vies against France's defender Lucas Digne during a friendly football match between England and France at Wembley Stadium on Nov 17, 2015. — AFP

## PREVIEW

## STERLING HAS POINT TO PROVE AS MAN CITY FACE LIVERPOOL

**LONDON:** Four months after quitting Liverpool for Manchester City, Raheem Sterling will have the first opportunity to justify the move by getting one over his former employers when the teams meet at the Etihad Stadium tomorrow. Sterling joined City in the close season in a deal worth up to £49 million (\$74.49 million), but the circumstances surrounding the transfer left a bitter taste in the mouths of many Liverpool fans.

Sterling's relationship with Liverpool had soured in the lead up to the transfer after he gave an unauthorized interview to the BBC. His agent Aidy Ward also angered the club by saying the England winger would not sign a new deal at Anfield - even for £900,000 a week. Sterling has

since said he has no regrets over quitting Liverpool and the Premier League table already offers some justification for the move. Manuel Pellegrini's City side are top of the league, level on points with Arsenal. Liverpool, on the other hand, are still settling down under new boss Juergen Klopp and are 10th. City, who stalled with a goalless draw against bottom side Aston Villa last time out, could welcome back Sergio Aguero, David Silva, Pablo Zabaleta and Samir Nasri from injury.

## Martial Doubtful

Arsenal are unbeaten in their last six league games but visit West Bromwich Albion on Saturday looking to mend the defensive frailties that nearly cost them

defeat by local rivals Tottenham Hotspur before substitute Kieran Gibbs rescued a point. Manchester United, who trail third-placed Leicester City by a point, face 11th-placed Watford with a doubt hanging over their rance striker Anthony Martial, who injured his foot in the 2-0 friendly defeat by England at Wembley on Tuesday.

Michael Carrick could also be missing for United after suffering ankle ligament damage in England's 2-0 defeat in Spain on Friday. High-flying Leicester City sit one point behind the leaders and visit Newcastle United, who are one place and two points outside the relegation zone. Pressure is mounting on Chelsea boss Jose Mourinho after a torrid start to the season for the champions.—Reuters



## UNPRECEDENTED SECURITY FOR MADRID-BARCA CLASH

**MADRID:** An unprecedented series of security measures will be put in place for tomorrow's La Liga clash between Real Madrid and Barcelona in response to the attacks that killed 129 people in Paris last week. The exact number of security personnel will be ironed out in a meeting on Thursday between representatives of both clubs, police and local and national government. 'Security will be greatly reinforced. There will be a lot of security personnel to control not only the access to the stadium, but also the outskirts and the transport that will bring fans to the stadium,' said Spanish Interior Minister Jorge Fernandez Diaz.

Spain's anti-violence commission met with political, police and sporting authorities on Wednesday and declared the match as 'high risk', which is customary for the biggest games in La Liga, especially those between eternal rivals Madrid and Barca. However, the events in Paris, allied to a terror threat level of four out of a maximum five in Spain, means that the security measures have 'no precedent for the celebration of sporting events,' according to Francisco Martinez Vazquez, secretary of state for security.

No official figures have yet been released, but according to reports in the Spanish media, there will be a triple ring of security around Madrid's Santiago Bernabeu stadium with over 1,500 police, who will be armed with horses, dogs and metal detectors. A capacity crowd of 81,000 fans are expected to attend the match widely seen as the biggest in the world with an estimated television audience of 500 million.

The Stade de France, where an 80,000 crowd were watching France host Germany, was one of a series of targets across the French capital on Friday. As a result of the increased terror threat, Spain's friendly in Belgium was postponed on Tuesday, as was Germany's clash with the Netherlands due to a bomb threat in Hannover. The Bernabeu was the target of a bomb threat in December 2004, just months after the Madrid train bombings that killed 191 people.

The stadium was evacuated quickly and calmly near the end of a league match against Real Sociedad. Two years previously, the Basque separatist group ETA planted a car bomb near the stadium on the day of a Champions League semi-final between Madrid and Barcelona causing 17 injuries. However, the game still went ahead. Fernandez Diaz insisted at the moment there is no reason to think about postponing the game. However, 'should those circumstances arise, the priority is to ensure people's lives,' he added. — AP



**MADRID:** A police officer stands by a patrol car outside the Santiago Bernabeu stadium yesterday. — AP



**BARCELONA:** In this May 30, 2015 photo, Barcelona's Lionel Messi celebrates after scoring the opening goal during the final of the Copa del Rey soccer match between FC Barcelona and Athletic Bilbao at the Camp Nou stadium. — AP

## MESSI RETURN TO REUNITE 'MNS' FOR LIGA 'CLASICO'

**BARCELONA:** Lionel Messi's return from injury looks to be coming at exactly the right time for Barcelona as he gears up for a reunion with Neymar and Luis Suarez for tomorrow's La Liga 'Clasico' at Real Madrid. The most lethal attacking trio in Spanish soccer history have not played together since Argentina's Messi injured a knee at the end of September, during which time Brazil forward Neymar and Uruguay striker Suarez have flourished.

Neymar has thrived on the extra creative responsibility given him by coach Luis Enrique and he has developed a stronger understanding with his team mates, especially Suarez. The pair have netted 16 goals in Barca's last seven games and for the first time in recent years, with Barca top of La Liga and leading their Champions League group, there is no talk of "Messi dependency". The debate over whether Messi, a four-time World Player of the Year, is irreplaceable has morphed into a discussion about whether the 23-year-old Neymar will be his worthy heir at the Nou Camp.

Messi's return against Real would clearly give a new dimension to the Barca attack whether he starts or is

deployed off the bench. It is 10 years this week since the 28-year-old played his first 'Clasico' and he has left an indelible mark with a record 21 goals in 30 matches against Barca's arch rivals. "We are aware that Leo is the best in the world and we will always recognise that," Suarez told a news conference on Wednesday. "Time will tell how good a forward line we are but it is true that we get on well and the whole team helps us to score goals. "Without the players behind us though we would be nothing and we wouldn't achieve anything."

### NO EGO

Barca's Spain international Gerard Pique also pointed to the camaraderie among the trio - collectively known in Spain as "MNS" - as a reason for their success. "The key for these three is the relationship that they have," Pique said in a recent interview with Britain's Telegraph newspaper. "The only problem when you have players of this magnitude is the ego. Suarez was the main man at Liverpool, Leo, before we had Suarez and Neymar, it was just him. And how they connect - they do not have any ego and this is the most important

part." Messi, Neymar and Suarez hit a Spanish record 122 goals between them last season to fire Barca to a treble of Champions League, La Liga and King's Cup titles and they match up favourably alongside the rich history of attacking flair at the Catalan club. It may be difficult to compare players of different eras, and only since the arrival of Johan Cruyff as coach in the late 1980s with his revolutionary style of play have Barca regularly fielded three forwards, but the present trio stand out.

Messi has figured in other memorable attacks, notably alongside Thierry Henry and Samuel Eto'o when they hit 100 goals in the 2008-09 treble-winning season. His earlier partnership with Eto'o and Ronaldinho may have produced breathtaking football but their best scoring record was a combined 68 goals in the 2005-06 season. The Brazilian Ronaldo produced some magical football for Barca alongside Luis Figo and Luis Enrique although their tally of 73 goals in 1996-97 is a long way short of the present forward line's scoring feats. With Barca three points clear at the top, the pressure is firmly on Real to find a way of stopping "MNS". — Reuters

## NEYMAR BREAKS OUT OF MESSI'S SHADOW

**MADRID:** During Brazilian star Neymar's two-and-a-half year spell at Barcelona, there has been one continuous soundbite from the softly-spoken 23-year-old: "I'm here to learn from the best". The "best" he consistently cites is teammate and four-time World Player of the Year Lionel Messi. The two share a telepathic relationship on the field and, along with Uruguayan Luis Suarez, form one of the most lethal strike forces world football has ever seen. "To play beside the best is very easy," Neymar said during Barca's treble-winning cam-

paign last season.

Yet, whilst Messi has been sidelined for the past two months by knee ligament damage, it is Neymar that has carried the European champions to an unexpected three-point lead in La Liga heading into Saturday's huge clash away at Real Madrid. Given his form in recent months, is there much for Neymar the apprentice to learn from his master Messi? And, with the latter set to return this weekend, will Neymar be happy to hand over the reins once more to the Argentine?

Initial impressions are that he will. Primarily because Neymar, Messi and Suarez share an equally strong relationship off the field as they do in tearing opponents to shreds on it. Their social media pages spill over with mutual admiration, whilst Suarez and Neymar have been quick to shout down any suggestions their form has meant Messi's absence has been forgotten. "People remember him just as well because he is the best player in the world," said Suarez after a recent victory over Getafe.—AFP



**SALVADOR, Brazil:** Brazilian player Neymar Junior takes a selfie with a boy after a training session in on Nov 16, 2015. — AFP



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2015

Friday Times

# Sports

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## Rockets win after firing McHale

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina: Charlotte Hornets' Cody Zeller (40) passes the ball around Brooklyn Nets' Brook Lopez (11) in the second half of an NBA basketball game on Wednesday. The Hornets won 116-111. — AP