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# Kuwait Times



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Filipino maids suffer months of brutality



Nuclear black market seeks IS extremists



Trio wins Nobel Chemistry Prize for DNA repair work



Chung to sue 'liar and hypocrite' Blatter



150 FILLS  
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## HEALTH MINISTER COMMENDS CHOLERA CONTROL MEASURES

### MOH MAINTAINS CLOSE COOPERATION WITH WHO



Min 26°  
Max 47°  
High Tide 07:35 & 21:52  
Low Tide 00:35 & 15:27

### MP SALEH ASKS ABOUT DELAY IN ZOUR CONTRACTS

By B Izzak

**KUWAIT:** MP Khalil Al-Saleh, who has announced plans to grill Oil Minister Ali Al-Omair, yesterday sent him a number of questions on the reported delay in signing several contracts for the new Zour refinery. Saleh cited a report published in a local daily about Omair ordering Kuwait National Petroleum Co (KNPC) to delay signing the five contracts with

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### HIJRA NEW YEAR OFF ON OCT 14-15

**KUWAIT:** The Hijra new year (Islamic new year) holiday will fall on Wednesday, Oct 14, the Civil Service Commission (CSC) said yesterday. The CSC instructed all ministries and state bodies and institutions that the holiday begins on Wednesday and lasts for two days, according to a CSC statement. It is up to state agencies of special status to set their own holiday schedule, but public interest should be taken into consideration, it added. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** Health Minister Dr Ali Al-Obaidi (right) is presented a memento by WHO Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean Dr Ala Alwan at the 62nd Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean Region of the World Health Organization on Tuesday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

**KUWAIT:** Health Minister Dr Ali Al-Obaidi said yesterday his ministry has managed to control diseases, viruses and cholera thanks to its successful precautions. Three out of five cholera cases have already recovered in the country, the minister said in an exclusive statement to KUNA, citing recent World Health Organization's (WHO) reports commending Kuwait's cholera control measures. He even vowed that his ministry will reveal any information about cholera or any other disease in full transparency and clarity.

"The ministry is continuously in touch with citizens through mass media in order to report new statistics. In case of outbreak of epidemic diseases, the ministry will immediately inform the WHO," he added. However, the minister warned of rumors and unofficial statements about the health situation in the country.

At the 62nd Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean Region of the World Health Organization held on Tuesday, the minister said the conferees had discussed several health issues, chiefly medical treatment costs. They also addressed the subject of evaluating health technology and boosting the capacity of health systems through appropriate and effective methods to assess health technology and choose better healthcare, he noted.

Obaidi said Kuwait's hosting of the session highlights the close cooperation with WHO since Kuwait joined the organization in 1960. The fruitful cooperation covers various areas and serves many objectives for which the organization was established, the minister said in his inaugural speech at the regional committee - the decision-making body of the organization.

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# THE BRITISH SCHOOL OF KUWAIT

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### YEAR 12 GCE AS LEVEL A-E 91%

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<b>Hee Soo Yang</b> University College London Mechanical Engineering Mathematics A* Further Mathematics A* Chemistry A* Physics B	<b>Farah Abdelhameed</b> University of Birmingham Medicine Mathematics A* Biology A* Chemistry A* AS Physics A	<b>Nikhil Varghese</b> University of Queensland, Australia Dental Science Business Studies A Mathematics B Biology C Chemistry C
<b>Hamidreza Shamohammadi</b> Cardiff University Mechanical Engineering Mathematics A Physics B Further Mathematics C Chemistry C	<b>Lama Moukhaiber</b> State University of New York at Buffalo Biomedical Engineering Biology A Mathematics B Chemistry B AS Physics A	<b>Areej Bahahraluloom</b> SOAS, University of London Law and Economics Biology A Mathematics B Chemistry C AS English Literature C
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<b>Mhd Reda Chaker</b> Mathematics A Chemistry B Physics B Biology C	<b>Saba Altamimi</b> Mathematics A Biology A Chemistry A	<b>Ismail Al Tahan</b> Mathematics B Biology B Economics B Chemistry C

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### Accreditations, Affiliations and Partners





Rhea

## KUWAIT, GCC COORDINATE TO REGISTER KUWAIT'S LAWYERS

### GCC APPROVES KUWAIT'S ICJ MEMBERSHIP BID

**DOHA:** Kuwait is coordinating with the GCC countries to officially register Kuwaiti lawyers to enable them to work in any of the Gulf countries, said Minister of Justice and Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Yagoub Al-Sanea. Lawyers' registration in other GCC countries is in accordance with the articles of the Gulf economic agreement for self-employed persons, the minister said yesterday prior to leaving Doha, where he headed the Kuwaiti delegation in the 27th meeting of GCC justice ministers. Meanwhile, he noted that the meeting appointed the committee of international cooperation and relations to study steps and regulations of registering GCC lawyers.

Meanwhile, Kuwaiti Minister of Justice said yesterday that the GCC justice ministers have consented to Kuwait's International Court of Justice (ICJ) membership bid. Speaking to KUNA on the sidelines of the 27th meeting of GCC justice ministers, the Kuwaiti minister said the GCC ministers agreed during the meeting to support Kuwaiti judge Abdulhadi Al-Attar's 2018 ICJ nomination for Asia. The Gulf step is a springboard for rallying up more support

from Arab countries, the minister added.

Kuwait has committed itself to this agreement by adopting a relevant law, allowing many Gulf lawyers to register with the Kuwait Society of Lawyers, the minister pointed out. Meanwhile, the justice ministers approved a draft agreement for the extradition of suspects and convicts among the GCC countries, he said. On how to implement court rulings in the GCC countries, the Kuwaiti minister said the GCC committee on international cooperation and relations was asked to introduce amendments to a relevant agreement during its next meeting in 2016.

Moreover, the committee was also awarded the task of working out a uniform law for fighting terrorism and then referring it to the 20th meeting of the member states' undersecretaries of justice ministries. The 27th meeting of GCC justice ministers, which kicked off here earlier in the day, focuses on a number of topics related to strengthening joint cooperation in the justice and judicial field. It will also review results of undersecretaries' meetings and other key issues of concern to the GCC member states. — Agencies

## FILIPINO MAIDS SUFFER MONTHS OF BRUTALITY

### JOB OPPORTUNITY TURNS INTO A NIGHTMARE

By Ben Garcia

**KUWAIT:** A job opportunity in a faraway land turned into a nightmare for two Filipina domestic workers. Rhea and Flora came to Kuwait to work as housemaids in December last year, but found themselves in the clutches of a brutal employer in Andalus. According to them, for eight straight months, they experienced 'hell' at their workplace. They suffered months of brutality until they finally got the chance to escape in August. Rhea arrived in Kuwait on Dec 15, 2014, while Flora came a week later at the same employer's house.

Rhea first got a taste of her female employer's cruelty two days after arrival. "I was beaten with a huge wooden paddle on my back only two days after starting work. My employer told me I was beaten because I worked slowly, but it didn't end there - she kept up her cruel ways against us on a daily basis," Rhea said. In Feb 2015, the employer inserted a spice bottle up Rhea's private parts. "She did this as a form of punishment because I cleaned the bathroom slowly. She called me in the kitchen and told me to remove my underwear.

When I refused, she grabbed me and forcibly removed my panties. She then inserted the bottle of spice up my private parts, but this wasn't enough - she daubed the spices on my genitals," Rhea narrated between sobs. "Because of that incident, I have no monthly period now - it just stopped. There was another brutal incident too. Once I cooked rice - you know we like to eat rice - but she got very angry about it and held a scissor over my head, saying she would cut my tongue. But she failed because I was shielding it, but she managed to cut my lips. I was bloodied and cried a lot," Rhea added.

Flora also experienced brutal beatings and biting by her employer. "She shaved our hair twice. Both of us experienced the same brutality from our female employer - the eight months were very vicious. In fact, she also tried to gouge our eyeballs, pounded our hands and fingers and was happy seeing us scared and bloodied. We all have bite marks on our bodies, because for her this was normal," Flora claimed, showing scars on her hands and back. Rhea has tens of scars as well, including deformed fingers. "She wanted to see blood on our bodies - she was happy seeing us in pain," Flora said. "If we were slow in our work, she would bring us to the veranda, tell us to prepare ice water, remove our dresses and pour the water on us in between beatings," she added.

#### Henpecked Husband

The woman employer's husband is a top security officer and according to the two housemaids, he was very kind, but scared of his wife. "The baba would shout at us, but would explain later that he did so to spare us from harsh torture by our madam," Flora said. The two were able to escape on August 8, 2015 when her employer went abroad and they were temporarily placed with the employer's relative. "We were able to run away on August 8 and went straight to the Philippine Overseas Labor Office. On August 9, they transferred us to the Assistance to Nationals Unit (ATNU).

After we fled, the employer called our husbands and told them that we had run away with our boyfriends, but

she didn't know we had contacted our family already and they knew the real story," Flora narrated. Asked why they didn't try to escape and report the matter to authorities while at their employer's house, Rhea said they wished they could have escaped, but the entire house was surrounded with a fence and the gates were locked. There was no way out.

They contacted their local agency many times too to report the abuses, but they were rebuffed. "At first they told us to hold on and stay at the employer's house. Then they told us to pay the full amount spent by employer, and if I didn't have the amount, I must stay," Flora said. In order to hire a Filipina housemaid, an employer must spend about KD 1,000. After almost a year at the house, Rhea received only three months' salary, while Flora received two months' salary.

#### Bribery charges

After two months at the embassy fighting their case, the housemaids were brought to Andalus police station by ATNU Officer Mar Hassan. The two accuse Hassan of allegedly settling their case in exchange for money from their employer. "We thought that our case was progressing well. At 5 pm on September 21, the two of us were brought to the police in Andalus by Mar Hassan, and left there overnight. We don't know why, but we saw our employer there. Hassan told us that we were being deported because we had an absconding case filed against us and our dues would be sent home later.

We were shocked because we had a case filed in court, so why were we being deported without the resolution of the case? That night, a Kuwaiti came to us and told us to drop the case because we would lose the case anyway and only our lawyer will benefit. He told us to drop the case, go back home and the employer will pay whatever amount we need," the two claimed. "We told Mar Hassan that we don't want to stay in police custody, but he reminded us that we were being detained because of the absconding case. The following day, he came with our bags, indicating that maybe we would be deported soon. Thank God the vice consul came to our rescue and was able to take us back to the embassy," Rhea said.

Hassan explained that the two housemaids were initially brought to the police station in Andalus in compliance with a request of the Ministry of Interior to present the victims so they could positively identify their employer. "This is part of the legal process in Kuwait. They also called the employer so to explain her side. I tried my best to bring them back after the procedure, but they had an absconding case filed against them, and as per the procedures in Kuwait, they had to be detained and we couldn't do anything about it," he said.

Asked if the allegations of a 'settlement' were true, Hassan denied it. "No, not true. I believe I was misunderstood in that context. I even told them not to sign any papers or documents without the embassy's knowledge. I exerted a lot of effort to bring them back to the embassy. I had brought their bags so that they could change their clothes as the Eid holidays were almost upon us, and I was assuming they would be detained for a while," he explained.



Minister of Justice and Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Yagoub Al-Sanea.

## EPA, KNPC DISCUSS MINA AL-AHMADI GAS LEAKAGE

**KUWAIT:** The Environment Public Authority (EPA) said it is closely monitoring the investigation on the gas leakage from Kuwait National Petroleum Company's Mina Al-Ahmadi refinery. In a press statement, EPA Director General Sheikh Abdullah Ahmad Al-Humoud Al-Sabah said the authority members held a meeting with KNPC officials to weigh the measures taken - to control the leakage and the aftermath of the accident which occurred late Tuesday. KNPC has announced that the leakage occurred when one of the refinery's flare gas units suffered a technical problem which caused incomplete burning of some gases and the leakage of sulfur oxides emissions for about 25 minutes. The company also noted that the situation was completely under control and that no harm was posed on people living in surrounding area.

#### KOC security level 'red'

In another development, Kuwait Oil Company has raised the security level at the company to 'red', to go along with the current precautionary measures in Kuwait. A security circular shows that KOC received instructions to increase inspection procedures of oil fields and security gates and double them than before. Instructions were also given to facilities' security men guarding KOC oil centers to adhere to strict entrance and exits procedures of employees and contracted workers who are allowed to enter. The circular urged all employees to call the emergency lines in case they notice any suspicious activity. He also said that no vehicles should be left unattended on the side roads in restricted areas. — Agencies



KUWAIT: The Environment Public Authority (EPA) holding a meeting with KNPC officials. - KUNA

## AMERICAN ARRESTED; ILLICIT DRUGS, KD 72,000 SEIZED



By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** Criminal detectives arrested an American expat working at Camp Arifjan with 1,400 envelopes of the drug "chemical", in addition to KD 72,000 he made from sales. He confessed to receiving the drugs by courier at Camp Arifjan. He said he also manufactures the drug at home. In another development, DCGD busted a network selling imported liquor in Ahmadi, run by a Kuwaiti citizen and four Indians. They had 850 imported liquor bottles. The arrest was made after an undercover agent was sent to buy 10 boxes (120 bottles) of Black Label whiskey for KD 10,000. The Asians used to supply the citizen with the liquor and he sold it.

#### Man found dead

A man in his fifties was found dead in a car behind Al-Dahdah Mosque. The body was recovered by the coroner.

#### Inspector arrested

Residency detectives, in cooperation with the manpower authority, arrested an inspector at Mubarak Al-Kabeer labor department who manipulated the estimations of the number of workers needed for an establishment. Information was received about the inspector's involvement in forging documents in favor of a restaurant to increase the number of workers from 11 to 56 in exchange of money. He confessed to the charges.

#### Elevator on free fall

American arrested; illicit drugs, KD 72,000 seized  
American arrested; illicit drugs, KD 72,000 seized

American arrested; illicit drugs, KD 72,000 seized

#### 32 juveniles arrested

Ahmadi traffic police arrested 32 juveniles in front of schools, and they were sent to the juvenile prosecution.

#### Locally made liquor

A soda drink resulted in busting a grocery store selling locally made liquor. A police patrol in Farwaniya stopped to buy sodas, but when policemen opened the fridge, the grocery owner fled on foot. Liquor bottles were found inside.

#### Forged stamps

An Egyptian national was arrested for selling forged



Photo shows suspects with bottles of whiskey

# KUWAIT'S MINISTER URGES USE OF SAFER ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

## KUWAIT JOINS FORUM ON INNOVATION FOR CLIMATE CHANGE



**TOKYO:** Kuwait's Minister of Education and Higher Education Dr Bader Al-Essa during plenary session in the Innovation for Cool Earth Forum (ICEF).



**TOKYO:** Education Minister Dr Bader Al-Essa, Ambassador to Japan Abdulrahman Al-Otaibi, Undersecretary Dr Hamed Al-Azemi pose for a group photo. —KUNA

**TOKYO:** Kuwait's Minister of Education and Higher Education Dr Bader Al-Essa yesterday urged the international community to strive for a world with a healthy environment, more sustainable and free from pollution. At the plenary session in the Innovation for Cool Earth Forum (ICEF) focusing on future perspective of addressing climate change through innovation, Dr Al-Essa stressed that replacing the use of gas and harmful chemicals with safer alternatives, is one step countries may take to improve on climate changes and reduce pollution.

"Many countries have responded to repeated calls for a healthy, sustainable environment and reducing the negative effects that industries impact on the climate. On the other hand, some countries contribute to environmental pollution, destruction of the climate and changes in the earth's temperature, by allowing industries to continue with poor practices and protocols," the minister, who heads the Kuwaiti delegation, pointed out.

"It is the duty of scientists, industry owners, policy makers and countries in general, to work towards a more healthy and sustainable environment by improving current policies, creating new tools and developing new technologies to that affect." While confirming that all countries are held accountable at the legal, political and humanitarian levels to the current status of pollution and global warming, Dr Al-Essa underlined the bigger responsibilities of industrial nations towards the environmental issues, saying, "Industrial countries are required to be more stringent with enforcing the law to protect the environment and human health."

### Three Zero initiatives

The two-day conference gathers more than 1,000 researchers, business

leaders, and policymakers from around the world to share a vision and establish partnerships for lasting global reduction in greenhouse gases through innovative low-carbon technologies. Muhammad Yunus, 2006 Nobel Peace Prize laureate and Chairman of the Bangladesh-based Yunus Centre, called for "three Zero initiatives-Zero poverty, Zero unemployment and Zero net emission-to attain the vision of sustainable development goals that improve human lives.

As an example of popularizing solar energy in Bangladesh, Yunus, renowned microfinance pioneer and founder of Grameen Bank, also said his non-profit energy company has successfully installed more than 1.6 million solar home systems in the country's rural areas over the past 18 years. The Kuwaiti delegation includes Ambassador to Japan Abdulrahman Al-Otaibi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Higher Education Dr Hamed Al-Azemi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education Dr Haitham Al-Athari, Secretary General of the Private Universities Council Dr Habib Abul, Director General of the Applied Education and Training Dr Ahmad Al-Athari, Vice President for Academic Affairs at Kuwait University Dr Firyal Bou-Rabee.

Based on a proposal by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Tokyo launched the ICEF last year to provide a global platform, where the world's leading policy makers, business persons, and researchers can meet and cooperate with each other to address climate change through innovation. This year's annual meeting is a critical opportunity to discuss innovative measures ahead of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21) in Paris due November, which will adopt a new international framework in tackling climate change. —KUNA

## News

in brief



**KUWAIT:** Board Chairman and Director General of Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) Sheikh Mubarak Duaij Al-Sabah received Dr Abdullah Al-Muhareb and Dr Ahmed Oqlah Al-Anzi. —KUNA

## STATE-APPROVED TENDERS REACH AROUND KD 600M

**KUWAIT:** Number of tenders that were approved in Q3 2015 reached 73 and valued at approximately KD 596.4 million, covering State departments and sectors namely - the oil sector, the Central Tenders Committee announced yesterday. The estimated value of the overall presented tenders amounted to KD 761.3 million, the committee said in a statement, also noting that it held a meeting to discuss issues related to the public tendering. The value of the endorsed bids for enterprises in the oil sector, during the same period of time, reached KD 169.26 million (10 tenders), and those covering government departments, some KD 592.11 million (63). The Ministry of Public Labor was on top - in terms of the number of the approved tenders, estimated at KD 251.17 million (5), followed by the Ministry of Electricity, some KD 133.98 million (11), then the Public Authority for Housing, around KD 45.99 million (1).

### Information Minister: Gulf tourism 'bright'

**DOHA:** Kuwaiti Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah yesterday said that the tourism industry in the GCC countries will have a bright future - thanks to the GCC leaders' interest in this sector. The minister made upon his arrival in the Qatari capital to participate in the second meeting of GCC tourism ministers and officials. The meeting is expected to discuss means of promoting tourism among GCC countries through a long-term strategy and the involvement of the private sector in tourism. On arrival, Sheikh Salman Sabah was welcomed by Kuwaiti Ambassador to Qatar Meteb Saleh Al-Mutotah and a number of embassy's staff.

### Iraq approves economic agreement with Kuwait

**BAGHDAD:** The Iraqi government has approved a draft bill regarding technical and economic cooperation with Kuwait and referred it to the parliament for final approval. In its ordinary session, the Iraqi Cabinet said in a statement that it endorsed the bill signed with Kuwait in June of 2013 and referred it for approval in accordance with the constitution. During the visit of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah to Iraq in 2013, the two governments signed a number of memorandums of understanding on environmental, diplomatic, economic and higher education cooperation. According to the Iraqi Constitution, all agreements signed by the government with other countries should be endorsed first by the parliament before coming into effect.

### KUNA Chairman receives ALECSO, UNESCO's chiefs

**KUWAIT:** Board Chairman and Director General of Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) Sheikh Mubarak Duaij Al-Sabah yesterday received the Director General of the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO) Dr Abdullah Al-Muhareb and the Secretary General of the Kuwait National Commission for UNESCO Dr Ahmed Oqlah Al-Anzi. Talks during the meeting tackled the role played by KUNA to highlight the activities of international and regional organizations operating in Kuwait and support these efforts for the dissemination of culture and science in the world. Dr Al-Anzi reviewed the various activities carried out by the Kuwait National Commission for UNESCO, headed by the Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education and its efforts to strengthen cooperation with various international organizations concerned. Sheikh Mubarak stressed keenness of KUNA to cooperate with various cultural and scientific institutions to enhance efforts aimed at the service of humanity. Sheikh Mubarak later received cultural and media affairs counselor at the US Embassy Charles Cole on the occasion of assuming his new post in Kuwait. Deputy Director General for Administrative and Financial Affairs and Communications Abdulhameed Malak and Deputy Director-General for Editorial Sector Saad Al-Ali attended the two meetings.

## CABINET APPROVES PAYS NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**KUWAIT:** The Cabinet has approved the new board of directors of the Public Authority for Youth and Sports (PAYS) chaired by the Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth. The PAYS board of director also comprises as members the director-general of the PAYS, representatives from the ministries of education, health, information ministry and the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) and a number of experts.

The step was taken during the Cabinet's customary meeting held at Seif Palace on Monday under chairmanship of Acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. At the onset of the meeting, the ministers were apprised of a recent letter sent to His Highness the Amir from Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, the head of the Permanent Committee for Economic and Trade Cooperation (COMSEC) (on its 31st session due in Istanbul on November 23-26), Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah said in a statement following the meeting.

They were then briefed on a letter sent to His Highness the Prime Minister from his Spanish counterpart Mariano Rajoy Brey, inviting him to attend a high-level debate on women, peace and security due in New York on October 13 under chairmanship of the Spanish premier, he said. The Acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister also made a briefing on His Highness the Amir's participation in sustainable development and anti-terrorism summits on the sidelines of the 70th UN General Assembly session.

He expounded on His Highness the Amir's speeches during the gathering and the outcomes of the 70th UN General Assembly session, together with the findings of the ministerial meeting of the foreign ministers of the

GCC member states and several sisterly and friendly countries on the sidelines of the recent UN session in New York.

Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled also elaborated the outcomes of the recent meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) ministerial council held under his chairmanship on the sidelines of a recent UNSC session on international peace and security, conflicts in the Middle East and North Africa and regional terrorism.

Furthermore, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled kept the ministers posted on the findings of the third ministerial meeting of the Arab-African Partnership Coordination Committee held under his chairmanship on the sidelines of the 70th UN General Assembly session. He pointed out His Highness the Amir's initiatives on investment and development in Africa and existing cooperation between Arab and African countries. During the weekly cabinet meeting, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled voiced pleasure at Kuwait's position at both Gulf and Arab levels.

Afterwards, the cabinet listened to a presentation from Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah on his participation in the celebration of the Kuwaiti National Day at Expo Milan 2015, representing His Highness the Premier. The celebration aimed to promote Kuwait's world position and contributions to civilization and humanity across the world, he said, adding that the status which Kuwait enjoys at the international level is the fruit of the wise policy and farsightedness of His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Crown Prince, along with His Highness the Premier's governmental efforts. Finally, the cabinet discussed political reports at the latest Arab and international levels. —KUNA



## NBK 'I DREAM TO BE' INITIATIVE GRANTS ALI'S WISH TO BECOME A COMMANDO

**KUWAIT:** National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) continues its "I Dream to Be" initiative, a first-of-a-kind initiative that aims at granting wishes for children with severe illnesses and special needs around Kuwait, giving them the chance to live their dreams. Ali Tariq Ali who is undergoing treatment at NBK Hospital, has always dreamt to become a commando. NBK and the Moral Guidance and Public Relations of Kuwait Armed Forces helped him make his dream come true.

NBK's family organized a visit for Ali to the Kuwait Armed Forces, where Ali was given his own commando outfit. Brigadier General Khaled Al Obaidi - Commander of the Brigade Commandos with a group of commanders, alongside with Ali's family and NBK team had a tour in the place and

know all the commandos tasks and trainings through participating in some commandos activities like rope climbing, tank driving, aiming, shooting and many other commando tasks.

Kuwait Armed Forces teams greeted Ali with a big commandos show, giving him precious memorabilia that will help with his future as a commando. "Ali's dream to become a commando is yet another wish granted through NBK's initiative 'I dream to be'. We are proud to be a part of the children's dreams and expand our support to

them as much as possible," said Joanne Al Abdul Jaleel, NBK Public Relations Officer.

"I Dream to Be" initiative is a lifetime experience for children not only with life-threatening conditions but children with special needs as well," she added. "This initiative is a great way to spread joy and show that there's always a positive side to a difficult situation. We ask children what they want to be and try to fulfill that for them." NBK gives top priority to children through its commitment to corporate social responsibility. NBK works closely with the Kuwait Association for the Care of Children in Hospitals (KACCH), Bayt Abdullah for the Care of Children in Hospice (BACCH) and several other special needs organizations to maximize their reach to all the children in numerous hospitals and schools.

NBK has been at the forefront of supporting Kuwait's community through a range of initiatives towards education, health, sports and social responsibilities. The establishment of NBK's Children Hospital for Oncology and Hematology at Al Sabah Medical Area stands as one of many ongoing corporate social initiatives towards health and children. "I Dream to Be" aims at focusing and supporting NBK's efforts towards children and addressing their needs as much as possible.



**KUALA LUMPUR:** Kuwaiti Ambassador to Malaysia Saad Al-Asousi (right) seen with Malaysian Deputy Foreign Minister Sri Reezal Merican Bin Naina Merican. —KUNA

### Kuwait's Ambassador and Malaysia deputy FM meet

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Kuwaiti Ambassador to Malaysia Saad Al-Asousi discussed with Malaysian Deputy Foreign Minister Sri Reezal Merican Bin Naina Merican issues concerning Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) States and Malaysia. Al-Asousi said that Malaysia has played an important role towards political and economic developments - particularly, Malaysia (this year) chairs the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

## ARABS MULL EMERGENCY SESSION ON TERROR THREATS, INTERFERENCE

**TUNIS:** Deputy Speaker of the Arab Parliament and member of the Kuwaiti National Assembly Mohammad Al-Jabri has announced that the Arab Parliament is considering a proposal to hold an emergency session to discuss the terror threats and foreign interferences in Arab affairs. In statements to KUNA and Kuwait TV, Al-Jabri stated that the proposed session would thoroughly study the recent terror attacks on Arab countries as well as the Arab response to non-Arab countries interference in Arab affairs.

He noted that the Arab Parliament's General Committee members will visit Kuwait soon to meet Chairman of the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union and National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanim to discuss the holding the emergency session in cooperation with the Arab League. Meanwhile, Al-Jabri noted that members of the Arab Parliament's General Committee met the Tunisian President Beji Caid Essebbi and discussed the latest developments in the Arab region and the efforts to overcome challenges facing the region. Al-Jabri is currently in a visit Tunisia, as a member of a Kuwaiti parliamentary delegation, to partake in the Arab Parliament meeting there.

### Proxy-wars in Syria

Meanwhile, the European Parliament debated the situation in Syria during its full session in Strasbourg yesterday with speakers warning that the Russian military intervention will further complicate the situation. "A military escalation and a civil war will lead nowhere. It will only prolong the agony of the conflict. Fighting terrorism is one thing, in Syria it means fighting the groups defined as terrorists by the UN, including Daesh (ISIL) And Jibhat Al Nusra," said Nicolas Schmit, minister of labor, employment and social economy of Luxembourg whose country holds the current EU Presidency. He was speaking on behalf of EU High Representative Federica Mogherini who did not attend the debate. He noted that the EU has spent 4 billion euros to deal with the Syrian refugee crisis and added that "faced with the additional flows of refugees this year, we are going to spend more." Elmar Brok, head of the EP's foreign affairs committee, said "I have the impression that it is a second level of proxy-war here, involving Russia and America." "So the question is to what extent can Russia stabilize its position as power on the long term through its actions in Syria, and how can America prevent that," he said. —Agencies



Salma Al-Hajjaj, General Manager of Human Resources at Gulf Bank receives the 'Asian HR Leadership Award' in Dubai from Howard Ullman, CEO of Atmospheric Water Solutions.

## GULF BANK'S SALMA AL-HAJJAJ WINS THE 'ASIAN HR LEADERSHIP AWARD'

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank yesterday announced that its General Manager for Human Resources, Salma Al-Hajjaj has won the prestigious Asian HR Leadership Award. The award was presented at a gala dinner ceremony on 6 October 2015, at Taj Dubai, UAE. The event was hosted by the Employer Branding Institute, Stars of the Industry Group, and the non-profit human resources group CHRO Asia.

The Asian Leadership Awards recognize outstanding business leaders and organizations for their commitment to excellence, developing best practices, and innovative strategies. Within their awards are specific HR Leadership Awards that are presented to individuals who and organizations that have surpassed several levels of excellence and are role models and exemplary leaders. The criteria and competencies benchmarked include: strategic perspective; track record; future orientation; ability for sustainability; integrity and ethics; and impact of human resources to its organization.

The process of selection is as follows: first individuals and organizations are selected from a pool of nominees for the shortlist by the above mentioned organizations. Then, a jury of esteemed senior

leaders, researchers, academics, and business leaders select the winners. Upon receiving the award, Al-Hajjaj said: "I am honored to receive this prestigious award and for the recognition it signifies. The human resources team at Gulf Bank is dedicated to delivering the highest level of service and this award reflects its hard work, commitment, and effort."

Al-Hajjaj added: "At Gulf Bank we know human capital is our most valuable asset. We place great emphasis on the training and development of Kuwaiti nationals through HR's learning and development department, by producing customized training programs for personal and career development. We understand that to successfully develop and retain the best talent, we must create a culture that offers employees the right opportunities for further development and growth, and this is exactly what we are doing. We are pleased to have these efforts recognized on the international level." Gulf Bank continually seeks to be innovative, to raise standards, and to set benchmarks for banking excellence in the region. The bank is frequently honored with influential awards and accolades, to learn more visit the Bank's website at: [www.e-gulfbank.com.kw](http://www.e-gulfbank.com.kw).

# KUWAITI WORKERS MAKE UP 45% OF TOTAL WORKFORCE

KUWAIT: All Kuwaiti workers don't exceed 45 percent of the total workforce and 84 percent of them are employees in the government sector, Undersecretary of Ministry of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Al-Zain Al-Sabah said. In a seminar organized by the Center for the Gulf Arabian Peninsula Studies at the Kuwait University on "empowering youth and their role in educating society", Sheikh Al-Zain said that ambitions and needs of the Kuwaiti youth are

greater than the realized achievements. She added that there should be national discussions on their issues through researches and studies, noting that the ministry makes up 72 percent of Kuwaiti people who are under 34 years old.

According to the aims of the ministry, it works on coordinating the national efforts through launching integrated strategies, policies, initiatives and programs to ensure the

development and participation of youth in society, she made clear. She said the ministry has a number of partnerships with several government and private institutions and bodies as well as others, with the aim of serving youth and adopting their creative ideas and projects. The ministry, she stated, supported more than 225 initiatives in eight fields in 2014 and cooperated with the Kuwaiti University through the state's training project to upgrade youth. —KUNA

## INTERIOR MINISTER, ROMANIAN SECURITY OFFICIAL DISCUSS CASE OF MISSING KUWAITI

KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah yesterday discussed with the Vice-President of the Romanian Intelligence Major General Silvio Berdoy the ways of bolstering cooperation and the latest developments over the case of the missing Kuwaiti citizen who disappeared in a mysterious circumstance in Romania. The Security Media Department of the Ministry said in a press statement that Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled asserted the depth of friendly relations between the two countries as well as their coordination in various fields, adding that the talks were cordial and optimistic.

The statement said that the cordial atmosphere has helped to increase the development and prospects of joint cooperation in all areas of security work, pointing out that the Kuwaiti side expressed eagerness to benefit from the Romanian expertise and experience in the security sphere. On his part, the Romanian official stressed the deep-rooted bilateral relations, noting that the Romanian cabinet meeting to be held in two days will address developments over the search for the missing Kuwaiti citizen. He said the exchange of visits between both countries' security chiefs will contribute to the development of prospects of cooperation to achieve common goals, praising the level of the Kuwaiti security services and efficiency. —KUNA



KUWAIT: Kuwait Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah receives Vice-President of the Romanian Intelligence Major General Silvio Berdoy. —KUNA



## KUWAIT'S CMA SIGNS MOU WITH OMAN'S COUNTERPART

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Capital Markets Authority (CMA) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Omani counterpart aiming to boost bilateral cooperation. In a press statement to KUNA yesterday, the CMA said that the memo seeks to activate cooperation and coordination between the two authorities in the area of exchanging information regarding the implementation of relevant laws. The memo also aims to take measures against any illegal exercises at markets and facilitate obstacles in front of investors in the two countries, the statement added.

The memo also refers to boost cooperation in the area of sharing expertise, visits of experts, researches and publications pertaining to the capital markets, it noted. In addition, the MoU seeks to train employees and develop human resources that will bear fruit for the two sides and enhance their legal and regulatory structures, it made clear. —KUNA

# ZAIN LAUNCHES ANNUAL BREAST CANCER AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, announced the launch of its annual breast cancer awareness campaign. The initiative, which is launched for the 8th year running, comes in line with the company's strategy to highlight the dangers of breast cancer which is conveyed every October of every year. The campaign comes in line with the global celebrated month of breast cancer during October. Zain aims to raise awareness about breast cancer and encourage women to conduct early checkups on a regular basis. Just like every year, Zain will focus on spreading awareness on the importance of early testing, which is considered the most crucial step of preventing breast cancer. The company has set a number of strategic goals that it aims to achieve by the end of the month.

Zain's breast cancer awareness campaign consists of several strategic phases, including the distribution of awareness messages through the media related to the prevention of breast cancer and the significance of early detection, as well as organizing interactive activities in malls to give the public an opportunity to communicate directly with doctors and specialists. In addition, the company is keen on engaging its employees in the awareness campaigns it undertakes, and will encourage its staff to take an "oath" to conduct early checkups and

invite their loved ones to do the same.

During this year's campaign, Zain further strengthens its partnership with Breast Care Kuwait for the eighth consecutive year. In addition, the company has undertaken many new strategic partnerships with leading healthcare providers that include Fatima Clinic, Al Sidra Association for Psychological Care of Cancer Patients, and the Ministry of Health's Kuwait Cancer Control Center. The partnerships will enrich Zain's steps into informing the public through the expertise of these organizations' experts, specialists, and consultants.

Zain's solid Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainability strategies primarily focus on the wellbeing of the entire nation. For that reason, the company has maintained its support to

all kinds of initiatives that spread awareness and help make a difference. Zain has previously partnered with the World Health Organization (WHO), cooperated with the Ministry of Health and partnered with the Kuwait Red Crescent Society for several awareness campaigns related to the health sector.

It is worth mentioning that Zain established Zain Hospital, specializing in ear, nose, and throat treatment. The hospital was constructed and equipped by the company to address the needs of the patients in the country, giving them the opportunity to head to a state-of-the-art health institution which is fully equipped with the latest medical equipment to serve their health issues. You can follow Zain's Breast Cancer Awareness campaign on #ZainGoesPink and #ZainCSR

## KUWAIT'S HOUSING PROJECTS LAUDED

CAIRO: The Executive Bureau of the Arab Ministers of Housing and Construction Council has commended the leading housing projects carried out in Kuwait, Director General of the Public Authority for Housing Welfare Bader Al-Wugayyan said yesterday. Al-Wugayyan made the statement to KUNA at the conclusion of the Bureau's 80th session in Cairo. Leading the Kuwaiti delegation to the meeting, Al-Wugayyan added that the ministers had endorsed a recommendation by the Council's Technical and Scientific Advisory Committee on a visual presentation of the two housing projects; Jaber Al Ahmad City and Sabah Al-Ahmad City, during the 32th ministerial session due in Cairo on December 22.

In addition, the Bureau followed up the implementation of resolutions on housing taken by the Arab Economic and Social Development Summit held in Kuwait in 2009, Al-Wugayyan noted. It also approved the final draft of the Arab Strategy for Housing and Sustainable Urban Development 2013, as well as reviewing developments of the Council's website project. The ministers welcomed Egypt's hosting of the Arab ministerial forum for housing and sustainable urban development, due in Cairo December 20-22. The Executive Bureau's 80th session was chaired by Saudi Arabia, and attended by Kuwait, Egypt, Oman, Palestine, Morocco, the Comoro Islands and the Arab League. —KUNA

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### 3-MTH-OLD BABY DIES AT CRECHE

**KUWAIT:** An Egyptian accused a nursery in Maidan Hawally of killing his daughter unintentionally while there. Reemas was a 3-month-old girl who was left at the nursery while her parents went to work, then when they returned, they were surprised by the girl's death. The father accused the nursery of negligence. The cause of the child's death and further details have not been made public. Detectives are working on the case.

**Chalet robbed**

Criminal evidence technicians went to a chalet in Qashaniya area to lift traces a thief may have left behind. They went there after a citizen complained that an unknown person broke into his chalet and stole a shotgun along with 375 cartridges. A neighbor was able to note down the car plate number the thief was driving. Police are working on the case.

**Indian beaten, mugged**

Farwaniya prosecutor ordered the arrest of two unknown persons for beating and mugging an Indian, taking the keys of his sponsors car, so he could not help arrest them. The Indian told Omariya police that he went to the coop to buy things for his sponsor, when the two beat him and took his wallet which contained KD 200 and other documents.

**Hash found in Abdaly**

Abdaly customs officers found 500 grams of hashish in the inspection area. They say it is most probably that a driver got rid of it there. Officers sent the illicit material to drugs control general department and investigations are underway.

**Furniture theft reported**

The name of a Gulf lady was placed on the wanted list as her husband accused her of stealing furniture from their home. The citizen told Waha police that he was on a trip, then when he returned home he found the door broken and found the furniture and appliances stolen and accused his wife of doing it.

**Indecent couple busted**

Nugra police arrested an Egyptian man and Asian woman after being caught in an unethical act behind a mall. Both are charged with indecency in a public place. They were sent to concerned authorities. - Al-Rai



القلمس

Al-Qabas

### CONTROLLING CIRCUMSTANCES AND DEVELOPMENT

By Dr Nadiya Al-Qinae

**N**o one can deny the major TV pole of history in polishing our experiences; also, no one can deny that in the wisdom of those before us, there are many lessons that we can still take from them. But can we take these wisdoms as conclusions that it is not right to absorb them in a way that suits the life we are living at this time?

Even over exchanged calls, that we still repeat, we conclude that they cannot be changed! Among such sayings is: "We are controlling the circumstances, and circumstances do not control us". This saying is good for encouraging people and giving them more power and patience to face the storms they go through. The meaning of this sentence is similar to medicine that reduces pain to give hope for recovery.

Yet, this statement puts us down many times, following what we see around us, especially in the work environment. If we, for example, look at hospitals, we find patients in crowds, waiting either standing or sitting on the floor, while the doctors are under tremendous pressure. How can

the doctor or patient control circumstances and improve the situation and control circumstances in this case? The patient is compelled to wait in the narrow passage because he cannot go ahead of those in front of him and change circumstances.

For circumstances to change, they need a change in the work process. The employee alone, even if he is a hard worker, can only work through what he was offered in opportunities and aid tools. When any drawbacks take place, we blame the human being and turn a blind eye to the hardships that surrounded him. How can we blame the human being who feels cold even though he wears a coat? How can we blame a child for crying if he feels hungry? Circumstances do not change overnight - rather we need iron-clad plans so that we can improve the situation through them, because blaming people is much easier than development. So, maybe for this reason we are standing in place.

—Translated by Kuwait Times

الجريدة

Al-Jarida

### PLEDGING GOVT ALLIANCE

By Dr Hassan Abdullah Jouhar

**A**ny political bloc's exaggerations in reminding the government of previous political attitudes to have it 'return the favor', especially when such blocs are weak or attacked by other blocs, are politically unwise. They might even lead to further weakness and confusion for the concerned bloc, and may lead to further concessions if any government parties show any intention to help them.

Norms suggest that the government befriends no one, and despite making temporary tactical political deals to put opponents in place or politically clip their fingernails if they ever cross redlines, it makes no strategic alliances with political blocs or social factions. On the other hand, bounties the government might grant to its temporary friends are no more than some senior positions or a deal that would soon evaporate once the government has achieved its political goals behind such coordination and eventually starts looking for new partners.

This is how any given government worldwide operates, because the world of politics is one of 'interest administration' and 'priorities reordering'. In addition, our government may have a distinctive trait in monopolizing political decision by powers of the endless constitutional authorities as well as its powerful media tools that makes everyone always in need for it.

The government has been making tactical alliances with all political blocs ever since independence and thus has each national power up against each other. It never hesitated to use the same amount of violence, marginalization and alienation against the very same bloc that used to generously benefit from it and enjoy limited political prestige without allowing any given party to become a real partner in political decision-making.

Therefore and strangely enough, many national icons and leading politicians in most blocs might today be prosecuted in state security cases or accused of attempting to topple the regime. They might also become members in the Kuwaiti scene tomorrow or vice versa according to local power balances and political arrangements.

Accordingly, attempts to befriend the government during tough political situations will not work and the government might not even respond to them in the first place. Even if it does, this will be limited and within the government's tactics. So, all political blocs must realize the rules of the game and take whatever stances according to the principles they really believe in without waiting for bosses' rewards in return!

—Translated by Kuwait Times

Photo

of the day



KUWAIT: A woman showcases various commodities that attract many female customers at Souq Al-Hareem (the women market). —KUNA



**Erdogan irate as Putin tears up Turkey's Syria blueprint**

**JIHADISTS RELATIVES APPEAR IN ANTI-RADICALIZATION ADS**



In this photo made from the footage taken from Russian Defense Ministry official web site, a Russian navy ship launches a cruise missile in the Caspian Sea. — AP

**SYRIA GROUND ARMY LAUNCHES OFFENSIVE**  
 RUSSIA INTENSIFIES AERIAL, WARSHIP STRIKES

**BEIRUT:** Heavy Russian aerial bombing and cruise missile strikes launched from warships in the Caspian Sea yesterday provided cover for a major Syrian army ground offensive in a coordinated attack on rebels. Amid a dramatic escalation in its air war over Syria, Moscow said it was ready to establish contacts with Western-backed rebels, which the United States and its allies accuse Russia of targeting in bombing raids.

But the announcement came as Russian President Vladimir Putin said Moscow had begun synchronizing its strikes with the Syrian army's ground movements. Putin, who celebrated his 63rd birthday yesterday, also announced for the first time that four Russian warships had struck IS targets with 26 cruise missiles. A video map released by Russia's defense ministry showed the missiles launched from warships in the southern Caspian Sea and flying close to 1,500 kilometers through Iranian and Iraqi airspace before hitting targets in Syria.

A Syrian military source told AFP that government troops had begun a broad ground operation yesterday near the village of Latmeen in Hama province, aided by Russian air cover. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said Russian planes had carried out at least 37 strikes yesterday in Hama and neighboring Idlib

province, which is controlled by the powerful Army of Conquest alliance that includes Al-Qaeda affiliate Al-Nusra Front. The rebel alliance has sought to expand into Hama from Idlib and seize high ground to target the neighboring regime stronghold of Latakia province.

**Rebels targeted in Hama**

"The Syrian army in its latest operations is working on cutting off the southern parts of Idlib province from the northern parts of Hama province," a military source in Hama told AFP. He added that the operations were also intended to begin securing the major highway between Aleppo and Damascus.

In Moscow, Putin said Russian strikes would "be synchronized with the actions of the Syrian army on the ground" to support the regime's offensive operations. AFP has concluded after a careful reading of Russia's video map that at least one cruise missile struck near the IS-held city of Al-Bab in Aleppo province, while several others appeared to head towards targets in Idlib province.

Russia has said its forces have hit 112 targets since its operations in Syria—which it insists target IS and other "terrorist groups"—began on September 30. But Syrian rebels and their backers say a range of opposi-

tion fighters, not just jihadists, have been hit. The ground operation in Hama targets rebels from a range of groups, including moderate and Islamist opposition fighters as well as Al-Nusra. And yesterday the US-backed Suqur Al-Jabal rebel group in the northern province of Aleppo said its arm depots had been destroyed in Russian raids.

**US denies cooperating with Russia**

Turkey's Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu alleged that just two out of 57 Russian strikes examined by Turkish intelligence had hit IS. The Russian campaign has raised hackles in Ankara, which accuses Moscow of violating its airspace from Syria on at least two occasions over the weekend. It also reported a violation by a MIG-29 jet of unknown nationality on Monday. Turkey has protested the violations, backed by the NATO alliance to which it belongs, and warned Russia against losing its friendship with Ankara, which has been tested over Syria.

Ankara backs the opposition, while Russia has been a staunch regime ally throughout the conflict that began in March 2011 and has so far killed more than 240,000 people. Tensions between Russia and the United States also escalated yesterday, with Defense

Secretary Ash Carter insisting that the US is not cooperating with Russia over Moscow's air campaign. "I have said before that we believed that Russia has the wrong strategy—they continue to hit targets that are not ISIL. We believe this is a fundamental mistake," Carter told a press conference in Rome, referring to IS by an alternative name.

Meanwhile, French President Francois Hollande warned that failure to act in Syria risked "total war" in the Middle East. "If we leave these religious clashes between Sunnis and Shiites, they will grow. Don't think we will be sheltered, this will be a total war," he said in a speech to the European Parliament. Putin yesterday said Hollande had proposed "to at least try to unite the efforts of the government troops of President Assad's army and the so-called (rebel) Free Syrian Army," but a member of Hollande's entourage quickly rebutted the claim.

Moscow's foreign ministry also said it was ready to make contact with the FSA, a group it previously claimed did not exist. "At the president's request, the foreign ministry informs our partners in countries that have links to the Free Syrian Army of the Russian side's readiness to establish contacts with the leadership of this structure," the ministry said. — AFP

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**KURDS SAY TESTS SHOW IS USED MUSTARD GAS**

**ERBIL:** Islamic State fighters fired mortar rounds containing mustard agent at Kurdish peshmerga fighters in northern Iraq during clashes in August, the Ministry of Peshmerga Affairs, which oversees Kurdish armed forces there, said yesterday. Blood samples taken from around 35 fighters who were exposed in the attack southwest of the regional capital Erbil, along with an examination of wounds, showed "signatures of sulfur mustard", the ministry said in a statement.

It did not say if any of the peshmerga had died as a result of the attack or how severely they had been wounded. Mustard gas, which can burn skin and mucus tissue and cause severe respiratory problems, is banned under the Chemical Weapons Convention, an arms treaty intended to stop the use of chemical weapons.

The samples were sent to a laboratory outside of Iraq for analysis with the help of members of the "Global Coalition against ISIL," the statement said, citing an acronym for identifying Islamic State. It also called on countries fighting Islamic State to give Kurdish peshmerga fighters equipment for protection against chemical attacks. The United States is among a handful of countries who are giving military assistance to Kurdish forces in northern Iraq. — Reuters

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## BOKO HARAM SUSPECTED AFTER 14 KILLED IN NIGERIA BLASTS

**LAGOS:** At least 14 people were killed in three separate suicide bomb attacks in northeast Nigeria yesterday, with suspicion falling on radical Islamist group Boko Haram after a string of similar strikes in recent months. The triple blasts in the Yobe state capital, Damaturu, came after the militants this week claimed to have carried out three suicide attacks near Abuja last Friday that left 18 dead.

Damaturu has been repeatedly attacked during the insurgency. Last month, a girl thought to be aged 12 killed six when the explosives she was carrying went off outside a bus station. Bashir Idris Garga, Yobe state coordinator at the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), said the first blast yesterday happened at a small food store on a housing estate, killing four.

Another near a mosque killed one, while nine, including a family, lost their lives when another bomber struck a Fulani settlement on the outskirts of the city. Ten other people were injured, three of them critically, Garga said. Yobe governor Ibrahim Gaidam called the attacks "cowardly and barbaric" and urged improvements in surveillance.

State police spokesman Toyin Gbadegesin told AFP "gun-wielding bombers" carried out the attacks between 5:30 and 6:00 am (0400 to 0500 GMT) before the night-time curfew was lifted. "All the areas affected have been cordoned off and the police have held meetings with community leaders... for them to be more vigilant and suspicious of strange faces and movements," he added.

### 'Attack repelled'

Boko Haram has reverted to attacking "soft" civilian targets after last year's land grab that saw it seize towns and villages across Yobe and neighboring Borno and Adamawa states. Nigeria's military has claimed a series of successes against the insurgents and yesterday said scores of rebel fighters were killed during clashes with troops south of Damaturu.

Army spokesman Sani Usman said fighters attempted to attack a battalion of soldiers in Goni, some 60 kilometers by road southeast of Damaturu, in the early hours yesterday. "During the encounter our gallant troops successfully repelled the attack and inflicted heavy casualties on the invading terrorists as all of them were killed," he said in a statement.

"On the last count over 100 terrorist bodies were seen," he added. There was no independent verification and the army has previously claimed high losses on the part of the militants. Usman said seven soldiers were killed and nine others injured in the fighting, which also saw troops recover arms and ammunition, including primed improvised explosive devices.

### New video

Nigeria's President Muhammadu Buhari has set his military commanders a three-month deadline to early November to end the violence, which has left at least 17,000 dead since 2009. But he has conceded that bomb and suicide attacks in urban areas could continue. More than 1,260 people have been killed since he took office on

May 29, according to an AFP tally.

Boko Haram yesterday published a new propaganda video via social media, in which an unidentified fighter read a statement in Hausa and Arabic, flanked by more than a dozen armed fighters. The rebel said military claims that some 200 fighters had surrendered in the border town of Banki last month, and that hundreds of women and children were released, were a "complete lie".

The 17-minute video was posted under the name "Islamic State in West Africa Province", which Boko Haram has used since its pledge of allegiance to IS leader Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi in March. Boko Haram has continued to attack neighboring Chad, Niger and Cameroon, underlining its threat to regional security. —AFP

## ERDOGAN IRATE AS PUTIN TEARS UP TURKEY'S SYRIA BLUEPRINT

### 'IT SEEMS THE RUSSIANS ARE IN IT NOT TO FIGHT IS'

**ISTANBUL:** The Russian air campaign in Syria has thrown an immense obstacle in the way of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's vision for the future of the country, enraging the Turkish leader and leaving Ankara increasingly sidelined. Russia's air strikes are aimed at propping up the regime of President Bashar Al-Assad, the very ruler who Turkey has for years insisted must be ousted if there is to be any solution to the Syrian crisis.

Further increasing the tensions,

would help Turkey regain something of its Ottoman-era dominance of the region. But Russia's air campaign is explicitly aimed at helping Assad stay in power, with the West and NATO ally Turkey accusing Moscow of focusing its fire on moderate rebels rather than Islamic State (IS) jihadists.

"It seems the Russians are in it not to fight Islamic State but to fundamentally alter the equation in such a way that Assad gets a new lease of life," Ilter Turan, Professor of Political Science at Istanbul Bilgi

zone. But all three plans are impeded by the Russian air campaign, although Erdogan insists that the safe zone idea is still on the agenda.

"Putin's main concern is to keep the Assad regime in power and thus protect Russia's interests in Syria and increase its regional and international influence," wrote Verda Ozer in the *Hurriyet* daily. The bombing of targets in Syria by Russian war planes is also further polarizing international alliances in the region, with Russia and Assad's other key ally Iran forming an ever

and introducing new dimensions into the equation."

"Turkey and its friends are being marginalized in Syria," Turan said. Changing this would require a "fundamental shift in policy" on the part of the Turkish government, notably by stepping up support for the Kurds, he said.

In a sign of the disquiet caused by Iran and Russia's intervention among Turkish conservative-nationalist circles, columnist Ibrahim Karagul in the pro-government *Yeni Safak* daily said the only way to stop the two countries is "by proxy war". "The intervention of the two countries (Iran and Russia) is the invasion of Syria. This is no different to the US invasion of Iraq" in 2003, he wrote.

### 'Highly personal'

Relations between Russia and Turkey—which warmed in recent years with the two sides working on a new undersea gas pipeline and targeting \$100 billion of trade by 2023 — are set to also take a body blow. It remains unclear if Putin gave Erdogan the slightest inkling of his plan for the Syrian intervention when the Turkish strongman visited Moscow on September 23 for the opening of a new mosque.

Deep-seated enmity and regional rivalry between Turkey and Russia are nothing new, with the Ottoman and Russian Empires fighting a dozen wars from the 16th century to World War I over control of the Black Sea and the Caucasus region. Known for his fiery temper and capacity for taking deep personal offence, Erdogan was reportedly personally offended when Putin in April described the killings of Armenians in the Ottoman Empire from 1915 as "genocide".

Turan said Erdogan "tends to view foreign policy—especially with authoritarian leaders—in highly personalistic terms." "He finds it very disturbing that his friend Putin is doing things he finds are detrimental to Turkey's interests in the region." —AFP



**BRUSSELS:** Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan waits for the arrival of European Council President Donald Tusk prior to a meeting at the EU Council building. —AP

Russian warplanes have twice violated the air space of NATO member Turkey over the Syrian border in the last days. Erdogan has responded furiously, saying Putin was making a "grave mistake" that will further isolate Russia and even warning the friendship between the two countries was at risk.

Turkey's key strategic aim for the conflict in Syria has been the overthrow of Assad and installation of new pro-Ankara authorities who

University, told AFP. "This introduced a new and big thorn in Turkish-Russian relations."

### 'Turkey marginalized'

Speaking at EU headquarters in Brussels, Erdogan said dealing with three issues would help ease the Syrian conflict and the resulting refugee crisis—equipping and training moderate Syrian rebels, establishing a safe zone in northern Syria for refugees and enforcing a no-fly

closer partnership and Turkey tightening ties with Saudi Arabia.

Erdogan has said Iran and Russia had teamed up in a two-pronged strategy, with Moscow acting from the air and Tehran, which reportedly has personnel on Syrian soil, from the ground. "That the Turkish visions for Syria were not going to be realized had become apparent long before the Russian intervention," said Turan, adding Putin's action was "complicating things

## NEW UNREST HITS ISRAEL, WEST BANK DESPITE CALLS FOR CALM

**JERUSALEM:** New violence rocked Israel and the West Bank yesterday, including a stabbing in annexed east Jerusalem, even as Israel and Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas took steps to ease tensions. The knife attack in Jerusalem's Old City, in which a Palestinian woman stabbed a Jewish man before being shot and seriously wounded, was the second in the walled heart of the city in days.

An Arab man also allegedly stabbed a soldier in central Israel and stole his weapon before being shot dead by police, while in the West Bank settlers shot and seriously wounded a Palestinian after a stone-throwing incident. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu postponed a visit to Germany set for Thursday to tackle the violence that has raged for three weeks despite appeals for calm.

Security officials from the two sides had met on Tuesday evening after the Palestinian leader said he did not want a violent escalation. Israel lifted age restrictions from yesterday on Muslims praying at

the sensitive Al-Aqsa mosque compound in an apparent bid, swiftly welcomed by Washington, to ease tensions.

Yesterday's Old City attack not far from the mosque compound, police said that an 18-year-old Palestinian woman stabbed a 35-year-old Jewish man in the back and lightly wounded him. The man, who was armed, managed to draw his gun and shoot and seriously wound his attacker, police said. Separately, in Kiryat Gat in central Israel, police shot dead an Arab man after he allegedly wounded a soldier with a knife and took his weapon, authorities said.

An incident in the occupied West Bank saw Jewish settlers shoot and seriously wound an 18-year-old Palestinian near Bethlehem, the Red Crescent and witnesses said. In the same area, where both Israeli settlements and Palestinian villages are located, a group of Palestinians had sought to take an Israeli woman from her car and possibly kidnap her, said Israeli military spokesman

Arye Shalimar. According to Shalimar, settlers fired in the air and she was able to escape.

### Moves to avoid escalation

In moves to calm the situation, Israeli and Palestinian security officials reportedly met at an undisclosed location in the West Bank on Tuesday evening for talks. The talks followed Abbas's call for restraint. His intentions had previously been unclear, particularly after a speech he gave to the UN General Assembly last week in which he declared he was no longer bound by accords with Israel.

Netanyahu has spoken of "no limits" for the security forces in responding to the unrest, and the military in a show of force on Tuesday demolished the homes of two Palestinians who carried out attacks last year.

On Tuesday, Netanyahu seemed to ease his rhetoric while at the same time visiting the site of a drive-by shooting in the West Bank in which a settler couple were murdered in front of their young children in their car last week. The spike in violence has brought international calls for calm, with concerns the unrest could spin out of control and escalate into a new intifada like those of the early 2000s and 1987-93.

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon criticized the home demolitions and urged Israel to fully investigate deadly clashes in Jerusalem and the West Bank. He said a "prompt and transparent" probe into the killing of a Bethlehem teenager by the Israeli army during rioting on Monday would serve to determine "whether the use of force was proportional".

Troops shot dead 13-year-old Abdel Rahman Abdullah on Monday—the second killing of a Palestinian in 24 hours—as dozens were wounded in clashes. After Abdullah's funeral on Tuesday, about 100 masked youths stoned soldiers who responded with tear gas and rubber bullets. Palestinian medics said two protesters in the usually quiet oasis town of Jericho were moderately wounded by shots to the legs. —AFP



**TEHRAN:** Iranian Transportation Minister Abbas Akhundi, (center) and Vice-Presidents Eshagh Jahangiri, (center right) and Majid Ansari, confer in an open session of the parliament to impeach Akhundi. —AP

## AFTER NUKE DEAL, IRAN TAKES NEW ROLE TO END SYRIA WAR

**TEHRAN:** Iran's nuclear deal with world powers has bolstered its central role in efforts to end the spiraling Syrian civil war, bringing Tehran back to the world stage, analysts say. Though the conflict seems trapped in a military mire—Russia's air campaign on behalf of Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad being the latest intervention—Iran is seen as a crucial diplomatic channel.

Along with Russia, the Islamic republic shares a strategic interest in preserving Assad's rule—contrary to Western demands that he give up power—as Syria is a gateway to its Lebanese ally Hezbollah. Iran has given military and financial support to Assad, including sending generals from its Revolutionary Guards as military advisers, several of whom have been killed.

Hezbollah has done much of the fighting to prop up the Syrian military, though the commander of Iran's Quds Force, the Guards' foreign wing, is said to be heavily involved in guiding the military strategy. However, Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has said there can be no military solution. He has drafted a four-point peace plan for Syria that calls for a national unity government, a ceasefire, an anti-terrorism effort and constitutional reform.

In a meeting Monday in New York, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon urged Zarif to pressure Assad toward a peaceful resolution to end the war. Such dialogue with Iran is a stark change from the UN-sponsored Geneva 1 and Geneva 2 international conferences in 2012 and 2014 aimed at finding peace in Syria, when Tehran was not invited.

Francois Nicoullaud, France's former ambassador to Tehran, told AFP that Iran's role in a diplomatic solution for Syria was no longer disputed. "The Russians are bombing, but we now need now to occupy the land and the Iranians will play a valuable role," he said, indicating the nuclear deal had been a catalyst. "Iran as a key player in resolving the Syrian crisis is clear in the minds of everyone. The Syrian army is out of breath."

### 'Something must move in Syria'

A chasm remains, however, between the thinking of Russia and Iran and that of the United States and powers such as Britain, who have said Assad must agree to an exit from power, even if takes years. The West says Assad's barrel-bombing of his own civilians means he has lost any legitimate claim to long-term rule.

Iran and Russia, however, say their military cooperation with Assad is about ridding Syria of the Islamic State jihadist group, rather than regime change. Nicoullaud, who was posted in Tehran between 2001 and 2005, agrees that Iranian and Russia's actions in Syria are an "anti-terrorist" strategy. "It is a way for them to say something must move in Syria," he added.

The Russian bombing, however, has been widely criticized, including by US President Barack Obama, as adding to the morass in Syria, where America and Arab states have backed rebels fighting Assad's forces. The rebels have said Russia is targeting them rather than the Islamic State, though Moscow said late Monday it had struck 10 IS targets in Damascus, Aleppo, Homs and Idlib provinces.

Professor Farhang Jahanpour of Oxford University believes the six world powers which struck the July 14 nuclear accord with Iran could now turn their attention to Syria, despite their "geopolitical differences". "This is by far the wisest course to follow," he told the *Tehran Times* in an interview, alluding to the links between Assad's Alawite sect, an offshoot of Shiite Islam, and the risks posed by going it alone.

"If Iran were seen as the only major power supporting the Russians in Syria, it would paint the situation as a Shia-Sunni conflict with Russia taking the side of the Shias, and the West taking the side of the Sunnis. "That scenario would be extremely dangerous for Iran and would split the region further along sectarian lines." —AFP

## YEMEN REBEL-ALLIED PARTY SAYS READY FOR UN-BROKERED PEACE

**SANAA:** Ousted Yemeni president Ali Abdullah Saleh's party, allied with Shiite Houthi rebels, announced yesterday it has accepted a UN plan to end the country's seven-month-old conflict. The announcement on the General People's Congress party website, *almotamar.net*, comes as UN envoy Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed holds secret talks with GPC and Houthi representatives in neutral Oman.

The party's secretary general, Aref Zouka, has sent a letter to UN chief Ban Ki-moon stating the GPC is "committed to implementing the seven points set in coordination with the UN envoy" to end the conflict, it said. Under the plan, the GPC would accept UN Security Council Resolution 2216 under an "implementation mechanism that would be agreed on by all parties" in Yemen, the party said.

Resolution 2216 calls for the withdrawal of rebel forces from territories they have captured and for them to lay down their arms. The Iran-backed Houthis overran the capital Sanaa unopposed in September 2014 and went on to battle for control of several regions, aided by renegade troops loyal to Saleh.

In July, loyalist forces backed by a Saudi-led Arab coalition evicted the rebels from five southern provinces, and they have since set their sights on Sanaa. Zouka called in his letter for "ending the

war and urged all parties to start negotiations to set in place an implementation mechanism for Resolution 2216 that would organize withdrawal from cities and disarmament of all parties."

This must take place under UN supervision to prepare for a re-launch of the political process. AFP could not immediately confirm from the Houthis if they had also agreed to the UN plan. A first attempt to hold peace talks in Geneva in June between the pro-government forces and Houthi rebels collapsed without the warring parties even sitting down in the same room. Last month, President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi's government backed away from UN-sponsored talks that were to be held in Oman, insisting the rebels first withdraw from territory they have seized.

Oman is the only member of the Gulf Cooperation Council, led by Riyadh, not taking part in the Saudi-led coalition's air war launched in March against the rebels, and Muscat also has good ties with Tehran. Hadi's internationally-recognized government has insisted on the unconditional implementation of Resolution 2216.

The GPC said the resolution's implementation must be accompanied by a halt to military operations and lifting of the blockade imposed by the coalition on Yemen. —AFP



**RAMALLAH:** Undercover Israeli police officers and Israeli soldiers detain a wounded Palestinian demonstrator, being pulled up, during clashes. —AP



# COMPLICATIONS WITH OLD BOSS INCREASE AS HILLARY CAMPAIGNS

## 'I'M NOT RUNNING FOR MY HUSBAND'S OR OBAMA'S THIRD TERM'

WASHINGTON: President Barack Obama seemed to call Hillary Rodham Clinton's idea of a no-fly zone in Syria "half-baked." Clinton described the president's immigration strategy as "harsh and aggressive." And as Obama tries to rally Democrats around the chief economic proposal of his second term, the party's presidential front-runner stayed conspicuously silent.

As Clinton looks for ways to distinguish her ideas from those of her former boss, the relationship between the man in the White House and the woman who hopes to replace him has grown increasingly complicated. No issue presents more potential for friction than trade.

For months, Clinton has resisted weighing in on the Trans-Pacific Partnership, the sweeping trade deal that has divided the Democratic base. The completion of the negotiations this week means she'll soon

the Obama administration have always said the time would come when the candidate would outline her own policies and deliver criticisms, both implied and direct, of the president.

"I am not running for my husband's third term or President Obama's third term," Clinton told voters in Davenport, repeating an oft-used line from her stump speech. "I'm running for my first term." While she frequently commends the president, Clinton has been offering critiques of his policies more and more.

Last month, she came out against the Keystone XL pipeline from Canada to the US Gulf Coast, while the administration remains undecided. In August, she said Obama's decision to approve offshore drilling in the Arctic wasn't "worth the risk" to the environment. And she's subtly resurrected her 2008 primary attack of Obama's approach to world affairs, taking a more

der. Candidates use policy plans to declare their priorities. Worries over practical implementation come later. But trade falls into a different category. If Clinton opposes Obama's big deal, she could undermine his arguments just as the White House is in the final stretch of a deal years in the making.

With Clinton's main challenger, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, calling the accord "disastrous," Obama may be in the uncomfortable position of watching a Democratic debate next week in which none of the major candidates is willing to defend the deal. Clinton aides know she must tread lightly when it comes to criticizing the president, given that much of her strategy relies on the still-loyal coalition of African-Americans, Latinos, women and younger voters that twice elected Obama. But at the same time, they say she must find ways to distinguish herself - and undercut Republican attacks that Clinton would simply be a third Obama term.

### 'Half-baked'

Many of Clinton's top aides joined her campaign from the White House and the two staffs remain in frequent communication. Before Clinton publicly announced her opposition to the Keystone pipeline and gun proposals, campaign staff alerted the White House to her plans. And after Obama appeared to deride her proposal for a no-fly zone over Syria as "half-baked" in a press conference last week, aides called to make sure Clinton understood the criticism wasn't aimed at her, according to a senior White House official who would not be named discussing private conversations.

The White House doesn't deny Clinton's new distance has at times created awkwardness for the president. On immigration, Clinton's promise to go further than Obama in using executive authority to ease the threat of deportation for immigrants living in the U.S. directly contradicts Obama's assertion that he's done all he can under the law.

President Barack Obama seemed to call Hillary Rodham Clinton's idea of a no-fly zone in Syria "half-baked." Clinton described the president's immigration strategy as "harsh and aggressive." And as Obama tries to rally Democrats around the chief economic proposal of his second term, the party's presidential front-runner stayed conspicuously silent. As Clinton looks for ways to distinguish her ideas from those of her former boss, the relationship between the man in the White House and the woman who hopes to replace him has grown increasingly complicated. No issue presents more potential for friction than trade.

For months, Clinton has resisted weighing in on the Trans-Pacific Partnership, the sweeping trade deal that has divided the Democratic base. The completion of the negotiations this week means she'll soon be forced to choose between one of the top legacy items of her former boss or labor unions, environmentalists and other liberal constituencies that oppose the deal.

Campaign veterans in the White House say the impact of Clinton's one-upping is minor and dismiss some of Clinton's proposals as routine campaign food-

hawkish stance toward Russia, Syria and Iran.

On both immigration and gun control, she's vowed to use her executive power to do more than the president, implying that Obama's actions have not gone quite far enough. "I'm not going to be breaking up families. And I think that is one of the differences," she said of Obama's deportation policy earlier this week. "But I totally understand why the Obama administration felt as though they did what they did under the circumstances."

Campaign veterans in the White House say the impact of Clinton's one-upping is minor and dismiss some of Clinton's proposals as routine campaign food-



IOWA: Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton reacts to a supporter before speaking at a community forum. — AP

be forced to choose between one of the top legacy items of her former boss or labor unions, environmentalists and other liberal constituencies that oppose the deal. Clinton promises to "definitely have a position soon."

### Awkward dynamics

"I'm going to be diving into that tonight. I'm going to be talking to people. They're getting me all the information they can gather so I can make a timely decision," Clinton said Tuesday as she toured a farmer's market in Davenport, Iowa. The awkward dynamic isn't a surprise: Both Clinton's campaign and



MIAMI: President Barack Obama speaks during a town hall meeting on immigration hosted by Telemundo and MSNBC, at Florida International University. — AP

# US GOVERNMENT DEPORTS FEWEST IMMIGRANTS IN NEARLY A DECADE

WASHINGTON: The Obama administration deported fewer immigrants over the past 12 months than at any time since 2006, according to internal figures obtained by The Associated Press as Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton called Obama's deportation policies too harsh. Deportations of criminal immigrants have fallen to the lowest levels since President Barack Obama took office in 2009, despite his pledge to focus on finding and deporting criminals living in the US illegally. The share of criminal immigrants deported in relation to overall immigrants deported rose slightly, from 56 percent to 59 percent.

The overall total of 231,000 deportations generally does not include Mexicans who were caught at the border and quickly returned home by the US Border Patrol. The figure does include roughly 136,700 convicted criminals deported in the last 12 months. Total deportations dropped 42 percent since 2012. In a statement Tuesday evening, US Immigration and Customs Enforcement spokeswoman Jennifer Elzea said the agency "has refined its priorities to improve the quality of its removals by focusing on the most serious public safety and national security threats as well as recent border crossers."

"As a result, overall removals may show a decline, consistent with a substantial drop in overall apprehension, among other factors," Elzea said. In a Miami interview with Spanish-language TV network Telemundo, promised to be "less harsh and aggressive" than Obama in enforcing immigration laws. Clinton is the Democratic presidential frontrunner and Obama's former secretary of state.

"The deportation laws were interpreted and enforced, you know, very aggressively, during the last six and a half years, which I think his administration did in part to try to get Republicans to support comprehensive immi-

gration reform," Clinton said in the weekend interview.

### 'Deporter-in-chief'

In the first two full budget years under the Obama administration, the US deported more people year over year, until reaching its 2012 peak. Those increases, which started under the administration of President George W. Bush, were small, rising just a few percentage points each year. Nevertheless, the record deportations in 2012 led immigration advocates to criticize Obama as the "deporter-in-chief."

After multiple bills to overhaul immigration laws failed in Congress during Obama's first term, he made administrative changes aimed at narrowing the population of immigrants targeted for deportation. The focus since then has been on criminals, and the overall number of deportations has steadily declined.

The Homeland Security Department has not yet publicly disclosed the new internal figures, which include month-by-month breakdowns and cover the period between Oct. 1, 2014, and Sept. 28. The new numbers emerged as illegal immigration continues to be sharply debated among presidential candidates, and has been a special focus of Donald Trump, the Republican front-runner.

And they come as Obama carries out his pledge from before his 2012 re-election to narrowly focus enforcement and slow deportations after more than a decade of rising figures. The biggest surprise in the figures was the decline in criminal deportations. Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson last year directed immigration authorities anew to focus on finding and deporting immigrants who pose a national security or public safety threat, those who have serious criminal records, and those who recently crossed the Mexican border. — AP

# SOUTH CAROLINA STILL ON EDGE FROM HUGE FLOOD

GEORGETOWN: Rivers rose and dams bulged yesterday as South Carolina faced another anxious day of waiting for the floodwaters to recede, and dive teams searched for two people who disappeared in waters after they drove around a barricade.

Along the coast, residents prepared for a second round of flooding as rivers swollen from days of devastating rains make their way toward the Atlantic. In the Columbia area, where some returned home to assess damage and clean up, the threat of more flooding still hadn't lifted.

About 1,000 residents near the compromised Beaver Dam were told to evacuate yesterday morning, though the order was lifted several hours later when crews shored up the dam. US Senator Lindsey Graham warned the disaster could "break the bank" of federal emergency funds, possibly topping more than \$1 billion.

At least 17 people in South Carolina and North Carolina have died in the storm. In coastal Georgetown, one of America's oldest cities, Scott Youngblood put more sandbags by the door of the Augustus & Carolina furniture store on Front Street, the popular tourist attraction that runs along the Sampit River.

Each day since last weekend's storm - which sent more than a foot of water washing down the street - water at high tide has lapped against those sandbags. Residents worried there may be more flooding on the Black and Waccamaw rivers. Both drain into Georgetown County. The Waccamaw was

expected to crest at 5 feet above flood stage in Conway, in Horry County, on Thursday. The Black crested Tuesday upstream at Kingstree at about 10 feet above flood stage, breaking a record, town officials said.

Youngblood hopes things won't be as bad as earlier in the week. "We're hanging our hat on that we're not going to have that combination of tide and rain and such," he said. "We had so much rain, but the primary thing we were experiencing was the water table coming up through the bottom bubbling up from beneath the flooring. We had quite a bit of damage."

Gov Nikki Haley took an aerial tour of damaged areas Tuesday, and planned to visit the coast yesterday afternoon. "We are watching this minute by minute," she said. She said evacuations may be needed toward the coast because of swollen rivers. At a shelter in Columbia, Graham said it would take weeks to get a good damage assessment.

### 'Pork-laden monstrosity'

"We're talking hundreds of millions (of dollars), maybe over a billion," he said. On Tuesday, the governor said it could be "any amount of dollars." Graham also warned state and county officials not to use the disaster as an opportunity to ask for money unrelated to flood damage. He criticized the federal government's aid package to the Northeast following Hurricane Sandy in 2012, calling it a "pork-laden monstrosity."

Rescue crews searched for two people

who vanished in Richland County when their pickup entered flood water. Sheriff's deputies said the pickup's driver went around barricade for a road that had been closed for several days after being washed out. Three people managed to get out of the truck safely. Teams searched the area in rescue boats and dive gear.

Electricity had returned to most homes and businesses and about 10,000 people were without water, down from a peak of 40,000. Roads and bridges were taking longer to restore: Some 200 engineers were inspecting more than 400 spots that remained closed Tuesday, including parts of Interstate 95. And crews in Columbia were still working yesterday to repair a breach in a canal that was threatening the main water supply for 375,000 people, Utilities Director Joey Jaco said. Workers were building a rock dam a few hundred feet north of the breach, which is near the city's hydroelectric plant.

Jaco said the only danger now is for the canal - built in the early 1800s and supplying 35 million gallons of water to the city's water plant each day - to breach in a second spot, but he added that the levy shows no signs of buckling. At the Beaver Dam in a neighborhood in northeast Columbia, officials worked to shore up the dam and said they believed the worst has been averted. Col Brad Owens said crews worked through the night using sandbags and dropping rocks to hold back the escaping water. Part of the roadway has been eroded and has been closed for days, Owens said. — AP



SUMMERVILLE: Jeanni Adame rides in her boat as she checks on neighbors seeing if they want to evacuate in the Ashborough subdivision. — AP

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## PAKISTAN UPHOLDS DEATH SENTENCE IN 'BLASPHEMY' REFORMIST KILLING

**ISLAMABAD:** Pakistan's Supreme Court yesterday upheld the death sentence for the killer of a politician who sought blasphemy law reform, in a verdict hailed by moderates as a blow against religious extremism. Mumtaz Qadri, a former police bodyguard, was feted as a hero by Islamist supporters after he gunned down the liberal governor of Punjab province, Salmaan Taseer, in 2011.

Qadri shot Taseer 28 times during broad daylight in an upscale market in the capital Islamabad. He later admitted the killing, saying he objected to the politician's calls to reform Pakistan's controversial blasphemy laws, which rights groups say are frequently used to carry out vendettas—particularly against religious minorities. Taseer had also been vocal in his support of Asia Bibi, a Christian woman who has been on death row since 2010 after being found guilty of insulting the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH).

"The criminal application filed by the convict is dismissed and the criminal appeal filed by the state is allowed, the conviction and sen-

tence allowed by the trial court are restored," Justice Asif Saeed Khosa, head of a three-member Supreme Court bench hearing appeals, said. The court also restored Qadri's terrorism conviction, removed by a lower court in March. Qadri may now file a review petition against the top court's verdict or appeal to the president for mercy, lawyer Muhammad Amir Malik, who was present at the hearing, told AFP.

"This judgment has also closed for him the option of seeking forgiveness from the family of the deceased because the restoration of the terrorism conviction means that the state will itself become a party against the convict," he added. During the hearings, Qadri's lawyers drew on Islamic texts to argue that he was justified in killing Taseer, saying that by criticising the law the politician was himself guilty of blaspheming—an argument rejected by the lead judge.

### Breakthrough verdict

Blasphemy is a hugely sensitive issue in Pakistan, an Islamic republic of some 200 mil-

lion, and Qadri has been hailed as a hero by many conservatives eager to drown out any calls to soften the legislation. At his original trial, Qadri was showered with rose petals by some lawyers. His legal team included two judges, including the former chief justice of Lahore High Court.

Critics including European governments say Pakistan's blasphemy laws are largely misused, with hundreds of people languishing in jails under false charges. Even unproven allegations frequently stir mob violence and lynchings, as in the case of a Christian laborer and his wife who were burned alive on a brick kiln stove last November.

Abbas Nasir, the former editor of leading English-daily Dawn, said Wednesday's verdict was a breakthrough for the country's judiciary, who have in the past been accused of allowing their personal religious sentiments to affect their rulings. "It does show the coming of age of the judiciary. The country's highest court has spoken through its verdict rather than via the politics of the judges," he told AFP. — AFP



**ISLAMABAD:** In this photograph taken on January 5, 2011, arrested Pakistani bodyguard Malik Mumtaz Hussain Qadri wearing a garland is escorted by police personnel as he leaves a court in Islamabad, a day after the assassination of the governor of Punjab province Salman Taseer. — AFP



**STRASBOURG:** Members of the European Parliament display a banner reading "Merkel, Hollande: You betrayed Europe!" during a joint address by French President and German Chancellor at the European Parliament. — AFP

## WARSHIPS START SMUGGLER PATROLS AS LEADERS PLEAD FOR JOINT ACTION

### A BID TO PRESENT SOLIDARITY AT A TIME OF DIVISIONS

**STRASBOURG:** European warships in the Mediterranean launched a new operation yesterday to catch migrant smugglers as the leaders of Germany and France were to push for further EU action to cope with the refugee crisis. Chancellor Angela Merkel and President Francois Hollande will give a joint speech to the European Parliament, the first of its kind since 1989, in a bid to present an image of solidarity at a time of deep divisions in the EU. The military mission dubbed Operation Sophia involves six naval vessels in international waters off Libya with the power to stop, board, seize and destroy traffickers' boats in a bid to curb the worst crisis of its kind since World War II.

Around 3,000 people have died making the perilous crossing over the Mediterranean to Europe this year, while over half a million have made the voyage, mostly landing in Greece and Italy. The first phase of the operation, which involved monitoring trafficker networks and rescuing refugees from rickety boats crossing the Mediterranean, has been running since June. "Assets will conduct boarding, search, seizure and diversion, on the high seas, of vessels suspected of being used for human smuggling or trafficking," the EU mission said in a statement.

### 'We want to arrest them'

An Italian aircraft carrier, a French frigate and one

British, one Spanish and two German ships are all involved in the mission, which follows in the footsteps of EU anti-piracy operations on the Horn of Africa. "We follow the traffickers and want to arrest them and seize their ships," Captain Stefan Klatt, who commands the Werra, one of the German ships that is taking part in the operation, told AFP.

The EU gave the go-ahead for the operation in international waters in September, but its ships are not, for now, allowed to pursue traffickers into Libyan waters. At least three other vessels supplied by the Belgian, British and Slovenian navies are expected to arrive in the area at the end of October to complete the force, which also include four aircraft and 1,318 personnel. But the operation is a drop in the ocean compared to the huge scale of a problem that has seen 630,000 migrants illegally enter the EU this year as people flee conflict in Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq. Turkey is now the main launching point for migrants trying to enter Europe, and the EU on Tuesday offered Ankara a plan under which it would resettle more refugees if the Turks establish new camps and boosts its coastguard.

### Berlin Wall

With the European project creaking under the strain of the huge movement of desperate people,

Merkel and Hollande were to issue a rallying cry in their speech to European lawmakers in Strasbourg. The last time the leaders of France and Germany stood together in parliament was 26 years ago when Francois Mitterrand and Helmut Kohl gave a similar speech just weeks after the fall of the Berlin Wall.

They are expected to highlight a common and multifaceted solution to the crisis that calls for admitting tens of thousands of genuine refugees, tightening EU external borders and cracking down on smugglers. But Europe has been deeply divided over how to respond to the crisis, which in addition to the Mediterranean has seen a new front opening over the summer in Hungary and Croatia as migrants cross the Balkans Plans to relocate 160,000 refugees to other EU nations from overstretched Greece and Italy were only adopted last month after EU leaders overrode objections from eastern European states.

The crisis has also fuelled the rise of nationalist and euro-skeptic parties, as well as feeding the debate over Britain's membership of the EU, which is set to be put to a vote before the end of 2017. Two Iranians were arrested and remanded in custody after having walked through the Channel Tunnel from France to Britain, police said yesterday, the latest in a series of breaches. — AFP

## RELATIVES OF JIHADISTS APPEAR IN ANTI-RADICALIZATION ADS

**PARIS:** Tales of heartache and confusion at losing children to the jihad in Syria and Iraq are being used by the French government to combat radicalization in new adverts launched yesterday. Baptiste fights back tears as he recounts how his 17-year-old daughter left after meeting a man on a dating site, who would go on to be a spokesman for the Islamic State group (IS).

"She took a backpack, a hat, and disappeared. The world was pulled from under our feet. Our child was stolen from us," Baptiste says in one of the adverts. He is one of several parents sharing their stories in the ads, which are being broadcast on over 20 television stations, websites and newspapers. Hundreds of French citizens have left to fight alongside Islamic State militants in Iraq and Syria in recent years.

In the ads, the family members direct the public to a hotline set up in April 2014 to report signs of radicalization. More than 3,000 alerts have since been made to the hotline, 23 percent of which concern minors—most of them girls. Prime Minister Manuel Valls told RTL radio on Wednesday that there were more than 500 French citizens currently in Iraq and Syria.

There are also "hundreds, even thousands of youths affected by radicalization," he said. "It is a considerable challenge for our society that requires us to mobilize families." France has stepped up its efforts to fight radicalization since a series of jihadist attacks by gunmen left 17 dead in January in Paris. The country has been named as a priority target by Islamic State mil-

itants and several other attacks have been foiled. There are fears that battle-hardened jihadists could return from Iraq or Syria primed to launch attacks on home soil.

### 'It is torture'

The producer of the adverts, Fabienne Servan-Schreiber, said the mothers and fathers expressed the pain of those who "didn't see anything" coming, and did not understand why their children had turned to radical Islam.

Veronique, a chic Frenchwoman with curly blonde hair, tells how her 23-year-old son Quentin converted to Islam and became ever more strict in his religious practice, before eventually leaving to wage jihad to "help people." "We tried to tell him that is not Islam, we thought he would eventually turn toward a more gentle practice," she told AFP.

Imams reached out to him but it was in vain. "It is torture. We don't have an answer, we were caught out," said Veronique. Along with the three parents, Jonathan also appears in the adverts talking about his 17-year-old sister who left for Syria. "We are engaged in a very difficult battle" against terrorism, said Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve. "It brings with it a lot of suffering, separations, tragedies... for families who have seen one of their own turn." The adverts are available on the government's anti-jihadist website [www.stop-djihadisme.gouv.fr](http://www.stop-djihadisme.gouv.fr), which gives advice on how to spot radicalization, and tries to point out the flaws in slick jihadist propaganda. — AFP

## POROSHENKO: REAL TRUCE HAS STARTED IN UKRAINE

**KIEV:** President Petro Poroshenko said yesterday a "real truce" had begun in Ukraine but that a long-lasting peace with pro-Russian insurgents would still take some time. "There has not been a single shot fired. This is still not peace. This is not the end of the war," the pro-Western leader said in a televised address. "The end of war will come when every patch of Ukrainian soil is liberated from the enemy, the occupant, the aggressor. But this is not simply a ceasefire — this is a real truce."

Poroshenko's comments to a group of military training students in Kiev came one day after the separatists delayed until next year local elections they planned for the coming weeks. The conciliatory gesture came in response to strong Western pressure for Russian President Vladimir Putin—a nationalist leader who denies any involvement in Ukraine's affairs—to convince the militias to push back their vote. Poroshenko had called the planned elections "fake" and branded them as another example of the eastern fighters' refusal to commit to a tacked February truce deal that was often broken but has been far more respected in the past month. Russia and the European Union also welcomed the rebels' Tuesday announcement because it gave time for the elections to be conducted in conformity with Ukrainian and international laws. No firm date for the local votes in Lugansk and Donetsk had yet been set.

### 'Return of occupied lands'

Ukrainian forces on Tuesday began withdrawing tanks from the demarcation line with Lugansk—one of the two industrial republics resisting Kiev's pro-EU leadership. A spokesman for the Lugansk insurgents told Russia's TASS-agency that his side had also moved smaller weapons 15 kilometers away from a demarcation line separating pro-Russian forces from the rest of the ex-Soviet state.

Both pullbacks conformed to a new deal signed by the warring sides on September 1. Fighters of the larger and more militant Donetsk province are to begin pulling back their tanks and smaller weapons on October 18. Poroshenko said his meeting with Putin and the leaders of Germany and France in Paris on Friday "helped us if not necessarily end, then at least firmly pause the conflict's active phase."

He also repeated that both pro-Russian regions must give up their aspirations of establishing closer diplomatic and trade relations with Moscow. "Thanks to the arms withdrawal agreement and the ceasefire, God willing, this will evolve into a stable cessation of hostilities," said the 50-year-old leader. "And in that case, we will have a chance to achieve peace and-of this, I am certain—the return of the occupied lands." — AFP

## REJECTED IN EU, MIGRANTS FACE YEARS OF DEADLOCK

**LONDON:** Faced with a massive influx of people fleeing troubled countries, Europe's already stretched asylum system is under increasing pressure and tens of thousands of people are faced with legal deadlock. Those whose asylum applications are rejected often become snared in bureaucratic systems that struggle to process vast numbers of cases, leaving them stuck in limbo for months or even years.

The result is stress for failed asylum seekers and an expensive political headache for the European Union countries to which they have travelled. Liaquat Ali Hazara, a Pakistani activist for the persecuted Shiite Muslim Hazara group, applied for asylum in Britain in 2012 after receiving threats from the Taliban and Lashkar-e-Jhangvi militant groups. His application was turned down in 2013 but he continues to challenge the decision in the courts, after spending six months in detention last year. The activist, who first came to Britain in 2005, told AFP: "I've given 11 years of my life to the UK. My etiquette, my characteristics, my idiosyncrasies — everything has become British. They have wasted my life."

The five EU countries that received the most asylum applications in the second quarter of this year were Germany, Hungary, Austria, Italy and France. The most rejections

were issued in Germany (57 percent of 46,085 initial decisions), France (75 percent of 19,425), Italy (53 percent of 13,760), Britain (60 percent of 8,080) and Sweden (25 percent of 10,065).

### Long waits common

In Britain, the asylum system has embarrassed governments for years as they struggle to clear a backlog of cases linked to organizational problems. Prime Minister David Cameron pledged in July to deport more migrants and the government is consulting on legislation to curb financial support for failed asylum seekers. But there are more than 21,000 asylum applications dating back to 2006 that have still not been resolved either way, according to official figures. A study by MPs in July put the cost of holding one person for a year in immigration detention at over £36,000 (48,000 euros, \$55,000). Britain is the only EU country with no limit on the amount of time an asylum seeker can be held in an immigration detention centre.

In Germany, which expects up to a million refugees and migrants to arrive this year after Chancellor Angela Merkel took a welcoming approach, there is growing public debate about the removal of failed asylum seekers which, in practice, is relatively rare.

According to the mass-circulation Bild on August 31, of 190,641 people who were obliged to leave Germany, 138,133 had obtained a temporary residence permit for health reasons or because of the situation in their home country. That left 52,508 people theoretically facing deportation.

In France, a public finance watchdog estimated this year that only one percent of asylum seekers whose cases had been rejected were expelled. The Socialist government, which faces a growing challenge from the far-right National Front party, put the figure at around 20 percent and ministers are trying to speed up processing times. Migrants' representatives argue that the system's failings hinder new arrivals' efforts to integrate, while right-wingers say it prompts migrants to bypass official channels altogether. In Sweden, rejected asylum seekers usually have between two and four weeks to leave the country voluntarily after their application is rejected. The system is considered to work efficiently but questions have arisen over how long it will cope given the large numbers arriving. Charlotte Lindeberg, a spokeswoman for the Swedish Migration Board, called the increase "a challenge" and said tackling it would require "increased and closer cooperation" between different authorities. — AFP



**PRESEVO:** A migrants girl waits for her parents to register with the police at a refugee center in the southern Serbian town. — AFP

## NEPAL EYES AIR-LIFTING FUEL AS INDIA BORDER STAYS SHUT

**KATHMANDU:** Nepal is considering air-lifting fuel, possibly from Bangladesh, as supply routes from India stay blocked by protesters opposing its new constitution, a short-term solution ahead of a key festival even as the government talks to China for help.

Thousands of trucks are stranded at the border with India, the main supply route into landlocked Nepal, leading to a critical shortage of fuel in the country that only months ago suffered its worst earthquakes in 75 years. "Getting oil and petrol from a country other than India is a very difficult question to answer," Deepak Baral, spokesman for the state-run Nepal Oil Corp, told Reuters.

Other than its lowland border with India, Nepal's other frontiers are mountainous with poor roads. After India, Bangladesh in the closest country with access to the sea. "At the moment India is blocking trucks carrying goods from third countries, so we cannot do this by land. We will work with what stock we have around the Dashain festival. For this we may look into lifting oil and petrol supplies by air from a third country."

Nepal says the blockade is being imposed by India to pressure political parties to address the demands of groups in the southern plains who are unhappy with the constitution

passed last month. More than 40 people have died in protests related to the charter. India denies any role in the blockade. Dashain, the highlight of Nepal's religious calendar, is due to begin in less than two weeks. Many people who live in Nepal's capital hail from districts outside the Kathmandu Valley and return home for the festival.

At Kathmandu's main bus station, operators were only selling tickets for travel on the same day due to the fuel crunch. Traffic in Kathmandu was severely curtailed and public transport was limited, with passengers sitting on the roofs of buses. "It's quite quiet at the minute," said Susan Magar, who works for a bus company ferrying travelers to Dharan in the east. "We can't sell tickets in advance for Dashain because we don't know if we'll have fuel."

Nepal Oil's Baral said the company was looking at ways to ensure people can get home for the festival, but air-lifting supplies from a third country would only be a short-term solution. He said the Nepali government was talking to China, India's rival in the Himalayas, about fuel supplies. "If we get the nod from the government, then we can start talking to our counterparts, but even then we estimate we can only receive 10-15 percent of our requirements from China." — Reuters



**GENEVA:** International president of Doctors Without Borders, also known by its French name Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) Joanne Liu (left) gestures as she speaks between General Director of MSF Switzerland Bruno Jochum (right) and MSF Lead Counsel Francoise Saulnier (left) during a press conference. — AFP

## MSF DEMANDS PROBE INTO DEADLY KUNDUZ AIR STRIKE

**KABUL:** Medical charity MSF yesterday demanded an international probe into a deadly US air strike on an Afghan hospital, after reports said NATO's top regional commander thought American forces broke their own rules of engagement. Three separate investigations by the US military, NATO and Afghan officials are currently under way into Saturday's catastrophic strike in the northern Afghan city of Kunduz.

But the charity, which condemned the attack as a war crime, stressed the need for an international inquiry, saying the bombing raid that killed 22 people was in contravention of the Geneva Conventions. "We cannot rely on an internal military investigation," Doctors Without Borders (MSF) chief Joanne Liu told reporters in Geneva, insisting that an "international humanitarian fact-finding commission" should probe the bombing.

"This was not just an attack on our hospital, it was an attack on the Geneva Conventions. This cannot be tolerated," Liu said. Saturday's raid sparked international outrage, fuelled by claims that patients had burned to death as they lay in their beds. Liu's remarks come a day after General John Campbell, the top US and NATO commander in Afghanistan, said the "hospital was mistakenly struck" when Afghan officials called for the raid.

But MSF brushed aside that explanation, saying "a mistake is not an answer for us" and

insisting on knowing "the facts, the intention, the criteria" behind the more than hour-long raid. Campbell's admission was the latest in a series of shifting explanations the Americans have offered for the strike, which have ranged from dubbing the bombing "collateral damage" to saying it was carried out to protect US troops.

International aid groups, the United Nations and a growing tide of global revulsion have added to the pressure on Washington to come clean over the strike, which came days after the Taliban overran Kunduz.

### 'Tenuous situation'

The New York Times on Tuesday, citing officials close to Campbell, said US special forces in Kunduz were unable to verify whether the hospital was a legitimate target before the bombs were dropped. "Obviously, the investigation is still under way, but Campbell's thinking now is that the Americans on the ground did not follow the rules of engagement fully," the report quoted one of those officials as saying. But the official stressed that no final conclusions had been reached and a formal inquiry could yield a different conclusion.

Under US rules of engagement, air strikes are called in to eliminate insurgents, protect American troops and assist Afghans who request air support. But the US special forces on the ground most likely did not ensure the

required strike met any of those criteria, Campbell said in private discussions with his colleagues, according to the report.

In testimony to the US Congress on Tuesday, Campbell stressed that while it was the Afghans who called for the strike, ultimately the decision to launch rested with Americans. His remarks provoked no immediate response from Afghan officials, but they have previously claimed that insurgents were using the hospital as a position to target troops and civilians.

A Taliban official told AFP that militants visited the hospital to reassure staff that they would not be harmed but left the facility 12 hours before the bombing. Campbell has urged Washington to consider boosting its post-2016 military presence to repel a Taliban upsurge and stabilise a "tenuous security situation" in the war-ravaged nation.

The White House is reviewing whether to press ahead with plans for the final exit of US troops by late 2016, the end of Barack Obama's presidency, and leave an embassy-based force of about 1,000 in Afghanistan. Afghanistan is at "a decisive point" given the surge in violence, Campbell said, noting the growing presence of Islamic State and Al-Qaeda fighters in Afghanistan. US forces in Afghanistan currently stand at about 9,800. Campbell said Obama has provided him with "flexibility" to slow the drawdown. — AFP



**KATHMANDU:** Nepalese youth gather to 'donate petrol' to the Indian Embassy which requested fuel supplies from Nepal Oil Corporation, at the premises of the Indian Embassy. — AFP

## A DECADE OF SEARCHING MISSING QUAKE VICTIMS

**MUZAFFARABAD:** The morning the Pakistan earthquake struck ten years ago, Nazish Naz had been reluctant to go to school, telling her elder sister the day felt cursed. Less than an hour after the 16-year-old left home, disaster struck.

The 7.6 magnitude quake near the city of Muzaffarabad in the Pakistani administered part of Kashmir killed more than 73,000 people, wounded 128,000 and left around 3.5 million homeless-but a decade on the region has yet to recover.

Naz's family remains unable to accept her death. Other than a lone photograph showing her injured in a hospital which appeared in a newspaper shortly after the disaster, there has been no trace of her: She has simply vanished. Her family are among hundreds of relatives struggling to trace loved ones lost in the earthquake, as all records of whether they survived were destroyed in the chaotic aftermath.

Ten years on and this state of limbo pervades the area. Despite government vows of reconstruction, the promised housing and infrastructure development simply never happened. Instead, derelict construction sites, half-built roads and piles of building material occupy the spaces where thriving towns and cities should exist.

### 'No proof she is dead'

Naz's parents' grief is growing as the ten-year anniversary of the October 8, 2005 tragedy approaches. They have searched for their daughter in hospitals, schools, morgues, train stations, bus stops-and even in brothels-and have found no sign. Still, they refuse to accept she is dead, citing the photograph that appeared in a local newspaper weeks later apparently showing Naz with a head wound in a hospital in Islamabad.

The injury did not appear serious enough to be fatal, they said, and there was no other information. "My daughter was very intelligent. She would have contacted us had she been in her senses, no matter wherever she was," said Abbasi, who works as a driver in a government department. "What we believe is that she might have lost her memory because of the head injury and has been stranded somewhere." "There is no clue about her existence, but there is no proof of her death as well. How can we accept she is dead without her grave existing?" he asks.



**MUZAFFARABAD:** In this photograph taken on September 27, 2015, Pakistani Kashmiri resident Rubila Bibi, who survived the 2005 Kashmir earthquake, teaches children at her home. — AFP

The International Committee of the Red Cross says a total of 576 people were registered as missing after the earthquake but authorities failed to maintain proper records tracking where patients were sent and whether victims lived or died in the wake of the disaster. Nearly 350 were traced later on, but 228 people, including Naz, were never found.

### Broken promises

Shazia Haris, a spokeswoman for the Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority (ERRA), says the government no longer considers them missing. "There were people who died and there were people who were injured in the earthquake. If somebody hasn't returned to his or her home after 10 years... it means they are surely dead and not missing," Haris says.

But Naz's parents refuse to give up. "God willing we will continue our efforts to trace her as long as we are both alive," says Abbasi. "Whether it is a matter of tracing the missing persons or reconstruction, nothing has gone according to the promised plans," says Zahid Amin, chief of the Muzaffarabad City Development Foundation.

In the aftermath of the quake the government promised to help the families of dead and injured, and to build new towns

a safe distance from the fault line. But construction has stalled, with authorities blaming the weather and administrative problems. Accusations of corruption have also dogged redevelopment efforts.

"The majority of the projects have been delayed," says Amin. In some cases people have rebuilt their homes along the quake fault line, despite warnings from experts that another, bigger quake may yet come. "The seismic codes and regulations have been violated for new constructions and the government doesn't care about anything," Amin says.

Even those projects that have been completed have not been handed over to residents due to red tape, he says. ERRA's Haris blames administration issues and the weather. "Locals in most regions have refused to hand over land for development of new cities," she says, adding that due to rain and snow construction can only be carried out for five months a year.

For Naz's family, even if the area can be rebuilt, the tragedy has destroyed their whole world. "I still dream that she is coming back to us," Naz's mother Gulnaz told AFP, sobbing as the rain fell outside her small house on a mountain in the outskirts of Muzaffarabad. "I see her in my dreams wearing her school uniform. Our lives have been changed after her... We always remember her." — AFP

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**AL-SANABEL AL-THAHABEYAH EST.**

## FOUR ARRESTED IN SYDNEY'S 'TERRORIST LINKED' KILLINGS

**SYDNEY:** Police arrested four people yesterday in connection with the slaying of a civilian police worker in a Sydney suburb that officials have said they believe was linked to terrorism. More than 200 officers swooped into homes in western Sydney and arrested the men, aged 16 to 22, as part of their investigation into the killing of Curtis Cheng, New South Wales police said. A fifth man was also arrested during the raids on unrelated fraud charges.

Cheng, a police finance worker, was shot by an Iranian teenager while leaving work in the western Sydney suburb of Parramatta last Friday. The killer, 15-year-old Farhad Jabar, was shot dead by police. Police believe

the killing was politically motivated and therefore linked to terrorism, though they say Jabar's specific motivations remain unclear and he has not been linked to any terror group. They also didn't know whether Cheng was personally targeted, or targeted more generally because he was a police employee.

Police don't know what the association might be between Jabar and the men who were arrested yesterday, and Deputy Commissioner Catherine Burn declined to say what part officials believe they played in last week's shooting beyond allegedly having knowledge of the attack. But police don't believe Jabar acted alone.

"Today's operation is a clear indication of our determination to actually find out who murdered Curtis Cheng and to take all necessary action that we possibly can," Burn told reporters. "It's a very, very serious concern that in the heart of our community there is attack planning that is underway and that may have led to what we saw on Friday." Some of the men arrested yesterday were also investigated during a massive series of counterterrorism raids in Sydney last year, Burn said.

### Terror raids

Jabar, who was born in Iran and lived with his family in the Parramatta area, was not on

officials' radar before Cheng was shot. Burn acknowledged that police had no idea he was a threat, despite his alleged association with those investigated during last year's terror raids. That prompted questions about whether police should have been paying closer attention to him.

"For 24 hours, 7 days a week, people go and do certain things and it's a reality of life we can't be everywhere with everybody at every single second of the day," Burn said. Neil Gaughan, acting deputy commissioner of the Australian Federal Police, confirmed reports that Australian police were working with officials in Turkey to locate Jabar's sister, who is believed to have flown to Istanbul shortly

before Cheng was killed. Gaughan said there is nothing to suggest she was involved in the attack, but police want to talk to her about what she may have known about her brother's plans. Australia has been struggling to cope with a string of homegrown terrorism crimes involving teenagers. In September 2014, an 18-year-old was shot dead by police after stabbing two counterterrorism police officers in Melbourne. In April, several teens were arrested on suspicion of plotting an Islamic State group-inspired attack at a Veterans' Day ceremony. And in May, police arrested a 17-year-old in Melbourne and accused him of plotting to detonate three homemade pipe bombs. — AP

## FERDINAND: FILIPINOS DO NOT CARE ABOUT FATHER'S ABUSES

### ACTIVISTS SAY HE WANTS PEOPLE TO FORGET

**MANILA:** The son of late strongman Ferdinand Marcos said yesterday that Filipinos are no longer concerned about human rights abuses committed under his father's rule, angering activists who said he wants people to forget his father's dictatorship, which a popular revolt ended 29 years ago.

Speaking to reporters two days after announcing he is seeking the vice presidency in next year's elections, Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr said Filipinos these days are more concerned about their livelihood, crime and other day-to-day problems.

Retired Commission on Human Rights Chairwoman Loretta Ann Rosales, who was tortured and detained under President Marcos, said Marcos Jr, a senator, was glossing over a law passed in 2013 recognizing and compensating victims of human rights abuses during Marcos' 14-year strongman rule.

### 'Not concerned'

In a wide-ranging forum, the 58-year-old senator acknowledged yesterday that there have been many allegations of human rights violations against his father but that Filipinos "are not concerned about that" these days.

"They are concerned about their lives today," he said. "We want answers. Why are there drugs in our streets? Why is the crime rate going up at an alarming rate? Why is our educational sector miserable? Why is the distribution of wealth not happening? Why is the government not doing anything about it? Why is there no infrastructure development? Why is there no agricultural development? This is what people are worried about."

He said the Marcos name will not be a hindrance to his election campaign. "I am the luckiest person that I know, and being a Marcos is part of that," he said. "I have never felt it to be a burden. I have only felt it to be an advantage, a blessing, and I am very thankful that I am a Marcos."

President Marcos declared nation-

He denied any wrongdoing, including charges of amassing and hiding hundreds of millions of dollars in Swiss banks, before he died in Hawaii three years later. His widow, Imelda, and their three children were eventually allowed to return home.

A Hawaii court has found the elder Marcos liable for human rights

claims under the law providing reparations for victims of human rights violations, according to the government board reviewing the claims.

### Leave to historians

Marcos Jr said he leaves the events of 1986 to historians to judge while he focuses on being a public servant. "In my heart of hearts, I truly believe that I was put on this Earth to serve, to be a public servant and that is what I will continue to do until the day that I die," he said.

Rosales said other laws to protect human rights, such as the Anti-Torture Act and the Anti-Enforced Disappearance Act, were inspired by "the rich experiences of the people's struggle" against President Marcos. "The mindset (Marcos Jr) instills among the people is to keep them ignorant of the truth," she said. "It is the height of political arrogance and elitism, so much like his father."

In an interview with ABS-CBN television two months earlier, Marcos Jr. did not directly apologize to the victims of abuses. "We have constantly said that if during that time of my father, there were people who were knocked down or who were not provided assistance or they were victimized in some way or another, of course we're sorry that that happened. Nobody wants that to have happened," he said.

Bonifacio Ilagan, vice chairman of Selda, a group of former political detainees, who was severely tortured by Marcos's military, said "much of the Marcos regime is still with us," alleging human rights are still being violated. He said Marcos Jr's vice presidential aspiration shows the "Marcoses' delusion of returning to power to re-establish their brand of anti-people and fascist rule." — AP



**MANILA:** Philippine Senator Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr gestures during a media forum yesterday two days after announcing he is seeking the nation's second highest office in next year's national elections, at suburban Davao city. — AP

wide martial law in 1972, a year before his term was to expire. He padlocked Congress, ordered the arrest of political rivals and left-wing activists, and ruled by decree until a "people power" revolt drove his family into exile in 1986.

violations and awarded \$2 billion from his estate to compensate more than 9,000 Filipinos who filed a lawsuit against him for torture, incarceration, extra-judicial killings and disappearances. More than 75,000 Filipinos have filed compensation

## AS PYONGYANG READIES SHOW, RURAL LIFE STILL A STRUGGLE

**PYONGYANG, North Korea:** While North Korea prepares a big show to mark the 70th anniversary of the ruling Workers' Party, the daily struggles of life outside the capital - such as finding clean running water and putting nutritious food on the table year-round - pose a harsh, but largely unseen, contrast to the grand celebrations the world will see Oct 10.

North Korea's anniversary spectacle promises to be world-class. Masses of citizens will be mobilized to march, chant and hold up placards on cue to create huge images praising the party and leader Kim Jong Un. To make sure Pyongyang looks its best, extensive construction projects have considerably prettied up the capital, which is far and away the most developed city in North Korea and is even relatively comfortable for the increasingly affluent segment of its populace. But life in the provinces, and particularly in rural areas, is quite a different story.

### Hordes of visitors

Ahead of the arrival of the hordes of visitors, dignitaries and foreign journalists who are now beginning to descend on Pyongyang for the celebrations, an Associated Press Television News crew was allowed to join the Red Cross on a visit to one of those communities in Sinyang County, which is just 150 kilometers from Pyongyang but takes three hours to reach by car on mostly unpaved roads. Instead of the new high-rise apartments and bicycle lanes that have been put up in Pyongyang for the party anniversary, the people there are now just beginning to enjoy a far more fundamental improvement in their lives - disease-free running water. The area is still recovering from serious flooding and landslides from 2006 to 2013 that caused many deaths and destroyed homes and basic infrastructure - roads, bridges and the water distribution system.

Seeing a dire need, the Red Cross got involved in 2013 with projects to re-establish a clean water system for 10,000 people in Sinyang and small-scale food processing facilities, which help people to make the most of what they can grow and reduce the amount of time and labor they used to have put in to get the food to the table.

Simple greenhouses set up with Red Cross support mean the local community can now produce vegetables all year round. Though hunger is uncommon in Pyongyang, where the population is far better off than elsewhere, the only vegetable available in winter to many people in the country's hardscrabble rural areas is pickled kimchi.



**PYONGYANG:** North Korean women wearing traditional dresses gather for rehearsals, yesterday in preparation for the 70th anniversary of the founding of their country's ruling party on Oct 10. — AP

### Hygiene improved

"People's hygiene and awareness has improved and the most important thing is that water-borne disease has been reduced," said local Red Cross chairman Ri Won U. "Before it used be 35 percent of disease cases, now it's less than 5 percent." Chris Staines, the head of the International Red Cross in Pyongyang, said Red Cross projects aim to help people in the simplest and most effective ways - which he said is crucial in places like Sinyang because of the area's cold and harsh winters.

But even with the Red Cross support, a great deal of work remains to be done. The population of Sinyang County is 58,000, but just 15,000 have benefited from the Red Cross efforts so far. At the end of the trip to Sinyang, the Red Cross - which is hoping to expand its projects further visited one of the areas where its help has not yet arrived. There, an old woman sat outside her home scraping corn off recently harvested cobs. The dry corn will be ground into flour to make food. In the North Korean countryside, this is a common sight. Everything must be done by hand, from the fields to the home.

In Pyongyang, meanwhile, residents have been spending much of their time over the past few months practicing their mass routines, which will likely culminate in a torchlight event on Pyongyang's Kim Il Sung Square. And though the city was lit brightly Tuesday night, Pyongyang's residents have also had to make some sacrifices. In the run-up to the anniversary, power for civilian use, always a scarce commodity in the North, had been diverted to priority, anniversary-related projects.

Further hinting at what's in store come Saturday - and at North Korea's political priorities - fighter jets blazed through the skies of the capital Tuesday in preparation for what is expected to be a major military parade on the morning of the anniversary day. Based on North Korean rhetoric in recent weeks, analysts had thought there was a possibility of a more provocative display: a rocket launch, aimed at placing a satellite in orbit, that the UN and US would consider an illegal test of long-range missile technology. US observers and the South Korean defense ministry, however, now view a pre-anniversary launch as unlikely. — AP



**WEST KALIMANTAN:** This still frame grab taken from video provided by environmental action group Greenpeace on October 6, 2015 from a drone shows an aerial image of Indonesian fires burning around the edge of the Gunung Palung National Park, a critical orangutan habitat, in nearby palm oil concessions. — AFP

## INDONESIA FIRES RAGE ON AS PRESSURE RISES IN SINGAPORE

**JAKARTA:** New aerial footage released yesterday showed smoke billowing from Indonesian forest fires as smog-choked Singapore's biggest supermarket chain announced a ban on products from a paper company accused over the haze shrouding Southeast Asia. Fires illegally started to clear land for plantations on Indonesia's Sumatra island and the Indonesian part of Borneo have for weeks belched out thick haze, cloaking Singapore and Malaysia and prompting the cancellation of outdoor events and school closures.

The blazes are an annual occurrence during the dry season, but scientists have warned this year's could be the worst on record due to an El Nino weather system that has created tinder-dry conditions in Indonesia. The drone footage filmed by Greenpeace showed acrid haze rising from dense jungle next to a national park, trees reduced to fire-blackened skeletons, burnt peatland and a city shrouded in smog on the Indonesian part of Borneo. "Companies destroying forests and draining peatland have made Indonesia's landscape into a huge carbon bomb, and the drought has given it a thousand fuses," said Bustar Maitar, Indonesian forest project leader for Greenpeace Southeast Asia. "The Indonesian government can no longer turn a blind eye to this destruction when half of Asia is living with the consequences."

Pressure mounted in Singapore, where air quality has been unhealthy for weeks. Supermarket chain NTUC FairPrice, which belongs to a state-linked trades union, announced the withdrawal of all paper products sourced from Indonesian-owned Asia Pulp & Paper (APP), which has corporate offices in Singapore. The company's suppliers are suspected of starting forest fires in Indonesia. Singapore

environmental and consumer groups asked home furnishings giant IKEA and retailers 7-Eleven and Watsons to certify that products they sell are not sourced from companies accused of causing fires in Indonesia. Sandra Keasberry, a spokeswoman for IKEA Singapore, said the company "has not made any purchases from the companies named in relation to the burning practices leading to the haze."

### Mounting pressure

Aida Greenbury, APP's Jakarta-based managing director for sustainability, told AFP the company was working with the Indonesian military to fight forest fires on suppliers' landholdings, where more than 10,000 hectares (24,000 acres) had been affected. "If any suppliers are found to have intentionally burned land, we will disengage with them," she said in a statement. "We are ready to step up and do more to address challenges in the landscape."

Tensions have been rising between the governments of Singapore and Indonesia over the haze. Singapore's Ministry of Foreign Affairs asked Indonesia in a statement yesterday for an "early response" to its requests for information on "errant companies suspected of being involved in the haze". APP was asked by Singapore's National Environment Agency last month to supply information on its subsidiaries operating in Singapore and Indonesia, as well as measures taken by its suppliers to put out fires.

The company said yesterday it had provided information in response to the request. Under a 2014 law Singapore can impose a fine of Sg\$100,000 (\$70,000) for each day that a local or foreign company contributes to unhealthy levels of haze pollution in Singapore, subject to a maximum total of Sg\$2.0 million. — AFP

## MIXED VIEWS ON WHAT HK PROTESTS ACHIEVED

**HONG KONG:** A year ago, Hong Kong's famously busy streets were shut down by pro-democracy protesters in the so-called "Umbrella Movement" - a moniker that came from the umbrellas used by demonstrators to fend off pepper spray used by police early in the nearly 80-day face-off. Students, retirees and others took to the streets to express their opposition to Beijing's plan to restrict candidates in elections for the city's top leader. Hong Kong is a semi-autonomous part of China, with its own legal system, free-wheeling press and local government, but is ultimately under Beijing's rule. The movement, also called Occupy Central, saw thousands of people gathering at rallies and camping out in the streets. The demonstrations fizzled out as the government stuck to a hard line and authorities eventually cleared out the protest camps.

Today there is little physical sign of Hong Kong's biggest turmoil since its handover from Britain in 1997, but the event appears to have sparked a political awakening among many of the city's younger generation amid signs of mainland China's tightening grip. Last year, Associated Press photographer Vincent Yu captured images of a number of these protesters and asked them, "How has Occupy changed Hong Kong? And what's the future of the movement after the protest?" Nearly a year later, Yu took photos of the same group and asked, "Has the Umbrella Movement accomplished anything? If so, what?"

### Melvin Lee, 43

**THEN:** "We have never been this resolute, never this determined. ... Hong Kongers will be more concerned with issues on rights, and be more careful on its political policy. They will not simply allow others to represent them ... but instead will express their views by themselves."

**NOW:** "It has no result practically. However, after the 79 days (of) Occupy, we can see clearly whether a person is a man or demon. As far as I can tell, it provoked concerns and actions of a

large group of young Hong Kong people toward current affairs and politics."

### Mo (only surname given), 23

**THEN:** "Many Hong Kong people have woken up. ... I firmly believe Hong Kong people will fight for the things they want."

**NOW:** "I think Occupy tells Hong Kong people that peaceful protests won't achieve anything. After Occupy, neither democracy, universal suffrage nor the separation of powers were successfully achieved. I believe this has made a small amount of Hong Kongers know only a more radical way of protests can fight against authorities."

### Kelvin Lee, 22

**THEN:** "It has made many students begin to show political awareness. ... Honestly, in the imminent short term, Hong Kong will not have too many changes. But in the long run, this movement is an important milestone."

**NOW:** "Even though the end of Umbrella Revolution did not make any significant changes, it increased the attention of society. And though there were many contradicting opinions made, it awoke people, especially teenagers, to how the society was changing."

### Hacken Tse, 39

**THEN:** "It has increased people's civil awareness, but the youngsters have yet to learn many things. ... The development of the movement has come to a time when they should take a turn, but they still haven't realized it. Some people just want to get the aura of glory, yet have done nothing since the beginning. They don't know their rights and duty."

**NOW:** "The Umbrella Movement has brought out an answer for those selfish people who hate politics that civil education, political livelihood and civil obligations are inevitable. After the handover, democratic politics and the rule of law are something that every Hong Konger should learn about in his lifetime." — AP



Workers clean buildings in Masdar City on the outskirts of the emirate of Abu Dhabi yesterday. Masdar City is a high-density, pedestrian-friendly development where current and future renewable energy and clean technologies are showcased, marketed, researched, developed, tested and implemented. — AFP

# NUCLEAR BLACK MARKET SEEKS IS EXTREMISTS

**CHISINAU, Moldova:** In the backwaters of Eastern Europe, authorities working with the FBI have interrupted four attempts in the past five years by gangs with suspected Russian connections that sought to sell radioactive material to Middle Eastern extremists, The Associated Press has learned. The latest known case came in February this year, when a smuggler offered a huge cache of deadly cesium - enough to contaminate several city blocks - and specifically sought a buyer from the Islamic State group.

Criminal organizations, some with ties to the Russian KGB's successor agency, are driving a thriving black market in nuclear materials in the tiny and impoverished Eastern European country of Moldova, investigators say. The successful busts, however, were undercut by striking short-comings: Kingpins got away, and those arrested evaded long prison sentences, sometimes quickly returning to nuclear smuggling, AP found.

Moldovan police and judicial authorities shared investigative case files with the AP in an effort to spotlight how dangerous the nuclear black market has become. They say the breakdown in cooperation between Russia and the West means that it has become much harder to know whether smugglers are finding ways to move parts of Russia's vast store of radioactive materials - an unknown quantity of which has leached into the black market. "We can expect more of these cases," said Constantin Malic, a Moldovan police officer who investigated all four cases. "As long as the smugglers think they can make big money without getting caught, they will keep doing it."

### Vulnerability

In wiretaps, videotaped arrests, photographs of bomb-grade material, documents and interviews, AP found a troubling vulnerability in the anti-smuggling strategy.

From the first known Moldovan case in 2010 to the most recent one in February, a pattern has emerged: Authorities pounce on suspects in the early stages of a deal, giving the ringleaders a chance to escape with their nuclear contraband - an indication that the threat from the nuclear black market in the Balkans is far from under control.

Moldovan investigators can't be sure that the suspects who fled didn't hold on to the bulk of the nuclear materials. Nor do they know whether the groups, which are pursuing buyers who are enemies of the West, may have succeeded in selling deadly nuclear material to extremists at a time when the Islamic State has made clear its ambition to use weapons of mass destruction.

The cases involve secret meetings in a high-end nightclub; blueprints for dirty bombs; and a nerve-shattered undercover investigator who slammed vodka shots before heading into meetings with smugglers. Informants and a police officer posing as a connected gangster - complete with a Mercedes Benz provided by the FBI - penetrated the smuggling gangs. The police used a combination of old-fashioned undercover tactics and high-tech gear, from radiation detectors to clothing threaded with recording devices.

The Moldovan operations were built on a partnership between the FBI and a small team of Moldovan investigators - including Malic, who over five years went from near total ignorance of the frightening black market in his backyard to wrapping up four sting operations. "In the age of the Islamic State, it's especially terrifying to have real smugglers of nuclear bomb material apparently making connections with real buyers," says Matthew Bunn, a Harvard professor who led a secret study for the Clinton administration on the security of Russia's nuclear arsenal.

### Lethal Consequences

The Moldovan investigators were well aware of the lethal consequences of just one slip-up. Posing as a representative's buyer, Malic was so terrified before meetings that he gulped shots of vodka to steel his nerves. Other cases contained elements of farce: In the cesium deal, an informant held a high-stakes meeting with a seller at an elite dance club filled with young people nibbling on sushi. In the case of the cesium, investigators said the one vial they ultimately recovered was a less radioactive form of cesium than the smugglers originally had advertised, and not suitable for making a dirty bomb. — AP

## MP SALEH ASKS ABOUT DELAY IN ZOUR CONTRACTS

Continued from Page 1

international companies, which was supposed to take place in mid-October. The lawmaker asked if the report was correct and if the minister has powers to order the delay, or are these powers entrusted in the CEO of Kuwait Petroleum Corp (KPC) or the CEO of KNPC.

Saleh also asked the minister that if he has no powers over signing the contracts, why did he interfere and order the delay. The lawmaker asked if KNPC, which is responsible for the project, had obtained all the necessary approvals from various sides and made all the needed studies on the project. If the answer is positive, Saleh asked for copies of these procedures. Saleh asked about the financial consequences of delaying the signing of the contracts at this late stage and what is the possibility that the international companies which won the contracts may pull out of the project or raise their bids.

The lawmaker also asked about the expected impact of the delay on supplying the ministry of electricity and water

with the required fuels for its operations. Finally, Saleh asked if the required environmental studies on the project had been carried out or not. The new refinery project has already been delayed several times due to different reasons.

A few months ago, authorities decided to revive the project and obtained approval to raise its budget from KD 4 billion to KD 4.8 billion after earlier bids came in higher than cost estimates. The project has been divided into five packages and KNPC in coordination with the Central Tenders Committee has picked up the winning consortia for each of the five projects. The official signing of the contracts was scheduled to take place next week. The oil minister said last week that mega projects, especially in the oil sector, will not be delayed because of the sharp drop in oil prices. Named as Al-Zour Refinery, the new refinery will have a production capacity of 615,000 barrels per day.

Meanwhile, the criminal court yesterday set Nov 11 as the date to issue its verdict against prominent Sunni cleric Othman Al-Khamees over charges of hatred and spite against a religious sect.

## HEALTH MINISTER COMMENDS CHOLERA...

Continued from Page 1

"Kuwait contributed to WHO-sponsored researches on combating non-communicable diseases such as heart diseases, hypertension, cancer and diabetes," Dr Obaidi said, citing the launching of the Kuwait award and HH the Amir's award for research in healthcare for the elderly and the country's contribution to the global fund to fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. The launch of Kuwait's appeal for combating and preventing chronic diseases is another evidence of growing cooperation, particularly after the issuance of the relevant UN political statement in Sept 2011, he pointed out.

Obaidi welcomed the attendees at the RC session, foremost among who are the WHO Director-General Dr Margaret Chan and WHO Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean Dr Ala Alwan and the ministers of health of the 22 RC member

states. He extolled HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for his constant support of efforts of the ministry of health to improve health services for all citizens, and thanked HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah for his patronage of the RC meeting.

He noted that the meeting coincided with the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit held in New York to adopt 17 sustainable development goals, including a health-related one. Obaidi renewed Kuwait's commitment to working with WHO and all partners to advance the health agenda, not only in Kuwait but in the region as a whole. Alwan and Chan also addressed the gathering.

Obaidi later said PM Sheikh Jaber will open the new Razi Hospital on Oct 23. "The new hospital is part of expansion projects with the aim of improving health services for both citizens and expatriates," he underlined. — KUNA

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## Focus

HOW IRAN GENERAL  
PLOTTED OUT SYRIAN  
ASSAULT IN MOSCOW

By Laila Bassam and Tom Perry

At a meeting in Moscow in July, a top Iranian general unfurled a map of Syria to explain to his Russian hosts how a series of defeats for President Bashar al-Assad could be turned into victory - with Russia's help. Major General Qassem Soleimani's visit to Moscow was the first step in planning for a Russian military intervention that has reshaped the Syrian war and forged a new Iranian-Russian alliance in support of Assad. As Russian warplanes bomb rebels from above, the arrival of Iranian special forces for ground operations underscores several months of planning between Assad's two most important allies, driven by panic at rapid insurgent gains.

Soleimani is the commander of the Quds Force, the elite extra-territorial special forces arm of Iran's Revolutionary Guards, and reports directly to Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Senior regional sources say he has already been overseeing ground operations against insurgents in Syria and is now at the heart of planning for the new Russian- and Iranian-backed offensive. That expands his regional role as the battlefield commander who has also steered the fight in neighbouring Iraq by Iranian-backed Shiite militia against Islamic State.

His Moscow meeting outlined the deteriorating situation in Syria, where rebel advances towards the coast were posing a danger to the heartland of Assad's Alawite sect, where Russia maintains its only Mediterranean naval base in Tartous. "Soleimani put the map of Syria on the table. The Russians were very alarmed, and felt matters were in steep decline and that there were real dangers to the regime. The Iranians assured them there is still the possibility to reclaim the initiative," a senior regional official said. "At that time, Soleimani played a role in assuring them that we haven't lost all the cards."

## 'Send Soleimani'

Three senior officials in the region say Soleimani's July trip was preceded by high-level Russian-Iranian contacts that produced political agreement on the need to pump in new support for Assad as his losses accelerated. Their accounts suggest planning for the intervention began to germinate several months earlier. It means Tehran and Moscow had been discussing ways to prop up Assad by force even as Western officials were describing what they believed was new flexibility in Moscow's stance on his future.

Before the latest moves, Iran had aided Assad militarily by mobilising Shiite militias to fight alongside the Syrian army, and dispatching Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps officers as advisors. A number of them have been killed. Russia, an ally of Damascus since the Cold War, had supplied weapons to the Syrian army and shielded Damascus diplomatically from Western attempts to sanction Assad at the United Nations.

Their support did not prevent rebels - some of them backed by Assad's regional foes - from reducing Assad's control of Syria to around one fifth of its territory in a four-year-long war estimated to have killed 250,000 people. The decision for a joint Iranian-Russian military effort in Syria was taken at a meeting between Russia's foreign minister and Khamenei a few months ago, said a senior official of a country in the region, involved in security matters. "Soleimani, assigned by Khamenei to run the Iranian side of the operation, travelled to Moscow to discuss details. And he also travelled to Syria several times since then," the official said.

The Russian government says its Syria deployment came as the result of a formal request from Assad, who himself laid out the problems facing the Syrian military in stark terms in July, saying it faced a manpower problem. Khamenei also sent a senior envoy to Moscow to meet President Vladimir Putin, another senior regional official said. "Putin told him 'Okay we will intervene. Send Qassem Soleimani'. He went to explain the map of the theatre."

## Resident in Damascus

Russian warplanes, deployed at an airfield in Latakia, began mounting air strikes against rebels in Syria last week. Moscow says it is targeting Islamic State, but many of Russia's air strikes have hit other insurgents, including groups backed by Assad's foreign enemies, notably in the northwest where rebels seized strategically important towns including Jisr al-Shughour earlier this year. In the biggest deployment of Iranian forces yet, sources told Reuters last week that hundreds of troops have arrived since late September to take part in a major ground offensive planned in the west and northwest. —Reuters



## US CHILDREN IN CROSSFIRE OF GUN DEBATE

By Sebastien Blanc

Children as young as 12, eight and even five months old were shot dead in recent days in the United States - deaths that highlight the dangers of easy access to weapons, and the difficulties of the gun control debate. Negligence, and simple bad luck, are often to blame for these tragedies which, with each death, trigger a new round of soul-searching over the divisive issue of gun control - but little action. Last week, an 11-year-old boy fatally shot his 12-year-old brother in the head during a target shooting outing using live ammunition in Carrollton, Ohio, in what authorities have deemed an accident. Criminal charges could follow, however, for the person who left the handgun unsecured on a picnic table, the local sheriff told The Repository, the newspaper in nearby Canton.

And over the weekend in Tennessee, an 11-year-old boy was charged with first-degree murder after he allegedly fatally shot an eight-year-old girl, his neighbor, in the chest during an argument over a puppy, local media reported. A 2000 study published in the American Journal of Public Health found that in more than 40 percent of households with both children and weapons, the firearms are not secured and not always kept under lock and key.

Fifteen years later, numerous awareness campaigns launched by both gun control lobbyists and pro-gun advocates have failed to curb the problem of accidental deaths. "Child gun deaths in the US are so much higher than those in other developed countries because we have so many guns and permissive gun laws," said David Hemenway, a

professor at Harvard University who specializes in injury prevention. "Too many parents do not understand that their children's minds are not yet fully developed, and children cannot be expected to act like little adults."

## Don't Say 'Bang-Bang'

The powerful National Rifle Association, the main pro-gun lobby in the United States, quibbles with that statement, and even provides recommendations to parents on how to educate kids about guns. "Guns are called guns in our house - they are not bang-bangs, boom-booms, paw-paws," smiling "NRA mom" Julie Golob says in a video on the group's website. Golob advises against buying toys that look like weapons in order to avoid any potential confusion.

Today, a third of America's children live in a home with at least one weapon. Two million of them live near an unsecured weapon, according to the group Everytown for Gun Safety. Other studies show that two-thirds of children know exactly where their parents store or hide their weapons, even if the adults are convinced otherwise. But storage and security is only one part of the problem. Accidents take place everywhere, simply because weapons are everywhere.

The number of weapons held by civilians in the United States is almost the same as the size of the population - roughly 320 million. It is not unusual for young children in the United States to shoot using live ammunition, despite the risk of recoil when the gun is discharged - and children's relative lack of awareness of how powerful that recoil can be. In Aug 2014, a nine-year-old girl killed her shooting

instructor with an Uzi submachine gun in Arizona when she apparently was unable to handle the recoil. Four months later, a two-year-old boy accidentally shot his mother to death in an Idaho Wal-Mart by grabbing onto a gun she was carrying in a handbag specifically designed to conceal it.

## 'Out of Control'

These accidental shooting deaths have shocked people in the United States and sparked outrage abroad, where handguns are not as commonplace. But neither accidental shootings nor mass killings like the campus rampage last week in Oregon seem to unblock the debate. A year after the Arizona incident involving the Uzi at the firing range, children are still allowed to shoot at targets, according to The New York Times. President Barack Obama angrily called on Congress to do more after the shooting at Umpqua Community College that left nine dead plus the shooter, and he plans to visit with relatives of the victims on Friday.

But despite the Democratic leader's fiery words, gun deaths continue unabated, and American cities are seeing a surge in homicides. Children are not immune to the violence. Since early September in Cleveland, children aged three and five have been shot dead. And on Thursday, Aavielle Wakefield will be laid to rest after she was shot dead last week in her car seat, her all-too-short life ended at just five months. "Like seriously man!!!! A baby shot in the chest in Cleveland. It's been out of control but it's really OOC. Ya'll need to chill the F out," NBA superstar LeBron James, who plays for the Cleveland Cavaliers, wrote on Twitter. —AFP

## ARAB COALITION FACES NEW IS FOE IN YEMEN

By Rene Slama

An unprecedented attack on Yemen's government claimed by the Islamic State jihadist group has raised a fresh challenge for the Saudi-led coalition backing the embattled president, analysts say. IS bombings on Tuesday hit the government's temporary headquarters in the southern city of Aden and military installations used by the coalition which is fighting Shiite Houthi rebels, killing more than 15 people. The IS, which controls swathes of Syria and northern Iraq, has previously carried out several deadly attacks and suicide bombings against the Houthis.

But it had not targeted forces loyal to President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi or Gulf troops deployed in Yemen as part of the coalition. Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, which have contributed the bulk of forces to the campaign against the rebels, also both belong to a US-led coalition bombing IS in Syria and Iraq. "Daesh is trying to expand its space in Yemen by apparently posing as an opponent of the coalition," said Jean-Pierre Filiu, an expert on contemporary Islam, using the Arabic acronym for IS.

The spectacular attacks by IS allow its militants to "differentiate themselves once again from Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula", following its deadly bombings of Shiite mosques in Sanaa, said Filiu, a professor at the School of International Affairs in Paris. The Soufan Group intelligence consultancy based in New York has said: "The ongoing war in Yemen has been a disaster for almost everyone involved, except the Islamic State ... 'The war in Yemen is a perfect laboratory for a terror group seeking regional expansion like the Islamic State'."

## 'Fertile Ground' for Radicals

Experts agree that the IS attacks further complicate the task facing the coalition, which despite seven months of air strikes and the deployment of thousands of troops on the ground has not managed to break the back of the rebels. The Houthi rebels and allied troops loyal to former president Ali Abdullah Saleh remain in control of northern Yemen and the capital Sanaa, which they overran in Sept 2014. The attacks are "likely to spark some debate within the coalition about the direction of

policy," said Jane Kinninmont, deputy head of the Middle East programme at London's Chatham House think-tank.

They will also "place more emphasis on the need not just to confront the Houthi-Saleh alliance but to rebuild the Yemeni state", said Kinninmont, cautioning this was "easier said than done". Although IS is "new to Yemen," the conflict and the worsening humanitarian situation "create fertile ground for radicalisation", she said. The UAE, which lost four soldiers in Tuesday's attacks, blamed them on the Houthis and their allies, without any reference to IS.

"In reality, these attacks were launched

by tribal elements of IS, with old connections to the camp of Saleh," according to Mathieu Guidere, a professor and Middle East specialist at the University of Toulouse in France. His theory is that Saleh has "reactivated his old connections with those elements to divert the efforts of the coalition towards fighting terrorism". "If the Saudis fall into this trap and change their priorities by targeting IS, the camp of Saleh and Houthis would win some respite."

So far, the overall Saudi strategy remains unclear, said Neil Partrick from the Carnegie Endowment for International

Peace. "Saudi Arabia's lack of clear goals in Yemen is worsening the security vacuum and potentially undermining the kingdom's national security," he said. The coalition launched its air war in late March as the rebels advanced on Aden, where Hadi had taken refuge after escaping house arrest in Sanaa. He fled that month to Riyadh and returned to Aden in September after loyalists backed by coalition forces retook the port city and four other southern provinces. The United Nations says around 5,000 people have been killed and 25,000 wounded, many of them civilians, in Yemen's conflict since March. —AFP



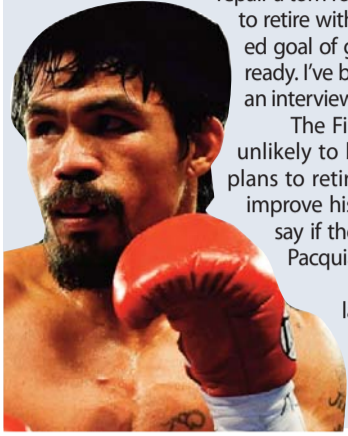
Members of the Emirati armed forces carry the coffins of comrades who were killed in combat alongside Saudi-backed loyalist forces against Shiite Houthi rebels in Yemen, during an official repatriation ceremony at Al-Bateen airport in Abu Dhabi yesterday. —AFP

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## PACQUIAO LIKELY TO RETIRE

**MANILA:** Filipino boxing great Manny Pacquiao, a winner of world titles in eight different weight categories, said he is likely to retire from the sport after one more fight next year.

Pacquiao, 36, last fought in May when he lost to American Floyd Mayweather Junior in a long awaited bout between the sport's best two fighters, dubbed the Fight of the Century, that failed to match the hype. Pacquiao underwent surgery to repair a torn rotator cuff after the fight and had been expected to retire with little left to prove after achieving his long-stated goal of getting in the ring with Mayweather. "I think I'm ready. I've been in boxing for more than 20 years," he said in an interview with ABS-CBN yesterday.



The Filipino said he wanted one more bout but it is unlikely to be against Mayweather, who has announced plans to retire after beating Andre Berto in September to improve his record to 49 wins and no losses. "We can not say if there is a rematch or not. It depends, it depends," Pacquiao said.

Pacquiao's long-term manager Bob Arum said last month he expected Pacquiao to fight again in February, with Briton Amir Khan and American Terence Crawford among the possible opponents. —Reuters

## OSORIO EYES MEXICAN JOB

**MEXICO CITY:** Colombian Juan Carlos Osorio is in negotiations to take over as Mexico coach after resigning from Sao Paulo, the Mexican Soccer Federation said yesterday. Officials confirmed they were in talks with the 54-year-old but said a deal had yet to be reached after Sao Paulo issued a statement saying he was leaving to coach Mexico.

"Now that he no longer has a contract we will try and speed things up with Osorio in order to reach an agreement by Friday," Santiago Banos, the director of national teams at the Mexican Football Federation, told the Televisa network.

"The idea is that he will be with us all the way to the (2018) World Cup," Osorio is set to replace Brazilian Ricardo "Tuca" Ferretti, who was named Mexico's interim boss after Miguel Herrera.

Ferretti is in California where Mexico face the United States on Saturday in a play-off to decide who represents the CONCACAF region in the 2017 Confederations Cup in Russia. Sao Paulo president Carlos Miguel Aidar had earlier issued a statement on the club's website saying Osorio had quit. "I received Mr Juan Carlos Osorio here in my office today, who confirmed that he is leaving our club to manage Mexico in the World Cup qualifiers, a long-time desire of his," said Aidar. "I am deeply saddened by the decision as he had been doing great work."

Osorio has experience of working in Mexico having managed club side Puebla. He has also coached Colombian teams Millionarios, Once Caldas and Atletico Nacional as well as Major League Soccer clubs Chicago Fire and New York Red Bulls. —Reuters

## KEANE TO PLAY GERMANY

**DUBLIN:** Ireland's Robbie Keane will be ready to face Group D leaders Germany in their Euro 2016 qualifier today despite arriving late from the United States after the birth of his second son. Ireland's assistant manager Roy Keane, asked if the 35-year-old LA Galaxy striker would be available for the match, told reporters: "Yes, why wouldn't he be? He didn't have the baby. Unless he's breastfeeding, he should be all right."

Striker Keane, who has scored 67 goals in 142 games for Ireland since 1998, was a member of the team that managed a 1-1 draw away to Germany in Gelsenkirchen last October.

Another draw would keep alive Ireland's hopes of a playoff spot for the finals but they face an in-form Germany side who have since won five qualifiers in a row after a poor start.

The Irish, currently third, are four points ahead of Scotland, who face Group D's second-placed team Poland in Glasgow today. "I think we are a stronger team. Like you'd expect with any campaign, teams improve. We were still new to the job at the time and, yes, I think we are a better team," said the Ireland assistant manager of their draw with the Germans. —Reuters



# LORENZO VOWS TO DEFEND JAPAN PRIX, CHARGE ROSSI

**TOKYO:** Valentino Rossi is facing intensifying pressure from Yamaha teammate Jorge Lorenzo, who could use this weekend's Japanese Grand Prix to narrow their gap as the season finale draws near.

Nine-time world champion Rossi is leading the field with 263 points as he steadily marches toward his first a world title since 2009. But Lorenzo is storming right behind him with 249 points and is gathering momentum after the latest victory two weeks ago in Aragon where he picked up a precious 25 points while the Italian had to settle for 16 points.

With four more races at play, including Sunday's Japan Grand Prix, the Spaniard still has more than enough opportunities to derail Rossi's steady march. The battle in Motegi will kick off three back-to-back races in this month that will bring the riders also to Australia and Malaysia.

Lorenzo has a history of outperforming his rivals at the Twin Ring Motegi circuit, known for its stop-and-go layout with hard acceleration and braking points—often seen as a course more friendly to Honda's machines than Yamaha's. The Spaniard won at Motegi in 2014, 2013 and 2009 and finished second in 2012 and 2011.

"The championship is amazing in this last part of the season but from now on we need to stay



Jorge Lorenzo in action in this file photo.

more focused if we want to keep the momentum and try to win the title," Lorenzo said.

"Next stop is Japan, a place where I have good memories, especially from the last two years. This year we go there eager to do another great battle

so hopefully we could do another nice race and try to make the championship tighter," he said.

Meanwhile, Rossi has steadily shown off his riding finesse through the season, pulling 13 podium finishes in the 14 races so far, including four

first-place finishes.

And the Italian is well aware of the narrowing lead he has over Lorenzo. "These points may seem a lot but they are few," Rossi said. "There will be three races in a row and it will be important not to make any mistakes, but at the same time make sure to get the best possible results. I feel good," he said. Reigning world champion Marc Marquez on Honda trails the Yamaha duo as a distant third after having suffered a string of crashes and injuries, including a fresh "left pinky finger" injury that forced him to undergo surgery last week.

The Spanish sensation-season champion in both 2013 and 2014 — has collected 184 points with seven podium finishes, including four wins.

He has crashed out in five races this season, including in Aragon where he had the seventh pole start of the year but came off in the second lap as he chased Lorenzo.

Marquez pledged to continue his troubled bid to defend his title. "I know that I won't be at 100 percent and the circuit at Motegi is very demanding, my injury will definitely cause me pain," he said. "Aragon was a tough race and I made a mistake, now I'm eager to get to Japan and try to end the season at the top," he said. "I'm healing well and hope to be as fit as possible for this weekend," he said. — AFP

# ASTROS SOAR HIGH WITH FIRST PLAYOFF WIN

**NEW YORK:** The Houston Astros showed off their maturity on the diamond but acted their age in a boisterous celebration at Yankee Stadium after eliminating their hosts 3-0 in their one-and-done Wild Card playoff game.

The Houston Astros were Major League Baseball door-mats for many years, but their promising young players have developed into prime-time performers and it was time for a champagne party in the visitors' clubhouse on Tuesday.

"It makes me feel complete. When you see the guys happy, that means we are doing our job right," said 25-year-old second baseman Jose Altuve of Venezuela in the bubbly-soaked locker room.

Houston suffered three successive seasons of more than 100 losses from 2011, and last year posted a 70-92 record before improving to 86-76 in 2015.

Youngsters like Altuve, 21-year-old Carlos Correa and 26-year-old George Springer have combined with veterans to become winners. Leading the way on the mound was Dallas Keuchel, Houston's Cy Young candidate after a 20-8 regular season, who took the mound on three days' rest for the first time in his career and hurled six scoreless innings giving up just three hits.

don't take ourselves too seriously, which is a good thing," the manager said. "We are definitely not expected to be here. So I can play the underdog card a little bit with those guys, but those guys don't want to hear it."

"They want to win. They want to be expected to win. They want the pressure, and that's because the makeup of this team is very, very special, and they push each other in a way that I can really appreciate."

Meanwhile, from pitching powerhouses in Los Angeles and New York to booming bats in Toronto, from upstarts in Chicago and Houston to aging warhorses in the Bronx, an eclectic cast of clubs gear up for MLB's playoff extravaganza. Leading 10 teams into the October spotlight are top seeds St. Louis Cardinals (100-62) and Kansas City Royals (95-67), Midwest neighbors on the east and west edges of Missouri, who bring well balanced teams to their pursuit of the World Series.

Headliners poised to perform the include NL West champion Dodgers' one-two pitching punch of Clayton Kershaw and Zack Greinke, and big-hitting Josh Donaldson, Jose Bautista and Edwin Encarnacion of an AL East champion Toronto team in the playoffs for the first time since winning a second consecutive World Series title

young players such as shortstop Carlos Correa, second baseman Jose Altuve and outfielder George Springer.

New York (87-75), winners of 27 World Series, counter with a veteran roster including 40-year-old slugger Alex Rodriguez. They must deal with the shock of Monday's news that pitcher CC Sabathia had checked himself into alcohol rehabilitation.

The Pirates (98-64) are appearing in their third successive postseason after a 21-year absence and going against a visiting Cubs team (97-65) that last won the MLB crown in 1908.

A dazzling pitchers' duel could be coming. The Pirates will start Gerrit Cole (19-8, 2.60 ERA), whose stellar numbers pale in comparison to Chicago's Jake Arrieta.

Arrieta was 22-6 with a 1.77 ERA and red-hot in the second half of the season. Since the All-Star break he has posted a 0.75 ERA — the lowest ever registered after the break.

St. Louis plays the winner of the Cubs-Pirates tilt. The consistent Cardinals, winners of 11 Fall Classics, have reached the World Series in two of the last four years and made it to the League Championship Series the other two seasons.

Relying on strong pitching depth and standout closer Trevor Rosenthal, the Cards led the majors with a team ERA

of 2.94. The Mets travel to Los Angeles to open their Division Series on Friday.

New York counter the Dodgers' top pitchers with a vaunted group of young starters in Jacob deGrom, rookie Noah Syndergaard, Matt Harvey and Steven Matz, and an offense invigorated by the addition of slugger Yoenis Cespedes.

Kansas City will meet the AL Wild Card winner. The Royals, who used a shutdown bullpen to thrive last year, are without injured closer Greg Holland, though Wade Davis has filled in admirably. The development of power-hitting Mike Moustakas and addition of Ben Zobrist have lifted their offense.

The other AL Division Series has the Blue Jays going against NL West champions Texas. Toronto surged after trade deadline deals brought them ace lefty David Price and shortstop Troy Tulowitzki, now coming back from a late-season injury.

The hard-hitting Blue Jays scored an MLB-leading 891 runs, 127 more than next-best Yankees. The Rangers also picked up steam after adding starter Cole Hamels as they seek a return to postseason success that led to trips to the World Series in 2010 and 2011. — Reuters



**NEW YORK:** Yankees shortstop Didi Gregorius (18) tags Houston Astros' Jonathan Villar (2) who signals that he's safe on a seventh inning stolen base in the American League wild card baseball game. — AP

"Felt like playoff baseball," the bearded left-hander said. "It's hard not to get up for a game like this. I didn't want to let my teammates down."

Keuchel said the team was looking forward to continue the party against the top-seeded Royals in the best-of-five Division Series starting on Thursday.

"We'll have as much fun as we possibly can in Kansas City," he said. "The taste of the champagne and the beer in your eyes, I want more of it."

Keuchel was thinking of champagne during a tense moment in the sixth when Yankees slugger Alex Rodriguez came up with two on and manager A.J. Hinch came out to visit him on the mound.

"I said, 'What's for dinner?' How 'bout some champagne?" Keuchel said about their on-field exchange before retiring Rodriguez on a fly ball to center.

Hinch summed up his feelings about the team just before the big game. "We have a good vibe about us. We

in 1993. The playoffs also offer long-suffering fans of the Chicago Cubs the hope of ending a 107-year wait for a World Series title.

Launching the postseason are Wild Card showdowns between the American League New York Yankees and Houston Astros, and the National League's Pittsburgh Pirates and Cubs in do-or-die games to reach a best-of-five Division Series.

Last year's Wild Card winners, the Giants and Royals, gave hope to the longshots by winning their Division Series and best-of-seven League Championship Series to reach the Fall Classic.

The curtain goes up in New York on Tuesday when the Yankees host the Astros, sending Masahiro Tanaka (12-7, 3.51 ERA) to the mound against Cy Young candidate Dallas Keuchel (20-8, 2.48), pitching on three days' rest.

Houston (86-76), in the postseason for the first time in a decade, blend power and speed in a lineup with emerging



**NEW YORK:** Houston Astros center fielder Carlos Gomez lifts up Houston Astros second baseman Jose Altuve (27) after the Astros 3-0 shutout of the New York Yankees in the American League wild card baseball game. — AP



INCHEON: South Korean President Park Geun-hye takes a group photo with US (left side) and international (right side) teams' members during an opening ceremony for the 2015 Presidents Cup golf tournament in Incheon, South Korea yesterday. —AP

## PRESIDENTS CUP OPENS WITH KOREAN BANG

INCHEON: Marching bands and traditional Korean drums greeted the US and International teams at a colourful 11th Presidents Cup opening ceremony in Incheon yesterday.

Appropriately, given the name of the event, South Korean President Park Geun-Hye and former US President George W. Bush gave speeches after the players were treated to a perfectly choreographed ceremonial display for the first Presidents Cup to be held in Asia.

After the unveiling of the golden trophy at the Songdo Convensia just a kilometre from the Jack Nicklaus Golf Club venue, Bush spoke to salute the long ties between the US and South Korea.

He recalled that during the Korean War almost exactly 65 years ago, on September 15, 1950, General Douglas MacArthur led US troops on a surprise landing in Incheon which changed the course of the conflict and enabled Seoul to be recaptured.

Bush also noted that the teams were playing for pride, with all money generated donated to charity in the biennial event which has raised more than \$32 million for good causes since its inception in 1994. Each of the 24 players nominates a charity to receive a portion of funds raised.

Other speakers included golf legend Jack

Nicklaus, who designed the course on which the players will battle over the next four days in what he called "the greatest sporting event".

"We have the world's number one and two in Jordan Spieth and Jason Day," said Nicklaus, "and the first players from Thailand and India to play."

International team captain Nick Price said his team were "so excited to be in Asia for the first time". And his opposite number on the US team Jay Haas thanked Park for her support in bringing the event to her country. Both captains introduced their respective teams as animated caricature "avatars" of each player were displayed on a giant screen.

The Presidents Cup has been dominated by the US, who have only lost once in the 10 previous editions of the match play team event. Play begins today with five foursome matches and continues Friday with five fourballs.

Saturday sees four more foursomes and fourball matches before reaching a climax on Sunday with 12 singles. Meanwhile, Bubba Watson and JB Holmes will lead the US defence of the Presidents Cup against Adam Scott and Hideki Matsuyama when the 11th edition begins on Thursday for the first time on Asian soil. But the number one and two players in the world, Jordan Spieth and Jason Day, were kept apart as captains Nick Price and Jay Haas

selected their five pairings Wednesday for the opening foursome skirmishes at the Jack Nicklaus Golf Club in Incheon, South Korea.

Four months ago Spieth watched from the clubhouse as big-hitting Dustin Johnson three-putted the final green to hand him the US Open.

Now they will form a potent combination in the anchor match of the alternate-shot format on Thursday as they take on the trans-Tasman partnership of New Zealand's Danny Lee and Australia's Marc Leishman.

It raised some eyebrows among the assembled media when Spieth was split up from Patrick Reed, after the pair had a successful Ryder Cup partnership a year ago.

Haas revealed that it was Spieth, who has won two Majors and the FedEx Cup in 2015, who instigated the move. "Jordan and Dustin, they have been wanting this for a while, wanting this pairing. And what Jordan wants, Jordan gets right now," he said with a grin.

Price said he hadn't wanted Spieth and Day to face off so early in the week, but left the door open that it could happen at the weekend. "I'm not going to put match-ups just because what the media wants," said Price. "I'm going to put match-ups there that I feel is best for our team. That's the most important thing. And I don't think it would be fair to the rest of

the team for me to single out one person. I wouldn't do that right now."

World number two and US PGA champion Day will partner Steven Bowditch in an all-Aussie pairing against Phil Mickelson and British Open champion Zach Johnson in the penultimate match Thursday.

Asian rookies Anirban Lahiri and Thongchai Jaidee, the first Presidents Cup representatives from India and Thailand respectively, go head to head with Rickie Fowler and Jimmy Walker.

And it will be South Africa versus the United States when Louis Oosthuizen and Branden Grace face Matt Kuchar and Patrick Reed.

But it is Holmes and Watson who will have the elementary task of the first tee shot to get the action under way at 11:05am local time (0205 GMT) against former world number one Scott and Matsuyama.

Scott has discarded the broomstick putter he used for years and will play with a standard length club this week. But that's not a worry for Price.

"Adam putted really well the last couple of days," Price told a news conference. "He's had a month off and he's been working very hard."

The Australian and Japanese players teamed up successfully in the foursome format two years ago to defeat Zach Johnson and Jason Dufner. "He and Hideki, they play practice

rounds during the year together. They played so well together last time. They were great. So they were sort of an automatic for us." Price revealed his hand was slightly forced as Charl Schwartzel is sick, having picked up a flu-type virus earlier in the week.

The South African practised with Bae Sang-Moon on Tuesday so there was disappointment for local fans hoping to see their hero Bae, who now also sits out the first round. "Charl has got a really bad bug at the moment," Price told AFP after the draw was made yesterday.

"He's in bed as we speak. He and Moon played yesterday. I felt kind of bad that I had to bench Moon, but I didn't want to split up any of the other teams."

The International team are huge underdogs, having only won the title once back in 1998. The Americans have a proud record of eight wins one draw and one defeat to uphold and have not lost a session in foursomes or fourballs since 2007.

Friday's second round will see five fourball matches, there will be four more foursomes and four fourballs on Saturday with 12 singles matches rounding off the event on Sunday. With one point awarded for a win in each match the first team to 15 1/2 points will secure the cup. —AFP

## FEVER READY TO CRANK IT UP IN INDY FOR GAME 3

MINNEAPOLIS: Tamika Catchings was still shaking about 30 minutes after the Indiana Fever dropped a tense Game 2 of the WNBA Finals to the Minnesota Lynx.

The Fever star was limited to 24 minutes because of foul trouble, and the team was practically spewing out of her ears as she talked about letting her team down and gearing up for Game 3 back in Indiana. "We told our team we are going to bottle up every sense of frustration, every sense of anger, every sense of knowing what we didn't accomplish tonight," Catchings said after the 77-71 loss to the Lynx on Tuesday night evened the best-of-five series at one game apiece. "Put that in a bottle and let it explode when we get back home."

Maya Moore and the Lynx are looking to avenge their loss to the Fever in the 2012 finals, and they responded to their series-opening loss with a desperation and fire that proved just enough to avoid a daunting 0-2 deficit. "After the horn blew, both teams were still wanting to go," said Moore, who had 19 points, eight rebounds and five assists. "We're ready to go for Game 3. Wait a couple days and it'll be a grind." Game 3 is Friday night.

That's exactly what the first two games have been, and now both coaches are try-

ing to use some gamesmanship to get any little edge that can be gained.

After their Game 1 loss, Lynx coach Cheryl Reeve publicly criticized the officials for allowing Indiana's defenders to get so physical with point guard Lindsay Whalen. Reeve wouldn't comment on whether the criticism earned her a fine, but Fever coach Stephanie White believes the remarks did play a role in how Game 2 was called. Catchings picked up two quick fouls and had five with more than four minutes to go in the third quarter, forcing White to put her leader on the bench for a crucial stretch. The Lynx put together a 17-5 run that turned an eight-point deficit into a four-point lead going into the final period, then outlasted Indiana in tightly played fourth quarter.

"I learned a valuable lesson today," White said. "I learned that it pays to go public with comments about officials. Who would have known?"

White called Game 2 "a blood bath" and said Shenise Johnson was "doubled over" by a hard screen set in the fourth quarter. The Fever picked up two technical fouls in the fourth quarter and turned the ball over 14 times in the second half, leaving them with the feeling that they kicked away a golden opportunity to take a 2-0 lead in

the series. "We know that we didn't take care of business when it came down the stretch," Catchings said.

Sylvia Fowles certainly did. The Lynx center is using her size advantage in the post to average 21.0 points and 10.0 rebounds in the first two games, giving Minnesota a formidable presence in the paint that it has never had before. The Lynx acquired the former All-Star in a mid-season trade with Chicago to give them another dimension in physical series like this one and she responded with five offensive rebounds on Tuesday night.

"Sylvia Fowles has been the difference for us," Reeve said. Catchings didn't want to blame the officials for her foul trouble in Game 2. Instead she looked inward, saying she couldn't afford to put her team in that position by leaving them to fight without her. The fact that the Fever were able to keep it close the whole way even while playing long stretches with her on the bench only seemed to embolden the proud veteran.

"As a great player, you should never be sitting on the bench," Catchings said. "You should never put your team in a situation where they have to play without you. So I'm frustrated and you better believe I'll be ready." —AP



MINNEAPOLIS: Anna Cruz No. 51 of the Minnesota Lynx takes control of the ball as teammate Seimone Augustus No. 33 defends Marissa Coleman No. 25 of the Indiana Fever during the third quarter in Game Two of the 2015 WNBA Finals. —AFP

## STARS ADD EXPERIENCE BEHIND HIGH-SCORING

DALLAS: Dallas will try to convert a second straight promising offseason into a trip to the playoffs, something the disappointing team couldn't do last season because of a slow start and another slump triggered by a key injury.

Now that he's healthy, Tyler Seguin figures to be joined on the top line with Jamie Benn by Patrick Sharp, who won his third Stanley Cup with Chicago a few months ago. The Stars also went with championship experience in trying to strengthen their back end by adding former Blackhawks defenseman Johnny Oduya in free agency.

"A lot of teams look great on paper," said Seguin, who will face Sidney Crosby and the Pittsburgh Penguins in the season opener at home Thursday night. "We're in the toughest division in the league so our start should be huge, our division games are going to be huge. We need to bring a lot more focus starting out this year than it was last year."

Seguin was among the scoring leaders until he injured his right knee and the Stars lost seven of the first eight games without him last February and March. Benn won the Art Ross Trophy as the NHL's top scorer despite playing on two bad hips that required offseason surgery. —AP



## PROBLEMS MOUNT FOR HUMILIATED ENGLAND

**LONDON:** An admission that Danny Cipriani and coach Mike Catt had a blazing row and reports that players will not contribute to a post mortem enquiry further damaged the England rugby team's image yesterday. However, the need for a lengthy raking over the carcass of England's desperate World Cup campaign which saw them lose to Wales and Australia on their home ground Twickenham has been dismissed by both former assistant coach Mike Ford and World Cup winning centre Mike Tindall.

Ian Ritchie, chief executive of the Rugby Football Union (RFU) and whose own future is at risk given his decision last October to offer coach Stuart Lancaster a contract till 2020, has said there will be no immediate consequences until a detailed analysis has been done on how England became the first World Cup hosts to fail to reach the knockout stages.

The trouble is that according to the Daily Telegraph the players are reluctant to make their opinions known as a similar exercise following the 2011 World Cup, which was a disaster on and off the pitch and cost Martin Johnson his job as coach, saw several of their statements made public when they had been promised they would be confidential.

"There is likely to be some critical feedback but I am not sure many of them will trust that it will be an anonymous survey," a source close to the squad told the Telegraph.

"So I think they will be guarded in what they say or just not take part." Some like veteran back row forward James Haskell have said they will contribute but the 30-year-old has a lot less to lose than the younger members of the squad as his Test career is drawing to a close.

Ford, who is head coach of Bath and has said he does not wish to be considered for the England coaching role if it becomes vacant, was unequivocal when asked did he think there should be a lengthy inquest.

Among the many things likely to be up for discussion will be the controversial selection of rugby league convert Sam Burgess.

He plays for Ford at Bath but in the back row and not at centre where Lancaster put him at the expense of Luther Burrell, whose omission from the squad sowed seeds of discontent according to reports. Divisions in the camp were also firmly denied on Wednesday by the RFU over the volatile Cipriani's bust-up on the training ground with Catters after he was told he would not be in the squad. One report had suggested the fracas had all but sparked a mutiny and Lancaster had ordered the players not to speak about it publicly. —AFP



Lewis Hamilton in action in this file photo.

## LAUDA WARY AS MERCEDES EYE F1 TITLE AT RUSSIA GP

**SOCHI:** Mercedes can celebrate their second successive Formula One constructors' title in Russia on Sunday but Niki Lauda fears they could be forced to wait.

Mercedes chalked up a dominant one-two in Japan last month, with Lewis Hamilton leading home Nico Rosberg, after being strangely eclipsed on the slow and twisty Singapore street circuit.

They need to score just three points more than Ferrari in Sochi to retain the title they won at the inaugural Russian race last year with a one-two flourish.

But Lauda, the retired triple world champion who is now non-executive chairman of the Mercedes team, feared Sunday could be more like Singapore than Suzuka.

"We have to say thank God we came out of the Singapore trauma and we are back," he said after the team's normal perform-

ance returned in Japan. "My worry is that the next race is Sochi which is a Singapore-type of asphalt, so it's not done and not that easy."

"We have to work hard and stay competitive and then we are looking good. But you only look good when it's done," added the Austrian. Mercedes have a lead of 169 points over Ferrari with five races remaining, and a maximum of 172 will be still up for grabs after Sunday.

### NOTHING DECIDED

Hamilton has a 48-point advantage over Rosberg in the driver's championship, so nothing can be decided there yet. He made his mark on Sochi last year by lapping fastest in all three practice sessions, taking pole position and leading from lights to chequered flag.

That means the Briton is still the only driver to have led a lap at the circuit winding its way around some of the 2014 Winter Olympic venues.

"It was great to win the first race for Formula One in Russia and a fantastic moment for the team to take the title there last time out," said Hamilton, winner of eight races so far this season.

"Fingers crossed we can add to those great memories again this weekend—I'll be pushing as hard as I can to make that happen."

Rosberg has all the statistics against him, given that no driver has ever failed to take the title with such an advantage and so many wins as Hamilton, but he has vowed to push as hard as ever.

"I'm not backing down in my fight for the championship," said the German. "We have

five races to go and, although the championship gap to Lewis is quite big, in my mind it's definitely not over yet."

Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel, the winner in Singapore, will be hoping to postpone Mercedes' title celebrations but the local crowd will be hoping Red Bull's Daniil Kvyat can also put himself in the mix after finishing second in Hungary in July.

Red Bull have been making more headlines off the track than on it this season, thanks to increasing concern about their 2016 engine supply and fears the team could quit altogether, but Kvyat and Daniel Ricciardo have both been on the podium. "The atmosphere last year was fantastic, there were so many fans giving me support. It really feels awesome to be there," said the Russian. "I'm happy to have the attention, it gives you a bit of a lift." —Reuters



## FIJI AND ROMANIA WIN AS S AFRICA EYE LAST EIGHT

**LONDON:** Fiji and Romania recorded their first victories of the World Cup on Tuesday as teams began to bid farewell to the tournament and those remaining prepared for a weekend that will decide the quarter-final line-ups.

Hosts England rang the changes for their final game, a dead rubber against Uruguay, and the debate over Stuart Lancaster's future continued with another seasoned

coach stating his interest in a role that has yet to become available.

The final three last-eight berths will begin to be filled from Wednesday with South Africa expected to confirm their spot when they take on the United States.

England's executioners Australia were dealt a blow ahead of their Pool A decider with Wales and hopes of an easier path to the last four when flanker Michael Hooper was banned for a week and Israel Folau deemed a doubt with an ankle injury.

"We have got a squad of 31 and that's the reason you have a squad of 31," attack coach Stephen Larkham said ahead of the game in which the losers are likely to face twice world champions South Africa in the quarters.

Fiji played their final part in Pool A—the group of death by running in seven tries in a 47-15 win over Uruguay who grabbed their first try of the tournament.

The biggest cheer and wildest celebrations of the night came when Carlos Arbolea, 12 years after Uruguay coach Pablo Lemoine scored their last World Cup try, crashed over the line to be mobbed by all 22 Uruguayan squad members.

### COMEBACK WIN

In the day's other game, Florin Vlaicu nervelessly slotted a penalty three minutes from time to lift Romania to the biggest ever comeback win at a World Cup with a 17-15 Pool D victory over Canada.

Romania, who have one final match against Italy on Sunday, trailed 15-0 early in the second half

until their pack began to smash the Canucks, setting up a grandstand finish in which Vlaicu duly delivered.

"I don't think it was ever in doubt really, was it?" Romania's Welsh coach Lynn Howells told reporters with a smile. "They'll have a beer, but it's not going to be to any great extent... Semi-final won, now we play the final," Howells said, referring to the Italy match in which an upset would seal automatic qualification for the 2019 World Cup.

For hosts England, coach Lancaster attempted to look to a future in which he may play no part by handing Jack Nowell and Henry Slade their first World Cup starts among nine changes to the side that got dumped out of the tournament.

While the English coach was determined that his team stay positive and block out the "huge" noise on the outside, World Cup-winning South African Jake White joined the line formed by Japan coach Eddie Jones to potentially replace Lancaster.

RFU Chief Executive Ian Ritchie said there would be no knee-jerk decisions over Lancaster's future but White, who led South Africa to their second World Cup triumph in 2007, is among the bookmaker's favourites for the job.

"If they were genuinely interested and they approached me, of course I would be interested. It's one of the biggest jobs in world sport and you'd be crazy not to consider it," said the 52-year-old, who is currently at French club Montpellier. —Reuters

## WARNE, TENDULKAR TO LEAD STAR-STUDED TOUR OF US

**MELBOURNE:** Cricket greets Shane Warne of Australia and Sachin Tendulkar of India will captain opposing teams of former star players in a three-match exhibition tour of the United States next month. The Cricket All Stars tour will feature short-format Twenty20 matches in New York, Houston and Los Angeles starting Nov. 7 at Citi Field, home to Major League Baseball's New York Mets.

Also playing on the tour are former test captains Ricky Ponting of Australia, the West Indies' Brian Lara, Wasim Akram of Pakistan and England's Michael Vaughan, as well as South African Jonty Rhodes and cricket's record wicket-taker Muttiah Muralitharan of Sri Lanka.

The other games of the tour will be played at the Houston Astros' Minute Maid Park on Nov. 11 and Dodger Stadium on Nov. 14.

Tendulkar predicted the Twenty20 format matches, which generally take no more than three hours to play, will appeal to U.S. sports fans.

"Americans are so passionate about sports, and there's a huge potential for cricket to take off," he said in a statement. "We're also planning some other events and festivities in each city so we can reach as many fans as possible."

Warne said the tour has signed "all the top players you'd ever want to see." "I'm excited for cricket fans in the United States to be able to see these amazing players for the first time."

Warne is considered one of the greatest bowlers to have played the game, while Tendulkar is an icon in India and regarded as one of the



Shane Warne



Sachin Tendulkar

greatest batsmen of all time. The Cricket Australia website reported Wednesday that a portion of the earnings from the three matches will go to the world governing body, the International Cricket Council, to help grow the sport in the US. —AP

## ALI IN WICKETS AS ENGLAND BOWLERS TOIL IN DRAWN GAME

**SHARJAH:** Off-spinner Moeen Ali grabbed three wickets as England bowlers had to work hard against Pakistan's A side on a flat wicket under warm conditions in a drawn game in Sharjah on Tuesday.

Ali, who could prove a handy spinner in the three-Test series against Pakistan starting in Abu Dhabi on October 13, finished with 3-41 as Pakistan A managed 216 for five at the close on the second and final day. England had declared at their first day's score of 286-5. The Pakistan A team is mostly comprised of players knocking at the door of international cricket.

Iftekhar Ahmed hit an unbeaten 92 while Fawad Alam made 55. Alam, recalled to the squad for the Tests, hit seven boundaries in a laborious 147-ball knock before falling to Ali, who also dismissed opener Khurram Manzoor (16) and Ali Asad (seven).

Ahmed, declared best batsman in Pakistan's

National Twenty20 tournament last month, hit five fours and two sixes during his 209-ball stay at the crease. Pacemen James Anderson and Mark Wood finished with a wicket apiece while Stuart Broad bowled 11 wicket-less overs. Leg-spinner Adil Rashid also failed to get a wicket in his 20 overs.

England have another two-day warm-up game, against the same opposition at the same venues on October 8 and 9, before the first Test.

The two other Tests are in Dubai (October 22-26) and Sharjah (November 1-5). Both teams will also play four one-day internationals and three Twenty20 after the Tests.

### Scores:

England 286-5 dec (J. Bairstow 66 not out, J. Root 59, A. Cook 53, Adil Rasheed 51 not out; Zafar Gohar 3-72). Pakistan A 216-5 (Iftekhar Ahmed 92 not out, Fawad Alam 55; Moeen Ali 3-41). Match drawn. —AFP

## ZIMBABWE TO TOUR BANGLADESH

**DHAKA:** Bangladesh announced yesterday it would host Zimbabwe for a two-Test cricket series in November after Australia postponed a planned visit this month due to security concerns. Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Nazmul Hasan said Zimbabwe had agreed to tour that month although no date had been finalised.

"Zimbabwe have principally agreed to tour Bangladesh in November. We will finalise the date with Zimbabwe officials during next week's ICC (International Cricket Council) meeting in Dubai," Nazmul told reporters. Zimbabwe were originally scheduled to visit Bangladesh from next January 11-February 7 for two Tests, three one-day internationals and three Twenty20 internationals.

But the BCB president said the series would now

be split in two parts. Zimbabwe would play the Tests in November and return in January for the ODIs and T20s. Nazmul said following a meeting of the BCB board of directors that Bangladesh would also bid for the Asia Cup Twenty20 tournament, which could be held in February next year just ahead of the ICC World Twenty20 in India.

The BCB is under pressure to bring back international cricket to the country. South Africa's women's cricket team also postponed a planned tour later this month, citing security concerns. Australia called off its series after official warnings that militants may attack Western interests. The postponement comes amid heightened tension in Bangladesh after an Italian and a Japanese were killed in separate attacks claimed by the Islamic State jihadist group. —AFP



LEICESTER: Canada's Nathan Hirayama tackles Romania's Paul Kinikinilau during the Rugby World Cup Pool D match between Canada and Romania. —AP

# EURO 2016 QUALIFYING: GROUPS A-I

**PARIS:** Ahead of the final two rounds of qualifying matches for Euro 2016, AFP previews the key contests in Groups A-I:

## GROUP A

Iceland will appear at their first major tournament and will be joined at Euro 2016 next summer by the Czech Republic but third place, and a play-off berth, in Group A is very much still up for grabs.

Turkey have a two-point edge over the Netherlands with two matches to go but face a difficult trip to Prague to take on the Czechs on Saturday, while the Dutch make the long trip east where Kazakhstan await Danny Blind's side.

Three days later, the Dutch will return home to host the Czech Republic in Amsterdam while Turkey, whose thumping 3-0 win over the Netherlands last month gives them the tie-breaker should the two sides end on the same number of points, entertain Iceland. Turkey have been boosted by the inclusion of Galatasaray striker Burak Yilmaz, scorer of four goals in six qualifiers, in Fatih Terim's squad having recovered in time from a hamstring injury.

However, the Dutch will be without captain Arjen Robben with the Bayern Munich star still sidelined by a groin injury, while midfielder Davy Klaassen and winger Quincy Promes have also been forced to withdraw due to injury.

Group leaders Iceland, ahead of Czech Republic on goal difference, host Latvia at the weekend before their trip to Turkey.

Meanwhile, Czech coach Pavel Vrba has said he will give some of his fringe players a chance to impress in their final qualifiers, adding: "Since we have already qualified, we are in an ideal situation - we are going to play against two high-quality opponents without any pressure on us."

## GROUP B

Wales can clinch their place in France next year with a point from their final two matches,



Burak Yilmaz

while Belgium can also punch their ticket with a win away to Andorra on Saturday.

Chris Coleman's Wales face a stern test away to Bosnia, who enter the weekend two points adrift of Israel in the race for third, but the Welsh will be confident of wrapping up qualification at home to Andorra in their final match if it comes to that.

## GROUP C

Two-time reigning European champions Spain will be heavily favored to book their place in France when they host Luxembourg on Friday.

La Roja have won six straight qualifiers following a shock setback in Slovakia but will be without Diego Costa for the double-header, with Luxembourg and Ukraine, after coach Vicente del Bosque opted to leave him at home. "Costa is suspended for the first game so we decided not to take him to Ukraine either," explained Del Bosque on the Chelsea striker's absence.

Barcelona midfielder Andres Iniesta also misses out through injury along with Real Madrid defender Sergio Ramos, who pulled out of the squad on Tuesday having yet to fully overcome the effects of a dislocated shoulder. "I need to recover. I didn't end the game (against Atletico Madrid) well and I pushed myself to make it back in time for the derby," said Ramos, in quotes published on Spanish sports daily Marca's website.

"It was an injury which should have sidelined me for four weeks, but I made it back in just over two." Slovakia can also assure themselves of a place at Euro 2016, for what would be their debut in the continental event, with a win in either of their last two matches against Belarus or Luxembourg.

Ukraine are third, three points behind Slovakia, and appear destined for the play-offs with a minimum of four points from games in Macedonia and against Spain in Kiev three days later required, along with other results working in their favor.

## GROUP D

World champions Germany can seal qualification with a game to spare if Joachim Loew's men avoid defeat away to the Republic of Ireland on Thursday.

Poland could also secure their passage through if they beat Scotland at Hampden Park and Ireland fail to pick up three points in Dublin.



Gareth Bale

already assured of their place at next year's European Championships.

Roy Hodgson's side are at home to Estonia on Friday before making the trip to Lithuania the following Monday, while Switzerland have a three-point advantage over Slovenia in second.

Hodgson called up Liverpool striker Danny Ings and 19-year-old Dele Alli to the England senior set-up for the first time and said he wouldn't be taking things lightly despite having already secured top spot.

"I think it's a strong squad. The game in Lithuania is the one where, if any experimentation takes place, it'll be there," said the England boss.

"(But) I won't be sacrificing the game in any shape or form," he added. San Marino are the only nation officially eliminated from contention but the odds are against both Estonia and Lithuania with both still having to play England, coupled with the fact that third-place Slovenia finish their campaign in San Marino. Switzerland will come up against San Marino and Estonia in their remaining matches, meaning Vladimir Petkovic's men will very much be expected to wrap up the second qualifying berth in Group E. They do have an injury concern in goalkeeper Yann Sommer, however, after the Borussia Moenchengladbach custodian suffered a broken nose in last week's 2-1 defeat to Manchester City in the Champions League.

A win for Slovenia at home to Lithuania would keep the former in the running for second, and at the same time put an end to the latter's qualification dreams, regardless of Switzerland's result against unfancied San Marino. And should the Swiss then stumble in Tallinn on the final day, Slovenia could pip them to second owing to their head-to-head advantage.

## GROUP F

Northern Ireland can clinch their first trip to the European Championships with a win against Greece on today or victory in Finland three days later.

Michael O'Neill's team lead Romania by a point at the top of Group F with Hungary three points further back in third. Northern Ireland have several key players absent though with both Kyle Lafferty, whose seven goals have propelled his side to the cusp of qualification, and defender Chris Baird both suspended. Centre-back Jonny Evans is also a doubt for the final two qualifiers after hobbling off with a hamstring injury in West Brom's 2-0 defeat at Crystal Palace over the weekend.

Manchester United defender Paddy McNair could deputise at the back and the 20-year-old is eager to make the most of his opportunity. "It's in our hands and we're desperate to take our chance. Playing at the Euros would be special and, hopefully, we'll do the job," he told manutd.com. With the finish line so close Northern Ireland manager Michael O'Neill has warned his players to stay focussed until qualification is achieved.

"Today is important but so too is Sunday. We have to prepare with a mentality that qualification could go right down to the 90th minute against Finland," O'Neill said.

Romania can eliminate Finland from con-

point further back.

"We haven't really achieved anything yet. We started qualification quite badly. With these two wins, we've managed to come back into it and I hope we will not bounce back out of the reckoning again," Russia goalkeeper Igor Akinfeev told UEFA.com.

## GROUP G

Austria have Group G sewn up but there's an intense battle developing for the second qualifying berth with Russia, Sweden and Montenegro all still harbouring hopes of automatic qualification. Wins over Sweden and Liechtenstein in September handed Russia, now under the guidance of CSKA Moscow coach Leonid Slutsky following Fabio Capello's disappointing reign, a two-point cushion in second, ahead of Sweden, with Montenegro a



Robert Lewandowski

point further back.

"We haven't really achieved anything yet. We started qualification quite badly. With these two wins, we've managed to come back into it and I hope we will not bounce back out of the reckoning again," Russia goalkeeper Igor Akinfeev told UEFA.com.

"We want to get these results every time because footballers' careers don't last long - we don't want to be left feeling gutted afterwards," he added. On Friday, Russia travel to winless Moldova, Sweden visit Liechtenstein and Montenegro host Austria.

Both Russia and Sweden will be expected to win, and with the latter then at home to Moldova on October 12, the outcome of Russia's clash with Montenegro in Moscow will likely determine which nation follows Austria to France. Russia have the head-to-head edge over Sweden should the two countries finish level on points while Montenegro effectively must win both their remaining games to stand even an outside chance of finishing third, let alone second.

## GROUP H

Italy are the front-runners and can lock



Tiago Mendes

got a bit of ability as well," he added.

Scotland face an uphill challenge to qualify with a minimum of four points needed from games against Poland and minnows Gibraltar a pre-requisite, in addition to Ireland losing both their remaining matches, the second of which is in Warsaw.

Assistant coach Mark McGhee said the Scots won't fear Polish striker Robert Lewandowski despite him scoring a staggering 12 goals in his last four games for Bayern Munich. "We feel we have to match them in every area and obviously (Lewandowski) is their guy they hope will get goals for them so we have to pay him attention.

"I have total respect for him, he's a fantastic player, but we have players in form as well, players who scored at the weekend as well," added McGhee.

Should Germany and Poland fail to nail down Euro 2016 berths on Thursday, both countries can do so when they face Georgia and Ireland respectively on October 11.

## GROUP E

England boast the only 100% record in qualifying at this stage and the Three Lions are one of five teams, including hosts France,

down a place at next year's finals by beating Azerbaijan in Baku on Saturday. The Azzurri, unbeaten in 38 competitive home games, are two points clear of Norway, who they host in their final match on October 13.

"We will try to seal qualification first time round in order to avoid a must-win game against Norway," said Italy coach Antonio Conte. "The team is improving but Azerbaijan are a good side and it won't be easy: it's a very important game for us." A 2-0 victory at home to Croatia in September put Norway in control of their own destiny with a two-point gap between Per-Mathias Høegmo's men and the Croats. Norway, whose last major tournament appearance came at Euro 2000, can qualify at the weekend if they beat visiting Malta and Croatia fail to overcome Bulgaria.

Ante Cacic will make his bow as Croatia boss, having taken over from Niko Kovac last month, in Saturday's tie in Zagreb and his charges know that wins over both Bulgaria and away to Malta would force Norway to win in Rome to avoid the Scandinavians dropping into the play-offs. "The national team's goal are clear," said Cacic. "The first imperative is to reach Euro 2016 and I will do my best to accomplish that goal."

Bulgaria harbor the slimmest of hopes with maximum points from games against Croatia and Azerbaijan essential as well as needing Malta to register a shock win over Croatia.

## GROUP I

Portugal are in pole position to advance as winners of the only five-team group and can do so by beating second-place Denmark, who are three points behind and have played one game more, in Braga today. Fernando Santos' men haven't exactly blown their opponents away but five straight wins after a shock opening defeat to Albania have left Portugal on the brink of wrapping up qualification for next year's showpiece with a game to spare.

"We have to face Denmark as a final," Santos told Portuguese TV station RTP1 after Miguel Veloso's injury-time winner earned Portugal a 1-0 win in Albania last month.

"Victory is always important. We took an important step, but it's still nothing decided," he added. Portugal have Atletico Madrid midfielder Tiago available again after suspension while Monaco duo Joao Moutinho and Fabio Coentrao return from injury to strengthen the squad.

Denmark are guaranteed at least a place in the play-offs regardless of how they fare in Portugal but could miss out on automatic qualification depending on Albania's results.

The Balkan nation are a point behind the Danes but have two games, at home to Serbia and away to Armenia, left on the calendar.

A pair of victories would ensure Albania appear at a first major tournament, but if Portugal pick up three points against Denmark then just one win, or even two draws, would enable Gianni de Biasi's players to pip the Danes to second. — AFP

# FIFA TRIBUNAL TO DECIDE BLATTER'S FATE

**ZURICH:** Scandal-tainted FIFA's ethics watchdog was locked in talks yesterday to decide the fate of world football president Sepp Blatter as attacks on the veteran sports baron mounted.

The ethics committee tribunal was also to decide whether to take action against UEFA leader Michael Platini and former FIFA vice president Chung Mong-Joon, both candidates to take over from Blatter. Chung hit out at Blatter on Wednesday, calling him "a hypocrite and a liar" and threatening a legal case for embezzlement of FIFA funds.

The 79-year-old Swiss official Blatter, who has ruled FIFA for 17 years, insisted in a German magazine interview however that he would not be forced out of office before an election to be held in February.

FIFA has kept the activities of its independent ethics committee cloaked in secrecy in recent months as accusations of corruption have mounted.

But a Senegalese member of the committee's adjudicatory chamber, FIFA's highest court, said it started a five-day meeting on Monday with Blatter and the other two officials on the agenda.

Abdoulaye Makhtar Diop, a former Senegal sports minister, said in a state-



**MOROCCO:** In this Dec. 19, 2014 file photo FIFA President Sepp Blatter gestures as he attends a press conference in Marrakech. —AP

ment: "the members will focus on the topics of the Swiss Sepp Blatter, FIFA president, the Frenchman Michel Platini, president of UEFA, and the South Korean Chung Mong-Joon." FIFA

officials refused to comment on the disclosure.

But the world body, fighting off multiple corruption accusations, has been forced to consider suspending its presi-

dent since Swiss authorities opened an investigation for "criminal mismanagement" against Blatter.

Platini has also been implicated in the investigation because of a two million dollar (1.78 million euros) payment made to the French football legend in 2011. FIFA's secretary general Jerome Valcke was suspended last month following press allegations that linked him to the sale of World Cup tickets at inflated prices.

Blatter won a fifth term of office on May 29, despite a major storm over a US inquiry into the football business. But four days later he announced he would stand down when a new election is held on February 26. Despite the new allegations, Blatter said he will carry on until the election. "I will fight until February 26. For me. And for FIFA," he told Bunte, a German magazine.

"I am convinced that evil will come into the light and good will triumph." Platini had been favourite to win the election until the Swiss investigation named him. His entourage said that he did not appear before the FIFA commission this week and that he feels he has done nothing wrong.

"The president feels that he has given satisfactory explanations to the authorities that are dealing with this

case," Platini's spokesman, Pedro Pinto, told reporters in London. Platini, Chung and Prince Ali bin al-Hussein, a former FIFA vice president from Jordan, are the main candidates for the election so far.

Chung is under investigation because of his lobbying for South Korea's bid for the 2022 World Cup, which Qatar controversially won.

The South Korean tycoon says FIFA has cleared him of the charges once in 2012 and that the new charges are part of a Blatter campaign to block his bid for the presidency.

Chung returned to the attack on Wednesday at the Leaders Sport Business convention in London, saying Swiss lawyers could launch a \$100 million "embezzlement" case against Blatter. Chung, a FIFA vice president for 17 years until 2011, condemned what he called Blatter's "secretive" ways in not declaring his salary and taking payments without permission.

He said Blatter had "repeatedly meddled" in the elections of major football confederations and FIFA votes. "FIFA has become a badge of shame," he said. "In short Mr Blatter is a hypocrite and a liar."

Chung said the FIFA ethics committee has sought a 15 year ban against him. He called it a "smear campaign" by Blatter. —AFP

## DOWNPOUR SPOILS SOUTH SUDAN WORLD CUP DEBUT

**JOHANNESBURG:** Torrential rain spoilt the World Cup debut of South Sudan in Juba yesterday with play abandoned early in the first half after they levelled at 1-1 against Mauritania.

Officials hope to resume play Thursday morning at the national stadium in the capital city of the youngest African nation, which gained independence from Sudan four years ago.

South Sudanese supporters last month celebrated a first victory for the national football team — 1-0 at home to Equatorial Guinea in a 2017 Africa Cup of Nations qualifier.

That success raised hopes that their World Cup debut, in the first leg of a first-round eliminator

against rivals 55 places higher on the world rankings, could bring more success.

But a capacity crowd packed into the rudimentary Juba stadium on a grey East African afternoon were silenced after just three minutes when Boubacar Bagili scored for the Mauritians.

The gloom lasted only two minutes, though, before Dominic Abui Pretino equalised, sparking wild celebrations as the weather worsened. The match officials abandoned play soon after with no sign of the downpour ending.

Tanzania beat Malawi 2-0 in Dar es Salaam, Burundi edged the Seychelles 1-0 in Roche Caiman and Comoros and Lesotho drew 0-0 in Moroni in other first legs.

Mbwana Samata and Thomas Ulimwengu transferred to Tanzania their good form with CAF Champions League finalists TP Mazembe from the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Samata put the Taifa Stars ahead after 19 minutes off a pass from Ulimwengu, who scored the second goal four minutes later at the Benjamin Mkapa National Stadium.

The slow-starting Malawians came closest to scoring before Samata darted on to a pass across the box and pushed the ball past onrushing goalkeeper Simplex Nthala.

A surprise returnee to the national team after a lengthy ban, Nthala gifted the second goal to Tanzania by spilling a low cross.

He was spared the embarrassment of an own-goal, however, when Ulimwengu raced in to poke the ball over the line. Ulimwengu and Samata, who scored three of the four goals that took Mazembe past Al Merrikh of Sudan in a Champions League semi-final this month, had second-half chances to increase the lead. The woodwork foiled a far-post Ulimwengu header and Samata shot weakly from close range in stoppage time with only Nthala to beat.

Fiston Abdul Razak from South African club Mamelodi Sundowns scored after 15 minutes to bring Burundi success in the Seychelles.

Lesotho survived the late red-carding of goalkeeper Mohau Kuenane, leaving Comoros still seeking a first World Cup win after four consecutive losses in two previous attempts.

Sao Tome e Principe host Ethiopia and Liberia have home advantage over Guinea-Bissau Thursday when the qualifiers continue.

Kenya led by three goals in Mauritius, then conceded twice before finishing strongly for a 5-2 win that all but assured qualification for the second knockout round during November.

Johanna Omolo bagged a brace for the Harambee Stars, who scored five goals in a World Cup qualifier for the first time at the 65th attempt. —AFP



**BUENOS AIRES:** Ecuador players attend a soccer training session in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Ecuador will face Argentina for a 2018 World Cup Russia qualifier soccer match. —AP

## MESSI, NEYMAR OUT AS S AMERICA 2018 WORLD CUP JOURNEY BEGINS

**MONTEVIDEO:** Lionel Messi and Neymar will be absent as Brazil and Argentina set out on the road to Russia and redemption when South American qualifiers for the 2018 World Cup kick off today.

Injured Messi and suspended Neymar are just two of a galaxy of stars who will be missing as the long journey to Russia 2018 begins. Uruguay will be without Luis Suarez and Edinson Cavani while Colombia's James Rodriguez is also injured.

Brazil and Argentina, the two superpowers of South American football, launch their respective qualifying campaigns still smarting from disappointing performances in the Copa America, which saw Chile lift the title on home soil.

Brazil's Copa America ended in defeat to Paraguay in the quarter-finals, a loss that deepened the sense of gloom surrounding the Selecao, still bearing the scars of their humiliating World Cup exit to Germany in 2014. Argentina's campaign meanwhile ended in a penalty shoot-out against Chile in the final, shattering Messi and the Albiceleste's hopes of winning a first major tournament since 1993.

Those twin setbacks provide the sobering backdrop to Thursday's opening round of fixtures, where Brazil face a daunting trip to Santiago to face Chile while Argentina meet Ecuador in Buenos Aires.

But while Copa America form suggests Chile are

favourites, Brazil head into their game with history squarely in their corner.

Brazil have suffered one solitary defeat to Chile during World Cup qualifiers, a 3-0 loss during the campaign to reach the 2002 tournament.

In 14 meetings since that defeat, Brazil have won 12, drawn two, lost none. "Every game has its own history, and times change, but the fact that we do well against Chile whenever we play them has its advantages," said Brazilian veteran Kaka, drafted into manager Dunga's squad to replace the injured Liverpool star Philippe Coutinho.

Brazil's most recent win over the Chileans came in March, a 1-0 friendly victory in London which followed last year's World Cup second round win.

"Any match against Chile is difficult, but we are determined to win," Brazil defender David Luiz said shortly after arriving in Chile.

One critical factor for Brazil could be the absence of suspended captain Neymar, who was banned after being sent off in a stormy Copa America battle with Colombia in June.

Yet Brazil have showed no sign of tension during the build-up, holding relaxed open training sessions before large crowds of journalists and fans.

Chile by contrast have drawn a veil over their preparations, with coach Jorge Sampaoli restricting press access to training to just 15 minutes each

day at the team's Juan Pinto Duran complex.

"Now we start a new chapter; together we can do it," Chile captain Claudio Bravo wrote on Twitter in a message to fans this week.

Argentina meanwhile will get a taste of life without their superstar captain Messi when they take on Ecuador in Buenos Aires. Messi, who was scapegoated in some quarters for another Argentinian tournament failure in the Copa America, is sidelined for the game after suffering a serious knee injury while playing for Barcelona last month.

Javier Mascherano, who will captain Argentina in Messi's absence, called on the squad not to use his Barcelona team-mate's injury as an excuse.

"It's always better to have Messi," Mascherano said. "But we are not going to have him and we have to try and turn that into a positive and not use it as an excuse."

In other matches today, Uruguay will have to grapple with the absence of Suarez and Cavani as they face a daunting trip to the thin air of La Paz to face Bolivia.

Colombia, meanwhile, who face Uruguay in their second match next week, meet Peru in the port city of Barranquilla without Real Madrid star James Rodriguez, meaning the attacking burden is likely to fall on out-of-form Chelsea striker Radamel Falcao. —AFP

## KLOPP DUE TO LAND IN ANFIELD TODAY

**GERMANY:** Former Borussia Dortmund manager Juergen Klopp is expected at Anfield today as the German edges closer to becoming Brendan Rodgers' successor at Liverpool, while Carlo Ancelotti has ruled himself out of contention, British media reported.

Klopp is reportedly in advanced talks with Fenway Sports Group President Mike Gordon and Liverpool Chief Executive Ian Ayre and is planning to fly to England to complete negotiations ahead of his highly anticipated move, the reports said.

Former Real Madrid and Chelsea manager Ancelotti, who was also linked with the job, has told reporters he would return to management, but only next season.

"I enjoy my time now but, of course, I want to come back to manage-to-work-because it is my passion," the 56-year-old Italian said at a press event in London. "I want to take my time to rest, but next season I am ready."

The fiery Klopp, twice a Bundesliga champion with Dortmund, who he also steered to the Champions League final in 2013, has made no secret of

his desire to work in England.

The charismatic German forged his reputation by turning 1997 Champions League winners

Dortmund, who were relegation candidates under predecessor Thomas Doll, into one of the most exciting brands in world football.

He left the Ruhr valley club in 2015 after seven years to take a break from football after finishing seventh in the Bundesliga.

Known for his wit and exuberance as much as for his high pressing, quick counter-attacking and never-say-die brand of football, Klopp is reportedly willing to curtail his sabbatical to revive Liverpool's fortunes and is on the verge of committing to a three-year contract.

He has also asked to bring former assistants Zeljko Brucic, called the 'brains' behind Dortmund's success, and Peter Krahwitz in as part of his coaching staff.

Germany's World Cup winning captain and manager Franz Beckenbauer called Klopp one of the "best coaches in the world" and urged Liverpool to seal the deal quickly. "He is fantastic. He's one of the best coaches I know in the whole world..." Beckenbauer said. "Liverpool is also one of the biggest clubs in the world, so Liverpool and Juergen Klopp is definitely a good combination." "If Liverpool has the chance to sign Juergen Klopp, then they should do it," he added. —Reuters



**GERMANY:** In this April 21, 2012 file photo Dortmund head coach Juergen Klopp celebrates after his team scored during the German First Division. —AP

**Live Matches on TV**  
(Local Timings)

### EURO QUALIFIERS 2016

Georgia v Gibraltar	19:00
Abu Dhabi SPORTS	
Portugal v Denmark	21:45
Abu Dhabi SPORTS	
Hungary v Faroe Islands	21:45
Abu Dhabi SPORTS	
Albania v Serbia	21:45
Abu Dhabi SPORTS	
Northern Ireland v Greece	21:45
Abu Dhabi SPORTS	
Ireland v Germany	21:45
Abu Dhabi SPORTS	
Romania v Finland	21:45
Abu Dhabi SPORTS	
Scotland v Poland	21:45
Abu Dhabi SPORTS	

### ASIA WORLD CUP QUALIFYING

Indonesia v Thailand	3:00
beIN SPORT	
North Korea v Philippines	10:00
beIN SPORT	
East Timor v Palestine	10:00
beIN SPORTS 1 HD	
Myanmar v Lebanon	15:00
beIN SPORT	
Bhutan v Maldives	15:00
beIN SPORTS 3 HD	
Singapore v Afghanistan	15:00
beIN SPORTS 10 HD	
Viet Nam v Iraq	15:00
beIN SPORTS 2 HD	
Turkmenistan v India	16:00
beIN SPORT	
Syria v Japan	16:00
beIN SPORTS 1 HD	
Kyrgyzstan v Tajikistan	17:00
beIN SPORT	
Jordan v Australia	17:00
beIN SPORT	
Oman v Iran	17:30
beIN SPORT	
Kuwait v South Korea	17:55
beIN SPORT	
Bahrain v Uzbekistan	18:00
beIN SPORTS 3 HD	
Qatar v China	18:30
beIN SPORT	
Saudi Arabia v UAE	20:00
beIN SPORTS 1 HD	

# Sports

Lorenzo vows to defend Japan Prix, charge Rossi



Presidents Cup opens with Korean bang



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2015

FEVER READY TO CRANK IT UP IN INDY FOR GAME 3

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BEIJING: Angelique Kerber of Germany watches her shot as she plays against Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark during their women's singles match of the China Open tennis tournament. — AP

## FOG LIFTS AS NADAL STORMS INTO Q-FINALS

BEIJING: Rafael Nadal sparked his China Open campaign into life as he stormed into the quarter-finals with a much-improved 7-6 (7/3), 6-4 victory over Canada's Vasek Pospisil yesterday.

The 14-time Grand Slam winner had his service broken four times in the first round by China's 230th-ranked Wu Di, but he showed better signs against Pospisil, the world number 44.

Spain's Nadal, groping for form after a difficult year, will now face America's Jack Sock in the last eight as he looks for a confidence-boosting fourth title of the season.

Nadal also avoided joining world number five Tomas Berdych on the sidelines after the Czech, who won the rain-delayed Shenzhen Open on Monday, became the latest big name to fall in Beijing.

"Every improvement is important," said Nadal. "Obviously I improved from yesterday. I played a much

better match than yesterday."

In their first career meeting, Nadal struggled to break down 25-year-old Pospisil in the opening set but he ran away with the tie-break to take the lead.

And he never looked like relinquishing it, breaking to go 3-2 ahead in the second set and sealing it on his second match point with a raking cross-court forehand, celebrating with his familiar fist-pump.

Air pollution which had hovered at hazardous levels magically lifted by the end of eighth-ranked Nadal's match, and his spirits would have risen too as he aims to fight his way back to the top.

"Every victory gives me opportunities to keep practising the things that I need to practice," said Nadal.

"Practising outside of the competition is very important, but at the end you have to compete well. Every match is an opportunity for me."

Earlier, and in much smoggier conditions, Berdych and Caroline Wozniacki both lost their way at a tournament which is proving a graveyard for senior players.

Second seed Berdych never hit his stride against Uruguay's 37th-ranked Pablo Cuevas as he was dumped out 6-4, 6-4 to become the rollercoaster tournament's latest upset. "I made one tournament title. The other one didn't go my way," shrugged the Czech.

Later former world number one Wozniacki was brutally disposed of by Angelique Kerber 6-2, 6-3 in a defeat which ended her hopes of reaching the year-ending WTA Finals.

"I'm going home. I'm trying to catch a flight that is in a couple of hours," said Wozniacki, who was in no mood to hang around after her defeat.

Andrea Petkovic was also bundled out by Sara Errani 3-6, 6-3, 6-2, compounding a tough season which has

included food poisoning, injury and a first-round defeat last week in Wuhan. "After Wuhan, I said to my coach, this is the worst season I've ever played. That was my assessment after Wuhan. But I guess I was quite emotional after losing in first round," she said.

It was a different story for Garbine Muguruza, who retired from last week's Wuhan final against Venus Williams with an ankle problem but bounced back to beat Irina Falconi 6-2, 6-1.

The Spaniard, nicknamed "Mushroom" by Beijing fans because her name sounds like "mushroom" in Chinese, will now qualify for the WTA Finals if she wins her next match against Mirjana Lucic-Baroni.

Fourth seed Agnieszka Radwanska set up a quarter-final with Kerber after Madison Keys retired after their first set, becoming the sixth player to withdraw mid-match. — AFP

## WAWRINKA EXORCISES DEMONS WITH TOUGH WIN

TOKYO: Top seed Stan Wawrinka yesterday banished the demons of his early exit at last year's Japan Open, but not before lightning had threatened to strike twice. The French Open champion exacted revenge on Japanese wildcard Tatsuma Ito, who had sent the muscular Swiss tumbling out of the Tokyo tournament at the first hurdle 12 months ago, with a tough 6-3, 2-6, 6-4 second-round victory. No such effort was needed from title-holder Kei Nishikori, who toppled giant American Sam Querrey 7-6, 6-3 to reach the quarter-finals despite failing to really catch fire.

Wawrinka pressed self-destruct after rolling through the first set, Ito leveling with a lunging forehand down the line that left the world number four looking to the heavens in anguish.

Normal service was resumed in the decider, however. A viciously dipping return onto Ito's shoelaces secured Wawrinka an early break and allowed him to play with a little less tension.

Wawrinka finally ended Ito's brave resistance on his fourth match point after an hour and 42 minutes with a fizzing forehand down the line. "It wasn't my best match for sure," Wawrinka told AFP. "I'm just happy to win. I struggled a little bit to find my rhythm but the most important thing for me was to get to the quarter-finals."

Second seed Nishikori, dazzling in canary-yellow shirt, headband and sneakers, struggled with a swirling wind in the early skirmishes before discovering his mojo in the first-set tiebreak, which he raced through 7-3.

Nishikori broke early in the second set and finished in style, belting a backhand down the line to set up match point and plunging home the dagger with an acrobatic smash.

He celebrated with a pump of the fist and a toothy grin at coach Michael Chang. "It's always a mental battle against a big server," said Nishikori, who is bidding to win a third Japan Open in four years. He next faces Croatia's Marin Cilic, the player who beat him in the 2014 US Open final. "The first-set tiebreak was key," added Nishikori, who is chasing a fourth title of the year and the 11th of his career. "After that I was able to relax a little and I think I played some pretty decent tennis."

Third seed Gilles Simon blew past Czech Jiri Vesely 6-4, 6-2 to reach the last eight. "It's a very tough tournament to win," the Frenchman said of an event won in the past by such luminaries as John McEnroe, Ivan Lendl, Pete Sampras, Stefan Edberg and Roger Federer. "It's not one you win by chance. It would be a great achievement but you need to be playing at a really high level!" — AFP



LONDON: South Africa's Bryan Habana (left) celebrates his second try during the Rugby World Cup Pool B match between South Africa and USA. — AP

## SPRINGBOKS REACH WORLD CUP Q-FINALS

LONDON: Brilliant Bryan Habana scored a second half hat-trick to equal Jonah Lomu's record of 15 World Cup tries yesterday as South Africa hammered the United States 64-0 to book their quarter final place. Habana is closing on the all time Test try record of 69 held by Japan's Daisuke Ohata. The South African is now level with Wallaby hero David Campese's mark on 64.

The Springboks, only 14-0 up at the break, scored 50 points in the second half at a rain-swept Olympic Stadium. Eight of their 10 tries came after the break against a US side showing 12 changes from their last Pool B outing. This was the biggest winning margin in this World Cup so far and the Americans were the first team to fail to score at the tournament.

"I'm very pleased we didn't give away a try because defence wins World Cups," said South Africa coach Heyneke Meyer. "Brian is always the guy that comes through in big games for me. I'm so proud of him, not just as a rugby player but as a human being."

Eagles coach Mike Tolkin said: "The first half, I'm so happy the way the guys played, they poured their hearts out. The second half, they put us under pressure."

Victory saw South Africa, shock 34-32 losers to Japan in their opening match, secure top place in the pool. The Springboks, world champions in 1995 and 2007, will face the losers of Saturday's Pool A fixture between Australia and Wales in an October 17 quarter-final at Twickenham.

Meyer made just two, injury-enforced changes, to the team that beat Scotland 34-16. Lwazi Mvovo replaced wing JP Pietersen, while

prop Frans Malherbe came in for Jannie du Plessis. Both Pietersen and du Plessis have knee injuries.

The United States, yet to win a match at this World Cup, fielded a virtually different team to the one that lost 25-16 to Samoa. They rested players ahead of their potentially more winnable concluding pool fixture against Japan on Sunday.

Despite the changes, the Americans made a bright start. But hopes of another upset quickly disappeared. South Africa went 7-0 up in the seventh minute through centre Damien de Allende's converted try.

Poor Springbok handling saw de Allende take the ball off the floor, before going through a huge gap in the defence and under the posts for his first Test try.

There was a nasty moment when Habana, chasing a high ball, and Blaine Scully collided in a clash that saw the US full-back land head first. Both players left the field soon afterwards for head injury assessments before returning. Pollard and centre Jesse Kriel, well tackled by Kruger, were both held up short of the US line.

The ensuing five-metre scrum went down and, after Pascal Gauzere warned the Eagles, another slumping set-piece saw the French referee award the Springboks a 27th-minute penalty try.

Fly-half Handre Pollard added the extras to give his side a 14-0 lead. Scully intercepted a South Africa pass near his own line and broke clear before he was hauled down on half-way by de Allende and Pollard. South Africa caught the US cold at the start of the second half. — AFP

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**Germany's Bundesbank lists all gold bars to silence sceptics**

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**Scandal-hit VW needs more than a year to fix all cars**

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**KUWAIT'S CREDIT GROWTH RISE TO 5.5% IN JULY**

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**BRUSSELS:** Trade Union members march through the streets during an anti-austerity demonstration in Brussels yesterday. Tens of thousands of Belgian protesters took to the streets of Brussels to rally against austerity measures introduced by the government of Prime Minister Charles Michel, police and trade unions said. Brussels police said 81,000 demonstrators turned out while the main union organising the protest put the number at 100,000, making it one of the biggest rallies of its kind in Belgium in recent years. — AFP

## BIDEN BACKS ASIA TRADE PACT

### UNION OPPOSITION WARN OF RISKS TO US JOBS

**WASHINGTON:** Labor unions are warning Vice President Joe Biden that his support for a major trade pact with Asia could make it difficult for them to support him if he runs for president.

A longtime favorite of unions, Biden has been skeptical of previous sweeping free trade deals, warning of risks to US jobs. Yet he's firmly supporting the Trans-Pacific Partnership, putting him at odds with most Democratic presidential candidates and jeopardizing his support from unions if he enters the race.

Biden planned to speak Wednesday to union officials and organizers, many of whom are mounting an aggressive campaign to block the pact, known as TPP. The White House workers summit will offer the first glimpse at how Biden will sell the deal to skeptics as Congress considers its approval.

"It's an unfortunate side-effect of this trade policy because Joe Biden is beloved in the labor community," said Chuck Rocha, a longtime labor organizer and Democratic consultant. "But they're really drawing a line in the sand on the issue - more than they ever have in the history of the movement."

The vice president "supports the TPP agreement and will help pass it on the Hill," his office said. Biden, who is considering running for president, would be the only major Democratic candidate backing TPP. Hillary Rodham Clinton has said she's still studying the final deal, but said earlier this year she probably wouldn't have voted to grant President Barack Obama so-called "fast track" negotiating authority that makes it easier to gain congressional approval. Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders and former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley are staunchly opposed.

Biden has defended the deal publicly, and lobbied Democratic lawmakers last year to give Obama fast-track authority. He also worked to seal the deal abroad, calling for its completion during conversations with Japanese and Canadian leaders.

"This is a game changer," Biden said earlier this year in Mexico, describing TPP as a "comprehensive, high-standard trade agreement" that would raise the bar for 21st century trade. Clinton and other Democrats are aggressively seeking union endorsements in the primary.

Galen Munroe, a Teamsters spokesman, said opposition to TPP would be an important consideration. AFL-CIO labor federation strategic adviser Eric Hauser said defeating TPP is a key part of the higher-wages agenda his group will use to evaluate all candidates.

Designed to spur trade between Asia and the Western

Hemisphere, TPP would alleviate more than 18,000 tariffs on US exports, Obama has said. After a review period, Congress will eventually hold an up-or-down vote on whether to ratify the deal.

As a senator, Biden voted for the North America Free Trade Agreement with Canada and Mexico, which labor groups detest, but later called for its renegotiation. During the George W. Bush administration, he opposed trade agreements with Central America, Singapore, Chile and Oman.

As vice president, Biden has won plaudits from unions for championing middle-class issues like higher wages. Union workers shouted "Run, Joe, run," as he marched in a Labor Day parade last month with AFL-CIO president Richard Trumka, who also met privately with Biden as he weighs a 2016 campaign. — AP

## WORLD ECONOMIC LEADERS TO TACKLE SLOW GROWTH

**LIMA:** Kick-starting the sluggish global economy and funding the climate-change fight top the agenda this week as finance ministers and central bank chiefs from around the world gather in Peru. Setting the stage for the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, the IMF cut its 2015 growth forecast for the world economy Tuesday to 3.1 percent, predicting the worst year since the global recession of 2009.

The downward revision will provide a gloomy backdrop as economic policymakers from 188 countries meet in the Peruvian capital Lima from Friday to Sunday.

"The holy grail of robust and synchronized global expansion remains elusive," said the IMF's new chief economist, Maurice Obstfeld, warning that China's slowdown and the resulting slide in commodity prices was weighing down the world economy.

There is "reason to be concerned," IMF managing director Christine Lagarde warned in the run-up to the meeting. After decades of break-neck expansion, the world's second-largest economy is set to slow to 6.3-percent growth next year, its lowest rate in 25 years, the IMF predicted.

And that is taking a heavy toll on other emerging markets, which had grown to depend on China's voracious appetite for their fuel, metals, minerals and other commodities.

The emerging markets, which drove global

growth during the crisis of 2008-2009, are also hurting because their capital inflows are drying up as a recovering United States prepares to tighten monetary policy. The gloomy outlook tempers the good news last weekend from the World Bank, which reported that extreme poverty will fall this year to less than 10 percent of the global population for the first time.

#### Climate, taxes, Sean Penn

The economic pain is particularly acute in Latin America, which had not hosted the IMF annual meeting since the 1967 edition in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

The IMF forecast a recession of 0.3 percent in Latin America this year, and regional powerhouse Brazil is facing a contraction of three percent.

The fifth annual slowdown for the on-coming emerging markets and the commodities plunge underpinning it will be key agenda points as finance ministers from the leading industrialized and emerging economies gather today for a G20 meeting, before issuing a statement tomorrow. An entire neighborhood of Lima has been closed off with military checkpoints for the occasion, leaving the streets bizarrely empty in the normally traffic-jammed city and creating headaches for commuters.

The cordon will keep any protesters well away from the movers and shakers who drive the global economy. But the latter will still get a

chance to see the poverty and inequality that trouble Peru and Latin America: The windows of the National Museum, the massive concrete building hosting the meeting, afford a view of one of the slums that surround Lima.

The scene is emblematic of international charity Oxfam's recent finding that the richest one percent of the population in Latin America owns 41 percent of the region's wealth.

Indeed, inequality is a hot topic in the long list of events and panels scheduled around the meeting, which will get a celebrity boost when actor Sean Penn jets in to discuss his humanitarian work.

But concrete progress is more likely to come on another major issue: the fight against climate change. With two months to go to key UN climate talks in Paris, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) is due to publish a report Wednesday on progress toward reaching the global funding target of \$100 billion a year to fight the impacts of global warming.

Another talking point will be the OECD's new plan to crack down on tax avoidance worldwide, after it declared Monday that "playtime is over" for multinational corporations that stiff countries on more than \$100 billion a year.

The G20 finance ministers must give the plan the green light in Lima and pass it on to their bosses for final approval, expected in November at a G20 summit in Turkey. — AFP



**LIMA:** International Monetary Fund Financial Counselor and Director of Monetary and Capital Markets Jose Vinals speaks to journalists after the Global Financial Stability Report press conference at the 2015 IMF/World Bank annual meetings yesterday in Lima, Peru. — AFP

## AL MAKTOUM AIRPORT TO SEE PREP WORK NEXT YEAR FOR EMIRATES' MOVE

**DUBAI:** Dubai's Al Maktoum International Airport will begin the preparations next year for Emirates Airlines to move operations there in about a decade, an airport official said yesterday.

"By next year, we will do a lot of preparations," Khalifa Zaffin, executive chairman of Dubai Aviation City Corporation, Dubai South told reporters when asked about construction at the new airport that would allow Emirates Airlines to move its hub.

The passenger terminal at Al Maktoum International, Dubai South was launched in

October 2013. But only four airlines have started flights from the new airport, with most opting to stay at the busy Dubai International, clustering around Emirates and where existing traffic is. Emirates, the world's fourth largest airline by scheduled international passengers, meanwhile is facing capacity constraints at Dubai International despite runway upgrades last year to increase efficiency.

President Tim Clark last year said Emirates would take up vacated space at Terminal 1 as the new Concourse D is launched. Dubai Airports offi-

cial said construction of the concourse has just finished and the testing phase will now be launched. Initially planned for summer 2015, Concourse D from Terminal 1 may be ready in the first quarter of 2016 and be able to handle operations of about a 100 airlines.

"People want to be there (Dubai International) because they can make connections and everyone is there," Paul Griffiths, chief executive of Dubai Airports said on why airlines are reluctant to move to the new Al Maktoum International airport. "Now those capacity opportunities are becoming more

difficult to satisfy. So people will have to look at different airports."

Emirates airlines in the coming years will take deliveries of the orders it has placed in 2013 for 150 Boeing 777x and topped up its A380 jumbo jets order of 90 with another 50. "Emirates obviously needs to maintain the integrity of its hub and it can't move until it's got sufficient capacity to move its entire hub," Griffiths said. "That will have to be in phase 2 (of Al Maktoum International), which we're projecting will be in the middle of the next decade." — Reuters

## GULF SURGES ON STRONG OIL, BANK EARNINGS, EGYPT UP

### DUBAI INDEX RISES ABOVE TECHNICAL RESISTANCE

**DUBAI:** Major Middle East stock markets rose yesterday as a leap in oil prices boosted petrochemical and energy-related shares across the region. Egypt ended a three-day losing streak as emerging markets gained globally.

Brent crude jumped 5.4 percent on Tuesday, closing above \$50 a barrel for the first time in a month, and rose further to \$52.90 during the Gulf day yesterday. The US Energy Information Administration predicted in a report that global oil demand would grow by the most in six years in 2016 while non-OPEC supply would stall. Overall, the report suggested a global supply glut might be easing.

If oil prices have indeed bottomed out - which remains uncertain - that would be very good news for Gulf equities, since much of their weakness has been due not to the absolute level of oil prices but to fears that they could sink further.

The Saudi stock index climbed 1.9 percent as daily trading volume expanded 58 percent, a positive technical sign. Top petrochemical maker Saudi Basic Industries, its earnings highly sensitive to oil, surged 4.1 percent. Three other petrochemical firms were among the 10 most heavily traded stocks, and all of them rose.

Meanwhile, some banks beat forecasts as the third-quarter corporate earnings reporting season began. Alinma Bank, the most heavily traded stock, gained 1.8 percent after reporting a 13.3 percent rise in quarterly profit. Analysts had expected roughly flat earnings.

Banque Saudi Fransi rose 2.7 percent after posting a 10.2 percent rise in third-quarter net profit. Analysts had been expecting growth of around 5 percent, according to Thomson Reuters data. But Riyadh Bank fell 0.7 percent after announcing a 16.5 percent fall in profit that it blamed on declining operating income. Analysts had predicted flat earnings.

#### DUBAI, EGYPT

Dubai's stock index rose 1.4 percent to 3,712 points as trading volume nearly doubled. It rose above technical resistance around 3,700 points, which capped it repeatedly in September. A second straight close above 3,700 would confirm a break and point the index up to around 3,900 points, the size of its recent range suggests.

Real estate developer DAMAC surged 4.3 percent and was the market's second most heavily traded stock after the company said it was starting a month-long roadshow to showcase its portfolio and promote Dubai as investment destination. It will attend events and exhibitions in India, Britain and Kenya.

Abu Dhabi climbed 0.8 percent as blue chip Aldar Properties gained 2.9 percent. Qatar rose 0.9 percent as drilling rig provider Gulf International Services jumped 4.8 percent and petrochemical producer Industries Qatar climbed 2.1 percent.

Egypt's market, which had been soft this week because of poor purchasing managers' data and EFG Hermes' downgrade of the market to neutral, strengthened along with Asian stock markets. The

Cairo index added 1.6 percent. Qalaa Holdings surged 3.7 percent after it said it had received a preliminary offer from Qena Cement to buy stakes in its subsidiaries ASEC Minya and ASEC Ready Mix Concrete.

#### WEDNESDAY'S HIGHLIGHTS SAUDI ARABIA

The index surged 1.9 percent to 7,603 points.

#### DUBAI

The index rose 1.4 percent to 3,712 points.

#### ABU DHABI

The index climbed 0.8 percent to 4,589 points.

#### QATAR

The index rose 0.9 percent to 11,789 points.

#### EGYPT

The index climbed 1.6 percent to 7,355 points.

#### KUWAIT

The index edged up 0.1 percent to 5,739 points.

#### OMAN

The index rose 0.5 percent to 5,860 points.

#### BAHRAIN

The index edged down 0.3 percent to 1,269 points. — Reuters



**PHNOM PENH:** Cambodian garment workers shout slogans during a protest in front of a factory in Phnom Penh yesterday. Cambodian trade unionists and hundreds of garment workers marched to demand a pay rise for their monthly minimum wage. — AFP

## UAW THREATENS STRIKE AT FIAT CHRYSLER US OPERATIONS

**DETROIT:** United Auto Workers members are planning to strike at Fiat Chrysler Automobiles NV US plants yesterday evening, the first work stoppage since 2007, threatening to bring manufacturing to a halt.

A strike at its US operations could cost the automaker \$40 million a week in operating profit, said Sean McAlinden, chief economist with the Center for Automotive Research. Workers at several plants in Kokomo, Indiana, and at least one in Michigan received notices to be ready to strike but it was not clear whether all Fiat Chrysler plants would be involved.

Kristin Dzikcsek, labor analyst with the Center for Automotive Research, said the last time the UAW took the company, then known as Chrysler, out on strike it was a "Hollywood strike," as in "just for show" in 2007. That strike, in the second week of October, lasted six hours. The strike weapon was not available to the UAW until this year for Fiat Chrysler or General Motors Co as part of the 2009 government-sponsored bankruptcies at those companies. The UAW must balance the need to make a forceful statement to Fiat Chrysler with concerns it could substantially hurt the company, the weakest of the Big Three, which would be bad for its own members and hopes of growth. Arthur Schwartz, a labor consultant and former negotiator with GM, said, "This is the union's play now. It is up to them what happens."

Schwartz said UAW President Dennis Williams would not want a lengthy strike because of the pain it could inflict on his members and the harm to Fiat Chrysler. "Chrysler is not in great financial shape, no matter what the UAW members may think. The company is the weakest of the (Detroit Three) so a long strike would hurt them."

#### PLAYING HARBALL

On Tuesday, the UAW union warned Fiat Chrysler that workers at its US operations are preparing to strike unless a new contract agreement is reached, the company said. The UAW notified Fiat Chrysler that the current four-year contract extension would expire at 11:59 pm

yesterday. The notice did not specify whether the union would call a strike at some or all of the 37 US Fiat Chrysler assembly, transmission and stamping plants and other operations where 40,000 UAW members work.

Gary Spangler, a veteran worker at the Kokomo Transmission Plant in Indiana, said workers there have been told the call to strike on Fiat Chrysler is nationwide, not just the key Kokomo-area transmission plants and a casting plant that feeds them.

"The last time, you blinked and the strike was over. This is going to be different," he said. "Marchionne plays hardball and that's fine. We're ready." Sergio Marchionne is the chief executive of Fiat Chrysler Automobiles NV, who publicly sparred with the former UAW president, Bob King, before reaching an agreement in 2011. This year, after negotiators for both sides reached a tentative agreement later spurned by the union's rank-and-file, Marchionne hugged current UAW President Dennis Williams in an unusual joint press conference. Normally, UAW contract events before the ratification vote feature "us versus them" tones rather than a united front.

Schwartz said a prolonged strike would hurt the union's efforts to convince workers to join the UAW in the US South at foreign-owned automakers such as VW, Daimler AG and Nissan Motor Co. "The majority of the people here are really worried," said Lynne Hansen, a worker at the Kokomo plant who is divorced and pays for a child in college. "A lot of people live paycheck-to-paycheck. We all know this was looming, but it is hard to save for it. No one wants a strike. I voted 'yes' but I totally support the strike. We have to remain together on this. Solidarity"

Labor analyst Dzikcsek said that in strikes of the past few decades, Detroit Three automakers have not used replacement workers, whom union members call "scabs." Dzikcsek and McAlinden both predicted that if a contract agreement is not reached by late yesterday night, a localized or US-wide strike of Fiat Chrysler operations would last at least a week or two. — Reuters

## JPMORGAN BUYS MORE MORTGAGES FROM LENDERS AS MARKET SHRINKS

**NEW YORK:** JPMorgan Chase & Co, looking to stem falling revenue in its mortgage business as fewer Americans refinance, is increasingly buying loans from smaller lenders, a practice that competitors including Bank of America view as risky.

In the first half of 2015, the bank bought 62 percent of the \$58 billion in home loans it added to its books, compared with 56 percent in 2014 and 37 percent in 2011. While other big banks buy mortgages from other lenders, known as correspondents, JPMorgan has racked up the biggest increase among its peers in the proportion of loans it buys from others, according to data from trade publication Inside Mortgage Finance.

JPMorgan is fighting for business in what has been a shrinking market. According to the Mortgage Bankers Association, applications for US home loans have fallen by about 25 percent since mid-January, when a temporary drop in rates spurred a small wave of refinancing. Since May 2013, when mortgage rates first started jumping amid fears the Federal Reserve would hike rates, application volume has fallen by more than 50 percent.

Fewer applications overall make it harder for JPMorgan to make as many

loans directly to consumers in its bank branches. Still, JPMorgan's willingness to buy loans from correspondent banks is a sign that banks are comfortable taking more risk in the mortgage market, nearly a decade after the housing bubble burst.

"As they gain more confidence about the environment, they go right back to the correspondent channel for more volume," said banking analyst Charles Peabody of Portales Partners.

To be sure, Bank of America Corp avoids the loans, because it doesn't want to be exposed to bad decisions made by smaller banks that do the actual lending. "There's more risk in being that far away from the customer," said D. Steve Boland, the Bank of America executive in charge of mortgage and auto lending. For example, a smaller lender could fail to verify a borrower's income properly, and just sell the loan on to a bigger bank.

#### HIGH DEGREE OF CONFIDENCE

To minimize that risk, JPMorgan, like other banks, specifies exactly what correspondent lenders have to do to vet loans, and forces the smaller lenders to buy back loans that turn out to have fallen short of those requirements. Greg Bellies, correspondent lending head at

JPMorgan, wrote through a spokeswoman that the bank works with "experienced, well managed and high quality" lenders.

Bank of America's concerns may stem from its experience with Countrywide Financial, which Bank of America bought in 2008, the largest correspondent lender in the US at the time. Countrywide failed

at least in part due to bad loans that it bought from correspondent banks and could not sell back to them. The Countrywide deal has been a huge millstone for Bank of America-the bank has paid some \$70 billion in settlements and legal penalties linked to the financial crisis, much of which came from its acquisition of the lender. — Reuters



**ST PETERSBURG:** A picture taken on September 22, 2015 shows engineers of Pikalevo Cement BASEL factory as they control at factory's production some 260 km outside St Petersburg. The mineral powder produced at an ageing Soviet-era refinery in Pikalyovo, one of Russia's hundreds of factory towns hit by a crippling economic crisis, has been a blessing, and at times a curse, for a town dependent on a single industry. — AFP

## EXCHANGE RATES

### AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

#### ASIAN COUNTRIES

Japanese Yen	2.528
Indian Rupees	4.625
Pakistani Rupees	2.900
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.149
Nepali Rupees	2.861
Singapore Dollar	212.400
Hongkong Dollar	39.112
Bangladesh Taka	3.896
Philippine Peso	6.476
Thai Baht	8.298

#### GCC COUNTRIES

Saudi Riyal	80.870
Qatari Riyal	83.304
Omani Riyal	787.680
Bahraini Dinar	805.370
UAE Dirham	82.566

#### ARAB COUNTRIES

Egyptian Pound - Cash	40.615
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	38.736
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.415
Tunisian Dinar	155.440
Jordanian Dinar	427.900
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.021
Syrian Lira	2.161
Morocco Dirham	31.540

#### EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer	303.100
Euro	342.350
Sterling Pound	462.680
Canadian dollar	231.460
Turkish lira	101.290
Swiss Franc	313.930
Australian dollar	216.720
US Dollar Buying	301.900

20 gram	226.690
10 gram	116.040
5 gram	58.700

#### GOLD

20 gram	226.690
10 gram	116.040
5 gram	58.700

### UAE EXCHANGE CENTRE WLL

#### CURRENCIES

Australian Dollar	196.18
Canadian Dollar	229.47
Swiss Franc	316.73
Euro	344.28
US Dollar	303.15
Sterling Pound	462.68
Japanese Yen	2.57
Bangladesh Taka	3.892
Indian Rupee	4.578
Sri Lankan Rupee	2.165
Nepali Rupee	2.856
Pakistani Rupee	2.901
UAE Dirhams	0.08248
Bahraini Dinar	0.8056
Egyptian Pound	0.03860
Jordanian Dinar	0.4312
Omani Riyal	0.7872
Qatari Riyal	0.08358
Saudi Riyal	0.08086

#### TELEX TRANSFER PER 1000

Australian Dollar	196.18
Canadian Dollar	229.47
Swiss Franc	316.73
Euro	344.28
US Dollar	303.15
Sterling Pound	462.68
Japanese Yen	2.57
Bangladesh Taka	3.892
Indian Rupee	4.578
Sri Lankan Rupee	2.165
Nepali Rupee	2.856
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Jordanian Dinar	0.4312
Omani Riyal	0.7872
Qatari Riyal	0.08358
Saudi Riyal	0.08086

### DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	303.150
Canadian Dollar	234.950
Sterling Pound	462.930
Euro	344.940
Swiss Franc	294.060
Bahrain Dinar	804.590
UAE Dirhams	82.830
Qatari Riyals	90.820

Saudi Riyals	81.565
Jordanian Dinar	427.165
Egyptian Pound	38.604
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.158
Indian Rupees	4.642
Pakistani Rupees	2.898
Bangladesh Taka	3.888
Philippines Peso	6.524
Cyprus pound	577.405
Japanese Yen	3.520
Syrian Pound	2.600
Nepalese Rupees	3.895
Malaysian Ringgit	71.600
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	48.010
Thai Bhat	9.405
Turkish Lira	102.580

### BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
Europe		
British Pound	0.454734	0.463734
Czech Korune	0.004560	0.016560
Danish Krone	0.041606	0.046606
Euro	0.334898	0.335307
Norwegian Krone	0.032485	0.037685
Romanian Leu	0.077033	0.077033
Slovakia	0.009030	0.019030
Swedish Krona	0.032653	0.037653
Swiss Franc	0.306448	0.316648
Turkish Lira	0.096641	0.106941
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.209161	0.220661
New Zealand Dollar	0.193240	0.202740
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.227176	0.235676
US Dollars	0.298800	0.303300

US Dollars Mint	0.299300	0.303300
Asia		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003489	0.004089
Chinese Yuan	0.046241	0.049741
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036993	0.039743
Indian rupee	0.004354	0.004744
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000017	0.000023
Japanese Yen	0.002436	0.002616
Kenyan Shilling	0.002925	0.002925
Korean Won	0.000250	0.000265
Malaysian Ringgit	0.067106	0.073106
Nepalese Rupee	0.002902	0.003072
Pakistan Rupee	0.002837	0.003117
Philippine Peso	0.006358	0.006638
Sierra Leone	0.000069	0.000075
Singapore Dollar	0.209877	0.215877
South African Rand	0.016394	0.024894
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001861	0.002441
Taiwan	0.009149	0.009329
Thai Baht	0.008092	0.008642

Arab		
Bahraini Dinar	0.795818	0.803818
Egyptian Pound	0.037843	0.040673
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000192	0.000252
Jordanian Dinar	0.423217	0.430717
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000151	0.000251
Moroccan Dirhams	0.020495	0.044495
Nigerian Naira	0.000919	0.001554
Omani Riyal	0.780333	0.786013
Qatar Riyal	0.082488	0.083701
Saudi Riyal	0.080137	0.080837
Syrian Pound	0.001284	0.001504
Tunisian Dinar	0.151580	0.159580
Turkish Lira	0.096641	0.106941
UAE Dirhams	0.081487	0.082636
Yemeni Riyal	0.001369	0.001449

## GOLD STEADIES, SUPPORTED BY WEAK US EXPORT DATA

**LONDON:** Gold steadied yesterday, supported by sluggish US economic data which increased expectations that the Federal Reserve will delay raising US interest rates until next year. Spot gold rose 0.1 percent to \$1,147.91 an ounce by 0934 GMT, after earlier touching \$1,152.90, its highest level since Sept. 24.

American exports were hit by an ailing global economy in August and imports from China surged, fuelling the largest expansion of the US trade

deficit in five months, data showed on Tuesday.

The figures, which followed a weak nonfarm payrolls report last week, bolstered expectations that the Fed will delay raising rates until 2016.

"I think the market sees gold taking advantage of the decision by the Fed not to raise rates and doesn't see any scope for the committee to raise rates anytime soon," said Robin Bhar, head of metals research at Societe Generale. "That's given a bit of breathing space

to gold." Gold has come under pressure from expectations that the Fed is set to hike interest rates this year, potentially lifting the opportunity cost of holding non-yielding bullion.

Fed Chair Janet Yellen said last month she expected the US central bank to begin raising rates this year, but weak US economic data and caution about the global economy have prompted many to push back expectations.

A possible delay in a rate hike has

also weighed on the dollar, which has been supportive for the gold market by making the metal cheaper for holders of other currencies.

Concerns about the health of the global economy were reinforced on yesterday when data showed German industrial output for August posted its sharpest drop in a year. The International Monetary Fund also fuelled concerns when it cut its global growth forecasts for a second time this year on Tuesday, citing weak commod-

ity prices and a slowdown in China.

Among other precious metals, silver eased 0.1 percent to \$15.86, snapping a three-day rally that saw it rise to a 3-1/2-month high of \$16.08 a day earlier. Platinum rose 0.3 percent to \$936.24 after falling to a near seven-year low last week on fears that the Volkswagen emissions scandal could hurt demand for diesel cars, in which the metal is used for catalysts. Palladium slipped 0.2 percent, after rising near its highest level since June in early trading. — Reuters

## VIVA TO OFFER IPHONE 6S, IPHONE 6S PLUS ON SATURDAY

**KUWAIT:** VIVA, Kuwait's fastest-growing and most developed telecom operator, yesterday announced it will offer iPhone 6s and iPhone 6s Plus, the most advanced iPhones ever, beginning Saturday.

iPhone 6s and iPhone 6s Plus bring a powerful new dimension to iPhone's revolutionary Multi-Touch interface with 3D Touch, which senses how deeply you press the display, letting you do all kinds of essential things more quickly and simply. The new iPhones introduce Live Photos, which bring still images to life, transforming instants frozen in time into unforgettable living memories. Live Photos, 3D Touch, 12-megapixel iSight camera, 5-megapixel FaceTime HD camera with Retina Flash and more are powered by the Apple-designed A9 chip, the most advanced chip ever in a smartphone, delivering faster performance and great battery life. iPhone 6s and iPhone 6s Plus are designed from the

strongest glass on any smartphone and 7000 series aluminum the same alloy used in the aerospace industry, in gorgeous metallic finishes that now include rose gold.

"VIVA is the most advanced and pioneering telecom service provider in Kuwait and our customers deserve nothing but the best," said Abdulrazzaq Bader Al-Essa, Director of Corporate Communications at VIVA. "That's why we're proud to deliver the powerful and innovative iPhone 6s and iPhone 6s Plus through VIVA's competitive plans and unparalleled service."

Customer can purchase iPhone 6s and iPhone 6s Plus at one of VIVA's 69 branches, the VIVA website at [www.viva.com.kw](http://www.viva.com.kw) or VIVA's 24-hour call center at 102. For complete details on pricing, please visit: [www.viva.com.kw/ar/iphone-6s](http://www.viva.com.kw/ar/iphone-6s). For more information on iPhone, please visit: [www.apple.com/iphone](http://www.apple.com/iphone).

## SCANDAL-HIT VW NEEDS MORE THAN A YEAR TO FIX ALL CARS

### VW SET ASIDE \$7.3BN TO COVER REPAIRS OF AFFECTED VEHICLES

**BERLIN:** Volkswagen's new boss said yesterday the auto giant would need more than a year to fix all its pollution-cheating cars, as the company suspended four employees suspected of being behind the global deception.

Matthias Mueller, who took over the driver's seat at VW at the height of the crisis, said he did not believe top management could have been aware of the scam which threatens to cost the company billions in vehicle overhauls and fines.

The world's biggest carmaker by sales has launched investigations into who was behind the scam involving over 11 million diesel cars which were equipped with software that switches the engine to a low-emissions mode during tests.

The so-called defeat devices then turn off pollution controls when the vehicle is on the road, allowing it to spew out harmful levels of toxic gases. The shock revelations have wiped more than 40 percent off Volkswagen's market capitalisation, but the direct and indirect costs are still incalculable as the company risks fines in several countries and possible damages from customers' lawsuits.

As Volkswagen faced a deadline yesterday to submit to German authorities its plans and timetable to fix the vehicles, Mueller told the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung daily that once the proposals are accepted, "we will order the parts" to fix the affected vehicles.

"If all goes as expected, we can start the repairs in January. By end 2016, all the cars should be in order," he said in an interview. The former Porsche chief added that "four people, including three responsible directors on different levels of the development of Volkswagen engines," had been suspended over the deception, adding that "others were already on partial retirement."

German press have named Audi's development chief Ulrich Hackenberg as among those suspended, although Volkswagen would not confirm the information.

### 'Complex process'

Mueller said he did not believe that the management team of Martin Winterkorn, who was forced to quit as chief executive at the height of the scandal, could have been aware of the scam.

"Do you really think that a boss would have the time to be concerned about the details of engine software?" he said. The development of an engine is "a complex process that involves interaction between programmers, engine and gear box developers and those who deal with measurements for official tests," he said, adding that these are tasks in which "a director is not directly involved".

Volkswagen has said that the 6.5 billion euros (\$7.3 billion) it set aside in the third quarter was only the estimated sum to cover repairs of affected vehicles.

Mueller outlined the complexity of the repairs, saying: "We need not just three solutions, but thousands." This is because there are different models of cars involved, with different types of gear boxes or country-specific designs.

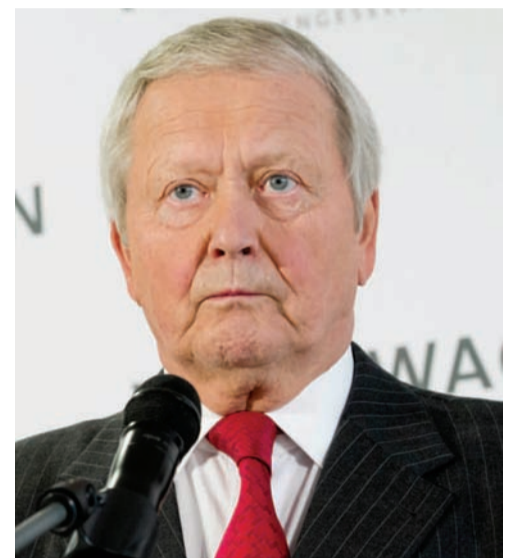
Most of the vehicles affected would only need a "software update in the local workshop," said Mueller. "Others need new pumps and catalytic converters," he said.

And fitting in catalytic converters, for instance, could in turn require a complete reconfiguration of the engine, he noted, adding that these works would be "of course carried out free of charge".

### 'Our cars are safe'

To meet the billions of euros in financial outlays, Mueller said the group would embark on a huge cost-cutting programme and review several projects. Germany's football world would not be spared, as Volkswagen owns the VfL Wolfsburg club and has investments in 17 professional clubs.

VW needs every cent as in the United States alone it faces up to \$18 billion in fines from the Environmental Protection Agency, plus potential payouts from class action lawsuits and penalties



Wolfgang Porsche

from other regulators. Asked about the looming fines, Mueller noted however: "Think about this: no-one died from this, our cars were and are safe."

In what could be comforting to the group's 600,000 staff at 100 plants worldwide, Mueller said orders had not slumped despite the scandal. "We are seeing as much demand as ever from customers, which gives us courage," he said. "If the situation changes, we will see how we can react."

But environmental group Greenpeace criticised the months-long delay until January for the recall. It "raises the legal question of how the population will be protected against the excessive nitrogen oxide emissions from manipulated cars until the callback," said the activist group's mobility expert Daniel Moser. "Much more shocking, however, is that the company continues its wrong strategy. Instead of tinkering with cars that are too heavy, VW must take the first step toward building cleaner cars." — AP



**HANOI:** In this Friday July 24, 2009 file photo a saleswoman waits in a cloths market in Hanoi, Vietnam. An ambitious Pacific Rim trade deal anchored by the US promises to boost the economies of its 12 participating countries by opening their markets to one another, but not all the gains will be spread evenly. Among the biggest winners of the Trans-Pacific Partnership is Vietnam, where booming garment and shoe industries are poised to benefit from the elimination of tariffs in the United States and other major importing nations. — AP

## VIETNAM SET TO BE PACIFIC TRADE PACT'S BIG WINNER

**HONG KONG:** An ambitious Pacific Rim trade deal anchored by the US promises to boost the economies of its 12 participating countries by opening their markets to one another, but not all the gains will be spread evenly.

Among the biggest winners of the Trans-Pacific Partnership is Vietnam, where booming garment and shoe industries are poised to benefit from the elimination of tariffs in the United States and other major importing nations.

Experts say Japanese car and auto parts makers and Malaysia's electronics and semiconductor industry will also benefit from the trade deal, which was agreed on Monday after more than five years of negotiations. The pact, which still needs ratification from individual countries, aims to liberalize commerce and tighten labor and environmental standards across member nations that account for two-fifths of the world economy.

The Trans-Pacific Partnership is central to President Barack Obama's policy of greater engagement with Asia to offset rising Chinese influence in the region. In theory, China could eventually join the pact if it met environmental and labor standards. As a result of being outside the club, some trade opportunities are likely to slip away from Chinese manufacturers, particularly as more Asian countries sign up.

Many of the benefits of the free trade deal will flow to Vietnam, where the economy has been growing at a decent clip as manufacturers beef up their presence. "This is really transformational for Vietnam," said Rajiv Biswas, Asia Pacific chief economist at IHS Global Insight. "They're going to get a very big advantage over many other exporters of garments into the US market," which currently imposes a 17 percent duty on clothing imports, he said. Vietnam's gains are likely to come at the expense of jobs in Mexico's apparel and footwear industry as well as the last outposts of those industries in Canada and the US. Proponents of the deal say those three countries will see benefits in other industries such as agriculture, machinery and electrical equipment.

### Rising attractiveness

The trade pact, combined with a recently signed European Union free trade agreement, is expected to accelerate foreign investment into Vietnam. Manufacturers such as Samsung Electronics have been setting up new factories in Vietnam for several years, underscoring its rising attractiveness over China, a longtime global manufacturing powerhouse that's been hit by surging labor costs.

Biswas and other analysts say Vietnam's econ-

omy will get the biggest proportionate boost because of its relatively small per-capita GDP. Other countries signing up to the deal include Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru and Singapore. By 2025, Vietnam's economy will be 11 percent, or \$36 billion, bigger than without the trade deal while exports will be 28 percent larger, according to a Eurasia Group report released in July.

"This percentage increase dwarfs the gains made by any other country," the report said. Vietnam will become the "preferred destination" for low-cost manufacturers looking to stay competitive, with industries relying on cheap labor, chiefly clothing, shoes and textiles, set to reap the biggest gains, it said.

Manufacturers, especially garment makers, are scrambling to move part of their production to Vietnam in anticipation that the deal will require sourcing materials from participating countries. "What we're now seeing is that some of the upstream parts of manufacturing, yarn, fabrics is now shifting to Vietnam as well, so that they're getting a more significant part of the total output. So there's a lot of positioning going on right now," said Biswas. Hong Kong-based contract garment maker Lever Style, whose clients include Hugo Boss and J. Crew, has been shifting production from southern China to Vietnam in recent years. The trade pact "will encourage us to migrate even more production," Chairman Stanley Szeto said.

However, he said its effect on the company's bottom line would be neutral and "possibly negative." "We will try to gain volume in Vietnam but we won't be most competitive on foreign soil, while we'll for sure lose volume on our home turf in China. Buyers will probably insist on capturing all the duty savings, so I don't expect much margin benefit for suppliers," Szeto said.

### Bigger boost

Malaysia is also poised to benefit. The country's exporters will get a competitive advantage over regional rivals by getting greater market access to the US, Canada and Mexico, Trade Minister Mustapa Mohamed said yesterday.

Malaysia's textile and clothing industries will benefit, but higher value industries such as semiconductors and integrated circuits will get an even bigger boost, analysts say. Malaysia is a key player in global production for the electronics industry and the deal will expand its presence, the Eurasia Group said. Malaysia's economy will be 5.6 percent bigger in 2025 thanks to the agreement, it said. — AP

## UK'S FINANCIAL WATCHDOG STARTS HOME LOANS COMPETITION REVIEW

**LONDON:** Britain's financial watchdog said yesterday it has begun a review of the 1.3 trillion pound (\$2 trillion) mortgage market to see if there are areas where competition may not be working well or could be improved.

The regulator's action comes when the British government is facing pressure over a housing shortage in parts of the country and rising prices have put home ownership out of the reach of many people.

The Financial Conduct Authority said it can be challenging for people to compare a vast array of home loans on offer with no consistent terminology for fees and charges. There are also concerns about the quality and suitability of mortgage advice.

The FCA is also looking at the impact of new rules it introduced last year, which require tougher checks by lenders on the ability of borrowers to pay back a loan.

"There is also anecdotal evidence, subject to much media interest, that some types of consumers are becoming unfairly trapped and unable to access more suitable deals," the FCA said.

"We are keen to ascertain how prevalent this problem is, and the extent to which the regulatory regime, the way in which it has been interpreted by firms, or other factors have played a role," it added.

Lloyds, Santander UK, Barclays and Nationwide account for more than half of Britain's 7 million mortgage holders.

Conditions for granting a home loan have become stricter following the financial crisis. There are fears that higher interest rates could make it even harder for young people to buy their first property.

Paul Smee, director general of the Council of Mortgage Lenders, an industry body, said the review is an opportunity to look at the effect of regulation, as well as mar-

ket practice, on lenders and their customers.

"It's also essential in delivering the kind of environment in which reputable lenders of all shapes and sizes can thrive," Smee said.

### SEEKING VIEWS

The FCA is aiming to gather views before launching any full-fledged market study next year. Its review covers a wide range of home loans, including lifetime mortgages, shared ownership, buy-to-let, second charge mortgages and bridging loans.

It will also scrutinise activities and relationships within the sector,

such as between lenders, brokers, valuation services and estate agents to see if they inhibit choice.

Britain has sought to boost competition more generally in banking but few of the new "challenger banks" offer home loans as their total deposits remain relatively small. The FCA said it wanted to find out more about how access to funding for mortgage lending was affecting new entrants.

"We have a particular interest in the scope for newer types of funding models, such as peer-to-peer lending or crowdfunding, to overcome the constraints potentially imposed by other, more traditional,

funding models," the watchdog said.

The FCA, which has powers to force changes in how the companies it regulates behave, said it would publish a feedback statement in the first quarter of 2016 and set out any further action.

"These views, together with evidence from the FCA's wider programme of work on mortgages, will help inform any future FCA work on this key sector of the economy, including any future competition market study," Christopher Woolard, FCA director of strategy and competition, said. — Reuters



**KROSTITZ:** Compressed cars piled up in freight-friendly bales of scrap await their transport on the grounds of a car recycling company in Krostitz, eastern Germany. — AFP

# GERMANY'S BUNDESBANK LISTS ALL GOLD BARS TO SILENCE SCEPTICS

FRANKFURT: Germany's Bundesbank has published an exhaustive list of all the gold bars in its near 3,400-tonne reserve of the metal to bolster the bank's standing as a guardian of stability among an increasingly wary public.

The central bank released the 2,300-page list, which also underscores its intention to repatriate some of the bars and store them in Frankfurt, following requests for more information amid speculation that some of the gold might no longer be there.

Just over one third of the reserve, which Germany started building in the post-war

boom years, is now held underground at the Bundesbank in Frankfurt, while the rest is stored at the Federal Reserve in the United States, in France and in England.

"Half of Germany's gold reserves will be stored in Germany by 2020 at the latest," Carl-Ludwig Thiele, a member of the Bundesbank's board said. Publication of the list, which will be updated annually to show which gold bars are where, follows criticism that the Bundesbank was not being transparent about the 107-billion-euro (\$120 billion) reserve.

That in turn partly reflects scepticism

among ordinary Germans about the euro after an economic crisis almost fractured the currency that is used by 19 European countries. "There were a lot of conspiracy theories about the gold not being there," said Guntram Wolff, a German who heads Brussels think tank Bruegel, pointing to 'disenchantment' among ordinary Germans who have seen the value of their savings dwindle.

"Trust in the Bundesbank has suffered," said Peter Boehringer, author of a book entitled 'Bring our gold home'. "The Bundesbank must prove that the gold is there." The impact of the

global financial crisis has been mild in Germany compared with other European countries. Nonetheless, some Germans are worried.

"The gold reserves show stability. The German people are happy to know that

the Bundesbank is watching over this wealth, which belongs to them," said a former Bundesbank official. "It could be helpful, for instance, in covering some of the costs were Germany to leave the single currency." —Reuters

# TESCO SLIDES INTO FIRST-HALF LOSS

LONDON: Britain's biggest retailer, supermarket group Tesco, said yesterday it had fallen into a net loss during its first half, partly on costs linked to an accounting scandal. Losses after tax stood at £365 million (\$557 million, 494 million euros) in the six months to the end of August, compared with a net profit of £6.0 million during the corresponding period a year earlier, Tesco said in an earnings statement.

"We have delivered an unprecedented level of change in our business over the last 12 months and it is working," chief executive Dave Lewis said. Tesco is seeking to overhaul its business after reporting the biggest annual

loss in its near 100-year history of £5.74 billion for the year to February.

The company is also facing a fraud probe after a huge accounting scandal that saw it overstate profits by £263 million owing to errors stretching back to before 2013.

Tesco has additionally been hit by falling sales on fierce competition from low-price supermarket rivals Aldi and Lidl, restructuring charges and write-downs to its property portfolio. The British group meanwhile last month announced an agreement to sell South Korean unit Homeplus to a consortium led by private equity firm MBK Partners for more than £4.0 billion. —AFP

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report

Global

Wednesday 07 October 2015

Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing	High	Low
Price Index	▲ 4.78	5,730.32	5,734.54	5,740.67	5,706.55
Weighted Index	▼ -0.59	389.18	389.77	389.63	387.80
KSX 15	▼ -2.27	935.30	937.57	936.68	930.47

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last
MARIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	114
IKARUS	102	98	143,900	14,311	12	100
IPG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	315
NAPESCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	620
ENERGYH	47.0	44.5	21,750	1,245	7	45.5
GPI	43.0	42.5	6,407,850	276,181	110	42.5
ARAR	95	95	20,000	1,900	2	95
<b>Oil &amp; Gas</b>			<b>6,659,500</b>	<b>293,636</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>900.16</b>

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last
SOKOUK	48.0	47.5	205,600	9,805	11	48.0
KRE	60	60	166,200	9,972	4	60
URC	94	94	100	9	1	94
NRE	79	78	406,770	32,004	19	78
SRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	325
TAM	440	440	10	4	1	440
AREEC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	180
MASGALJI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	52
ARBREC	31.5	31.0	1,215,900	37,945	19	31.0
ERESCO	60	60	116,100	6,966	6	60
MADANEC	880	870	78,365	68,861	11	880
INJAZZAT	64	63	60,000	3,796	3	63
INVESTORS	29.5	28.5	8,321,844	238,714	123	29.0
IRC	33.5	32.0	742,300	24,486	16	33.5
ALTUJARIA	82	81	11,500	953	2	82
SANAM	40.0	38.0	91,200	3,623	8	40.0
AAYANRE	80	80	600	48	1	80
AQAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	79
ALADARIA	23.5	23.0	310,000	7,270	8	23.5
MAZAYA	104	102	765,499	79,512	14	104
ADNC	32.5	31.5	6,104,049	195,654	84	32.5
THEMAR	95	95	10	1	1	95
TLIARA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	42.5
TAAMEER	30.5	30.0	131,000	3,931	3	30.5
ARKAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	114
ARGAN	172	172	117,000	20,124	9	172
ABYAR	31.5	30.5	3,290,010	101,158	30	31.5
MUNSHAAT	96	95	303,966	28,887	12	96
FIRSTDUBAI	53	51	323,720	16,571	23	52
KBT	35.5	34.5	378,090	13,094	19	34.5
REAM	170	165	16,400	2,560	6	156
MENA	30.5	29.0	76,300	2,281	15	30.5
ALMUDON	35.5	33.5	13,174,762	459,792	198	34.5
MARAKEZ	25.0	25.0	3,900	98	1	25.0
REMAI	43.0	40.0	8,995,024	378,808	210	42.5
MASHAER	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	104
<b>Real Estate</b>			<b>45,406,219</b>	<b>1,746,707</b>	<b>860</b>	<b>940.86</b>

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last
KCEM	380	370	29,062	10,853	3	370
REFRI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	325
CABLE	435	430	78,298	33,668	15	435
SHIP	136	130	1,005	134	3	134
PCEM	1,140	1,140	18,635	21,244	3	1,140
PAPER	415	415	5	2	1	415
MRC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	60
ACICO	290	290	7,000	2,030	1	290
GGMC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	550
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	144
KPAK	395	395	2	1	1	395
KBMMC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	220
NICBM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	208
EQUIPMENT	65	63	1,064,050	68,028	25	65
NCCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	84
GYPSUM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	102
SALDOOKH	86	82	531,000	44,289	23	84
AGLTY	540	520	3,170,298	1,685,918	139	530
EDU	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	216
CLEANING	42.0	42.0	201,069	8,445	10	42.0
CITYGROUP	405	405	875	354	1	405
KGL	42.5	39.0	148,010	6,029	9	42.0
KCPK	216	212	50,000	10,700	4	212
HUMANSOFT	1,020	1,000	202	204	3	1,020
NAFAIS	132	132	60	8	1	132
SAFWAN	330	325	55,252	18,233	4	330
GFC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	96
MAYADEEN	25.5	25.0	2,338,458	58,579	40	25.0
CGC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	780
MITCC	45.0	43.5	814,700	36,010	20	45.0
UPAC	730	730	50	37	1	730
ALAFKO	222	216	244,110	53,252	8	222
MUBARRAD	79	77	1,206,000	98,432	30	79
LOGISTICS	54	51	1,264,550	65,989	34	52
SCEM	84	84	3,761	316	1	84
GCEM	83	81	146,365	11,916	4	83
QCEM	81	81	20,000	1,620	1	81
FCEM	74	73	20,700	1,512	2	74
RKWC	108	108	46,979	5,074	2	108
SPEC	84	80	30,100	2,408	2	84
<b>Industrials</b>			<b>11,551,196</b>	<b>2,245,285</b>	<b>391</b>	<b>1067.33</b>

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last
KSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	220
NSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	85
PAPCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	102
CATTL	124	124	80,900	10,032	4	124
DANAH	84	81	217,000	17,876	21	84
POULT	168	168	25	4	1	168
FOOD	2,320	2,280	72,028	165,303	21	2,320
<b>Consumer Goods</b>			<b>369,963</b>	<b>193,216</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>1076.08</b>
MHC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	190
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	920
YIACO	124	124	1	0	1	124
<b>Health Care</b>			<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>950.04</b>

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last
KCIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,000
KHOT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	196
SULTAN	74	70	480,333	34,433	28	74
CABLETV	29.5	27.0	3,161	93	3	29.5
EYAS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	305
IFAHR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	196
QILAFUEI	110	108	27,326	2,991	12	108
MUNTAZAHAT	98	98	30,000	2,940	2	98
JAZERA	475	470	178,000	84,110	9	475
SOUR	110	106	75,586	8,190	26	110
FUTUREKID	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	110
ALNAWADI	79	75	4,002	300	2	79
ALRAI	176	168	218,729	37,971	11	176
ZIMAH	82	78	7,228,033	579,304	221	82
UFIG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	160
KOUTFOOD	540	540	50,000	27,000	2	540
Mezzan	1,060	1,040	262,050	273,565	16	1,060
<b>Consumer Services</b>			<b>8,558,020</b>	<b>1,050,898</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>1002.15</b>

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last
ZAIN	400	395	1,498,548	598,847	55	395
ODREDO	1,000	1,000	31,200	31,200	9	1,000
HITSTELEG	28.5	27.5	7,375,931	207,042	93	28.5
VIVA	880	870	581,575	511,032	113	880
<b>Telecommunications</b>			<b>9,487,254</b>	<b>1,348,121</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>966.10</b>

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last
NBK	810	800	620,175	496,640	27	810
GDK	280	275	543,955	152,205	25	280
CBK	570	560	36,343	20,616	6	560
ABK	365	350	102,455	57,096	10	350
ALMUTAHED	540	520	36,526	19,305	11	530
KIB	232	230	207,871	47,860	13	230
BURG	390	386	355,380	138,601	14	390
KFIN	570	560	4,682,382	2,622,146	98	560
BOUBYAN	440	430	2,876,126	1,258,508	75	440
AUB	212	208	1,674,805	349,323	43	208





## BMW X6: A COMPELLING FUSION OF DYNAMICS, COMFORT AND ATHLETICISM

**KUWAIT:** Equipped with an even more potent design presence and outstanding performance, the new BMW X6 strengthens its position as a leading exponent of exclusive driving pleasure.

The ongoing evolution of the Sports Activity Coupe concept has enabled the new BMW X6 to offer an even broader variety of qualities than its predecessor. Enhanced dynamics go hand in hand with improved efficiency, the car's sporting prowess and versatility have been optimised, as have ride comfort and safety, the cabin ambience has gained in luxury and interior functionality has also been taken to the next level. Much of the credit for this eye-catching progress across all areas goes to the targeted advances in chassis technology made with the new BMW X6 and a body structure rooted in the principle of intelligent lightweight design.

Inside, the new BMW X6 combines generous space with model-specific sports features and a luxurious ambience. Its attractive design and equipment packages further highlight the exclusive style of the new BMW X6. Overall, the interior of

the new BMW X6 creates the perfect environment for a supreme driving experience cloaked in an air of luxury.

The new BMW X6 additionally comes with a suitably exclusive roster of standard equipment which goes well beyond that of the previous model: bixenon headlights, 19-inch light-alloy wheels, automatic tailgate operation and the 8-speed Steptronic sport transmission with steering wheel shift paddles are all included, as are leather trim, two-zone climate control, auto-dimming rear-view mirror and the Driving Assistant safety package from BMW Connected Drive.

### Extrovert athleticism

The design of the new BMW X6 creates an unmistakably athletic appearance. The long bonnet, long wheelbase, short front overhang and set-back passenger compartment are characteristic design features of a BMW. Its high window sill and large wheel arches, plus the short distance between the front axle and the instrument panel, all point to stability, highlight-

ing the Sports Activity Coupe's ties to the BMW X model family.

The high seating position of the new BMW X6 is joined by high-quality materials and elaborately sculpted surfaces to create a luxurious cabin ambience. The sense of exclusive sportiness is generated by the driver-oriented design of the cockpit, the innovative control and display elements, and lines that streak dynamically from the instrument panel into the door panels to form a ring around the interior. Simply put, the dynamic proportions and flowing lines symbolise its sporty, agile handling on the road. On the other hand, the muscular and robust aspects of the car's design point to its versatility and appetite for action off the beaten track.

### Majestic performance

Another feature of the trailblazing concept behind the new BMW X6 is its powertrain technology. Combining enthralling performance with exemplary efficiency, its noticeably increased performance now comes with a fuel efficiency of up

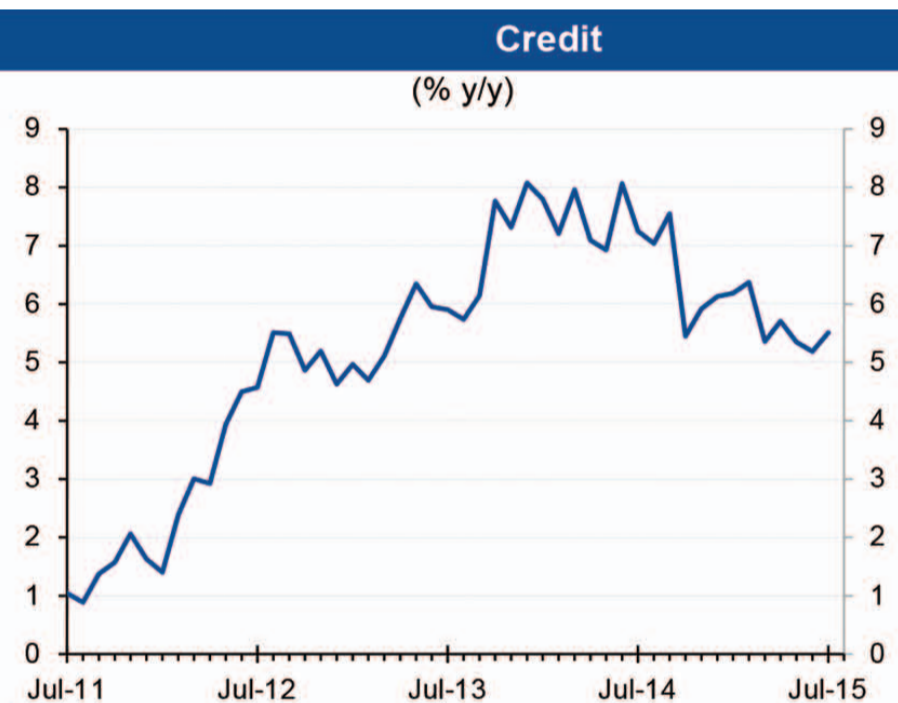
to 22 per cent reduction in average fuel consumption. This is mainly due to the BMW TwinPower Turbo technology boasting both increased output and reduced fuel consumption and emissions, the standard-fitted eight-speed Steptronic sport transmission fresh from an intensive course of further development, extensive BMW EfficientDynamics technology, the latest version of the BMW xDrive intelligent all-wheel-drive system. weight-saving optimisations and enhanced aerodynamics on the new BMW X6.

The standard - and permanently active - intelligent all-wheel-drive system, BMW xDrive, optimises traction, directional stability and cornering dynamics as the situation requires. For improved dynamics, xDrive can optionally link up with adaptive suspension packages, including Dynamic Performance Control.

BMW X6 is available at Ali Aghanim & Sons Automotive Company's showroom in Shuwaikh, the exclusive importer for BMW, MINI and Rolls-Royce Motorcars in Kuwait.

## KUWAIT'S CREDIT GROWTH RISE TO 5.5% IN JULY

### NBK'S ECONOMIC REPORT



**KUWAIT:** Credit down in July, though growth rose to 5.5% y/y on basis effects. Total credit declined by a net KD 133 million during the month. The main source of weakness in July was a drop in lending for securities purchases, which reversed a large gain the month before. Nonbank credit also saw a larger decline than usual. These were partly offset by relative strength in household borrowing, and lending to the real estate and trade sectors. Private deposits saw large withdrawals on the month, with money supply growth picking up despite the decline. Meanwhile, interbank and deposit rates held steady.

Despite the weaker July credit figures, we still appear to be seeing an accelerating growth trend since the start of 2015; annualized growth in total credit during the three months through July stood at 6.9% compared to a low of 2.2% in December 2014.

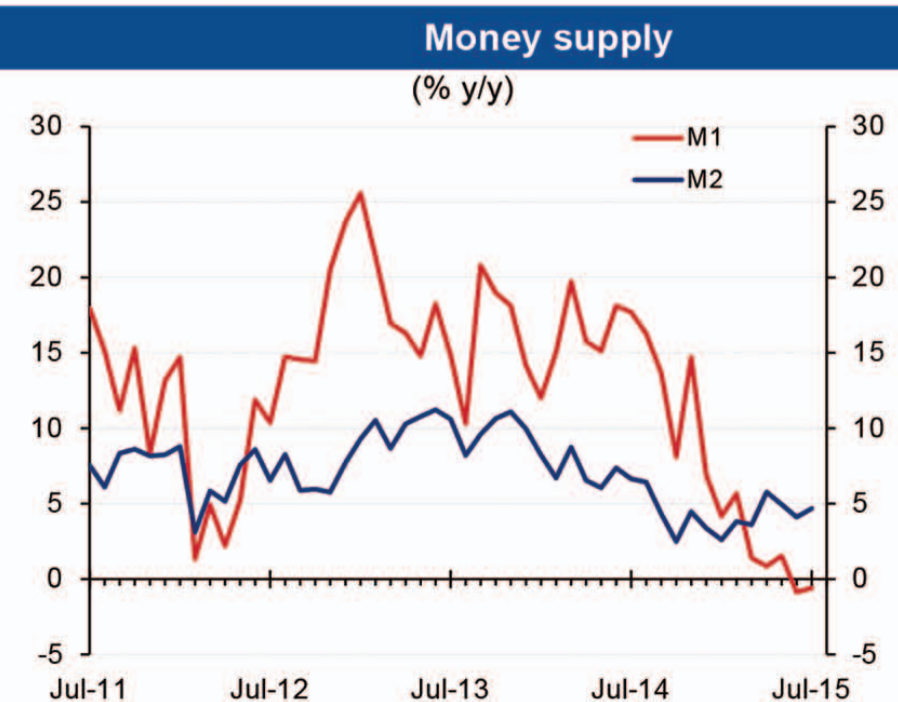
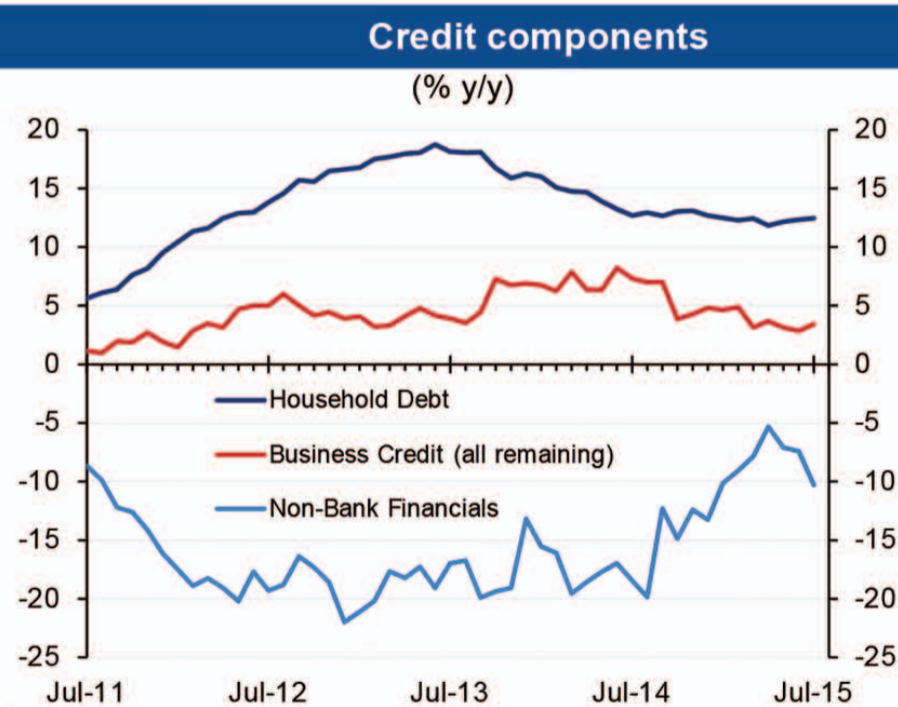
Household borrowing growth remained healthy, though the monthly gain of KD 79 million was slightly weaker than recent trends. Still, growth accelerated to 12.5% y/y. The monthly gain came from installment loans, while consumer loans saw a small decline. Household borrowing remained the largest contributor to credit growth in 2015, accounting for more than half of the gains.

Credit to non-bank financial companies saw a relatively large decline, closing KD 69 million, the largest in 18 months. The sector's credit was down 10.3% y/y.

All remaining credit declined by KD 143 million, though growth rose to 3.4% y/y. The bulk of the decline was in lending for the purchase of securities, which was down by KD 222 million. Gains in the trade, real estate, and construction sectors helped offset some of the decline. Taken alone, business credit excluding securities saw a healthy gain, with credit growth rising to 4.5% y/y.

Private deposits saw a large KD 453 million decline in July. This was likely due to the summer travel season, though the decline was smaller than last year's. Money supply (M2) growth still rose to 4.7% y/y. The decline in deposits was in both dinar (-KD 315 million) and foreign currency deposits (-KD 138 million). There was also a move away from KD sight and savings deposits towards KD time deposits. Narrower money supply (M1) was still down 0.6% y/y due to a basis effect as a result of last year's introduction of the new paper currency, which temporarily increased the amount of currency in circulation.

Average customer deposit rates on dinar time deposits, and interbank rates were steady in July. Average rates on the 1-month, 3-month, and 6-month time deposits were steady at 0.61%, 0.77%, and 0.97%, while 12-month rates added one basis point to settle at 1.21%. KD interbank rates held steady at 1.00%, up 21 basis points year-to-date.



Source: Central Bank of Kuwait

## MODI PUSHES 'OBSOLETE' MADE-IN-INDIA PLANE ON RELUCTANT MILITARY

**NEW DELHI:** India's government has turned down the military's request to expand the acquisition of 36 fighter planes from Dassault Aviation SA to plug vital gaps, officials said, nudging it to accept an indigenous combat plane 32 years in the making.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's decision, in line with his Make-in-India policy to encourage domestic industry, is a blow for not only the French manufacturer but also others circling over the Indian military aviation market worth billions of dollars. The push for India's struggling Tejas light combat aircraft (LCA) also comes at a time when the air force is at its weakest operational strength since the 1962 war against China, which is causing anxiety within military circles.

Since it took over last year, the Modi administration has repeatedly said its overriding goal is to cut off the military's addiction to foreign arms which has made it the world's top importer.

The air force wanted the government to clear an additional 44 Rafale medium multirole aircraft on top of the 36 that Modi announced during a visit to Paris this year that are to be bought off-the-shelf to meet its urgent requirements. But a defence ministry official said that Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar had told the air force that there weren't enough funds to expand the Rafale acquisition and that it must induct an improved version of the indigenous Tejas-Mark 1A. "The IAF (air force) needs to have a minimum number of aircraft at all times. The LCA is our best option at this stage, given our resource constraints," the defence official said. "The Rafale is our most expensive acquisition. The LCA is our cheapest in the combat category."

India's air force says it requires 45 fighter squadrons to counter a "two-front collusive threat" from Pakistan and China. But it only has 35 active fighter squadrons, parliament's defence committee said in a report in April citing a presentation by a top air force officer. With the drawdown of Soviet-era MiG 21 planes under way, the air force would be down to

25 squadrons by 2022 at the current pace of acquisitions, it told the committee. Cleared by the government in 1983, the LCA designed by the government's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) was meant to be the backbone of the air force due for induction in 1994.

Instead, it suffered years of delay and chaos with scientists trying to build the world's most modern light combat aircraft from scratch, including the engine. Eventually they scrapped the engine, turning to GE Aviation and lowering their ambitions for a state-of-the-art fighter. So far, only one aircraft has been produced and even that is awaiting final operational clearance, now delayed to early 2016. "In January this year, they had given one LCA ... which had not completed its flight testing. They handed over the papers to us. We do not make a squadron with one aeroplane. That is where we are," said an air force officer speaking on condition of anonymity.

### SAFETY CONCERNS

An independent investigation by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India into the LCA programme identified 53 "shortfalls" in the plane. In a report in May, the auditor said that the plane wasn't as light as promised, the fuel capacity and speed were lower than required and there were concerns about safety.

Retired Air Marshal M. Matheswaran, a former deputy chief of the Integrated Defence Staff, said the LCA was obsolete. "It is a very short-range aircraft which has no relevance in today's war fighting scenarios. If you are trying to justify this as a replacement for follow-on Rafales, you are comparing apples with oranges." He said the plane was at best a technology demonstrator on which Indian engineers could build the next series of aircraft, not something the air force could win a war with. "We would like to have the MMRCA (Medium Multi-Role Combat Aircraft) variety of aircraft. —Reuters

## TOKYO STOCKS CLOSE HIGHER AS BOJ HOLDS ON STIMULUS

**TOKYO:** Japanese stocks extended gains to a sixth session yesterday after the Bank of Japan decided to hold fire on fresh stimulus measures despite sluggish growth and stagnant prices.

The decision, after a two-day meeting, follows a string of disappointing data that have raised questions about the effectiveness of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's drive to kickstart the economy, which contracted in the second quarter of the year. Tokyo stocks recovered from losses early in the day after the International Monetary Fund cut down the country's growth forecast for 2015 and the following year. BoJ governor Haruhiko Kuroda is currently giving a press conference which investors hope will give further clues about if and when the trigger might be pulled on future stimulus.

"Expectations for further easing are deeply entrenched, leading us to a sixth consecutive day of gains," Naoki Fujiwara, chief fund manager at Shinkin Asset Management in Tokyo, told Bloomberg News. Immediately after the BOJ meeting "we saw a sharp

rise in the yen, but after that ended we're seeing buying." The central bank voted 8-1 in favour of refraining from expanding its massive easing programme.

Kozo Yamamoto, a Lower House lawmaker considered one of the architects of the government's 'Abenomics' growth blitz, said he believed additional easing was delayed because the BoJ was worried a weaker yen would hurt the country's poor.

He said the central bank should add monetary stimulus later to plug Japan's national debt, which is already more than twice as big as its gross domestic product (GDP). "I think the Japanese fiscal situation is improving at a remarkable pace because the BoJ is purchasing national bonds," Yamamoto told reporters.

On Tuesday, the IMF called on authorities to work harder to slash that debt, while warning that the economy will expand at a slower rate than previously forecast this year and next. The Washington-based Fund estimated in its latest World Economic Outlook that growth in the world's number three economy this year would hit 0.6 percent, followed by a 1.0 percent expansion in 2016.

That compares with projections earlier this year for 0.8 percent and 1.2 percent respectively, while the economy shrank 0.1 percent in 2014. In Tokyo, the Nikkei 225 index at the Tokyo Stock Exchange advanced 0.75 percent, or 136.88 points, to 18,322.98, while the broader Topix index of all first-section shares rose 1.17 percent, or 173.33 points, to 1,493.17.

In shares trading, energy firms broadly advanced on higher oil prices. Inpex went up 7.22 percent to 1,217.5 yen, Idemitsu gained 4.66 percent to 1,976 yen, and JX Holdings ended 3.01 percent higher at 477.6 yen. Nissan rose 0.25 percent to 1,173 yen on a Bloomberg News report that French automaker Renault SA is considering plans to restructure its alliance with the Yokohama-based firm. Toyota advanced 1.84 percent to 7,351 yen, while market heavyweight Fast Retailing, operator of the Uniqlo clothing chain, shed 1.56 percent to 49,800 yen. The dollar stood at 120.00 yen in early afternoon trade in Tokyo, down from 120.28 yen before the BOJ decision yesterday and from 120.21 yen in New York Tuesday. —AFP



**TOKYO:** Bank of Japan (BOJ) Governor Haruhiko Kuroda speaks to the press after a two-day policy meeting at the bank's headquarters in Tokyo yesterday. — AFP

## MIDNIGHT LAUNCH PLANNED FOR APPLE IPHONE 6S DEVICES

**KUWAIT:** Ooredoo Kuwait, a member of the international Ooredoo Group, is inviting all its customers to its official launch of Apple's iPhone 6s and iPhone 6s Plus at the Ooredoo Tower tomorrow.

To celebrate the launch of Apple's most advanced mobile and to thank its loyal customers, Ooredoo is planning an evening of exciting entertainment beginning at 2130 and extending into the early hours of Saturday morning.

The new iPhone 6s and iPhone 6s Plus will be unveiled for the first time in Kuwait on the stroke of midnight by Julian Depledge, the famous BASE jumper

who will descend from the Ooredoo Tower before sales begin.

The official Ooredoo iPhone 6s launch will be led by social media celebrity Nouha Nabil and welcome internationally acclaimed digital magician as well as other entertainers who will excite the crowd with LED shows and fire shows.

Everyone purchasing an iPhone 6s or 6s Plus at the official launch has a chance to win additional Apple accessories and receive exciting Ooredoo branded gifts.

Commenting on Ooredoo's official launch of Apple's iPhone 6s and iPhone 6s Plus, Mijbil Alayoub, Director

of Corporate Communications at Ooredoo Kuwait said: "I am looking forward to welcoming thousands of our customers to our celebration tomorrow evening. This is going to be an evening that our customers will remember for a long time - and not only because of the fantastic Apple devices that we will officially unveil for the first time in Kuwait. I do recommend that our customers arrive early to register - and also to bring their family so that everyone can enjoy the evening's activities."

Pricing and packages for the iPhone 6s and iPhone 6s Plus will be unveiled very soon!



Mijbil Alayoub

## AL-SAYER CAR RENTAL HONORS TEACHERS

AWARDS CEREMONY HELD FOR LONG TERM CUSTOMERS

**KUWAIT:** Al-Sayer Car Rental, one of the Al Sayer Group Holding Companies held a ceremony to honor teachers who have been long term customers.

As a token of gratitude towards customers, awards were distributed by Paul Reynolds, COO Al-Sayer Group to Dr Ladislav Novotny & Ms Jennifer Baran, who have been long term customers with Al-Sayer for more than 17 years and 10 years respectively.

According to Mubarak Naser Al Sayer, CEO Al Sayer Group Holding "The long term customers from the Teachers segment have shown their enormous trust and continuous co-operation during the past decade."

"As a Teacher and a long term customer I have been getting the most reliable and economical package from Al-Sayer along

with their professional service and personalized care for the last 17 years" Dr. Ladislav Novotny, a Professor with Kuwait University justified his decision to be with Al-Sayer Car Rental since 1998.

"We believe in the value of education and our gratitude is always expressed through a unique tailor made package for those who are educating our future generation" Jacob T Varghese, Senior General Manager commented. Established in the year 1970, Al-Sayer Car Rental has emerged as a market leader reflecting Al Sayer Group Holding values of Best in the Business. The reputation and growth of Al-Sayer Car rental during the years

mainly due to the most economical, professional operation of car rental embedded with the most reliable Toyota & Lexus models and quality service.



Paul Reynolds COO and Jacob Varghese General Manager awarding long term customers.

## EXPECT MORE ONLINE FRAUD AS NEW CREDIT CARDS ARRIVE

**NEW YORK:** The new chip credit cards that shoppers are getting in their mailboxes may prevent criminals from stealing from stores, but many thieves are expected to move their operations online. Small businesses could be the most vulnerable.

Online fraud in the US is expected to nearly double to \$19 billion by 2018 from \$10 billion in 2014, according to Javelin Strategy & Research, a consulting company based in Pleasanton, California. In Britain, which began shifting to chip cards in 2001, online fraud rose 55 percent from 2005 to 2008, according to the UK Cards Association, an industry group.

"It's inevitable it will happen," says Steve Platt, an executive vice president at Experian, the credit reporting company. Banks and other card issuers are sending consumers the new cards because the chips embedded in them are harder to counterfeit than magnetic stripes. Issuers began sending replacement cards in the last year because, as of Oct. 1, merchants are responsible for financial losses from fraud committed with chip cards if they don't use new equipment to process chip card payments.

Small businesses are likely to be most vulnerable because many can't afford the sophisticated software big retailers use to quickly determine whether transactions are fraudulent.

Banks no longer have the liability in such cases. And there's another wrinkle that could make operating difficult for businesses that experience a lot of online fraud: Companies that exceed a limit on fraudulent transactions - usually 1 percent of their total transactions - may be barred from accepting credit cards.

People attempting to commit fraud online buy card numbers and other information from hackers who invaded computers systems at companies such as Target Corp. and Home Depot Corp. Then they use the stolen card numbers to make online purchases.

To stop the criminals, Allen Walton examines orders at his surveillance equipment company, SpyGuy Security, one by one. "We manually scan all orders for anything suspicious, like fake names, requests for overnight delivery, and high-ticket orders," says Walton, whose company is based in Dallas. He finds fraudulent orders several times a month.

The increase in online fraud is likely to happen over time, partly because the switch to chip cards is ongoing and expected to continue into 2016.

"The crooks tend to go where there's less security," says Ken Paterson, a vice president at the consulting firm Mercator Advisory Group in Maynard, Massachusetts.

Technology can help companies root out fraud with software that analyzes a number of factors in a transaction: whether shipping and billing addresses match, whether the order is placed from an unfamiliar computer or device and whether the email address associated with the order is unfamiliar. A high number of transactions in a short time is another red flag, says Tom Donlea, director of e-commerce at Whitepages, a Seattle-based company whose services include address verification for online businesses. When several suspicious factors are present, the software flags a transaction so a retailer can investigate.

EliteFixtures.com, a retailer of lighting fixtures and other products in Hillsborough, New Jersey, has built a fraud detection system that it says has almost completely eliminated fraudulent transactions.

"If someone is ordering a \$10,000 chandelier and it's going to a ZIP code where the median home price is \$130,000," says owner Steven Annese, "that doesn't make sense." — AP



Ali Al Ibrahim, Tmkeen CEO.



Ms Eman Al Awadhi, KIPCO's Group Communications

## TECH SAVVY BUSINESSES REGISTER FOR KIPCO TMKEEN AWARD FOR ENTREPRENEURS

**KUWAIT:** Registration for the first ever KIPCO Tmkeen Award for Young Entrepreneurs, which commenced in early September, has now closed. A large number of media and technology businesses applied for the award, which is a partnership between KIPCO - the Kuwait Projects Company - and the Youth Empowerment Organization (Tmkeen).

Registration, which extended for three weeks, was open to entrepreneurs aged 18-33 with existing media and technology businesses established for no longer than five years and licensed in Kuwait.

Ms Eman Al Awadhi, KIPCO's Group Communications Director, said:

"At KIPCO, we believe that the empowerment of young people is critical for the development of the nation. Our partnership with Tmkeen to launch this award has helped us reach out to the talented youth of Kuwait and encourage them to grow their passions into successful businesses. KIPCO Group representatives are looking forward to greater interaction with the applicants during the first judging round, where we will be lending Group expertise in the areas of planning, finance, technology and marketing to help the young business owners to evaluate their businesses from different angles and develop a strong plan to move forward."

On his part, Ali Al Ibrahim, CEO of the Youth Empowerment Organization, said: "The number of eligible applicants has exceeded our expectations, especially as we are targeting the media and technology sector this year. As partners with KIPCO on this project, we are delighted at the immense interest that this award has generated among the tech savvy business community in Kuwait. We sense the excitement of the applicants not only to compete for the valuable prize, but also to benefit from the expertise that KIPCO Group will be sharing with them."

The preliminary judging round will take place on October 31, where eligible applicants will give a 5-7 minute presentation to a panel of business professionals from the KIPCO Group. Based on defined business criteria, the ten applicants with the highest scores will be eligible to give a final presentation of 15 minutes before the official judging panel in early November.

KIPCO Group - Borgan Bank, OSN, Gulf Insurance Group, KAMCO Investment Company, United Real Estate, Qurain Petrochemical Industries, AUK, AUS, United Networks and Marina FM - is offering the winner a bundle of services valued at US\$100,000. The services include a wide range of financial, strategic and operational consultation sessions, market studies, insurance coverage and advertising services.

The winner of the grand prize will be announced at the opening of the Youth Empowerment Symposium on November 9.

## BURGAN BANK TO ANNOUNCE NEW WINNER OF AL THURAYA SALARY ACCOUNT DRAW

**KUWAIT:** Borgan Bank will conduct the Al Thuraya salary Account draw on Sunday October 11th in which the winner will be granted a luxurious Audi R8 car. Al Thuraya is the only salary account in Kuwait offering a quarterly draw for a chance to win 4 new Audi R8 cars in a year.

Borgan Bank's Al Thuraya Account is a salary account that provides multiple features. Every KD 10 available in the

account is a chance for customers to enter the much anticipated draw every quarter.

Customers wishing to open an Al Thuraya account can do so by simply visiting the nearest Borgan Bank branch and obtain all the necessary details, or simply call the bank's Call Center 1804080. For further information, customers can also visit the bank's website on www.borgan.com.

The new winner will be announced soon!

# Al-Thuraya

the only salary account that allows you to win 4 Audi R8 cars\* every year

1804080  
www.borgan.com

بنك بروتان  
BURGAN BANK  
driven by you

## JUDGE ORDERS BANK OF CHINA TO RELEASE COUNTERFEITERS' RECORDS

**SHANGHAI:** A New York judge has ordered the Bank of China to hand over detailed information about Chinese bank accounts used by a counterfeiting ring that allegedly sold millions of dollars of fake Gucci handbags and wallets in the US.

The decision could have far-reaching impact on the ability of US courts to extract information about criminal activity from Chinese banks, which serve as safe havens for counterfeiters and money laundering on a large scale, investigations and lawsuits in the US and Europe show.

Chinese banks have put up a fierce fight, claiming that such disclosures would be an affront to China's sovereignty. The case has drawn political attention from both sides, prompting inputs from both the Chinese Embassy in Washington and the US Justice Department.

At stake are fundamental questions about whose rules Chinese banks operating in the US must play by. Major state-run Chinese banks are frequently used by counterfeiters to move their ill-gotten gains beyond the reach of Western law enforcement, the Associated Press showed in an article this year.

China's financial system is also used to launder money, both by members of the Chinese diaspora and criminal groups of other nationalities, lawsuits and investigations in Europe and the US show. Yet under China's legal system, it's difficult to get detailed banking records that can help investigators trace the flow of criminal profits and to freeze illicit funds.

In the Gucci case, US District Judge Richard Sullivan ruled that US courts have jurisdiction over the Bank of China, which has four branches in the United States and claims to be the top choice for US dollar wire transfers to and from China. Underlying his decision was a stinging dismissal of China's legal system and existing international mechanisms for judicial information sharing.

"Forcing Gucci to initiate this process in China would be significantly less efficient, extremely time consuming, and potentially fruitless," he wrote in the Sept 29 order.

### Revealing details

Chinese banks have been facilitating payments for Chinese counterfeiters, said Geoffrey Potter, an intellectual property lawyer at New York's Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler. If the banks can be compelled to reveal details about client accounts, it will be more difficult for counterfeiters to do business. "Counterfeiting is a crime committed in order to make money," he said. "In order to get paid you need to be part of the banking system." The decision, which could be appealed, may "be helpful to other plaintiffs that want this type of information from the Bank of China in the future," said Dan Plane, an intellectual property lawyer at Simone IP Services in Hong Kong.

But he cautioned that any victory, should the judgment stand, could prove hollow. The Bank of China is likely to disclose as little information as it can, while comforting its own customers with information about how to mitigate risks that may arise from disclosure, he said.

"It gets you over the initial hump, but there are still going to be challenges, particularly in actually collecting a damages award," he said. "The biggest question of all is: Are you ever going to be able get your hands on counterfeiters' funds in the control of Chinese banks?"

Even if Gucci ultimately gets the information it wants from the Bank of China, it is likely to hit a legal firewall when it tries to collect damages, should any be awarded. Tiffany & Co., which has been mired in litigation of its own against Chinese counterfeiters, offers an instructive lesson. In two recent cases, Tiffany won large default judgments, one in June for \$52.3 million and the other in September, for \$26.5 million.

Now Tiffany faces the tricky task of actually collecting the funds from the defendants, none of whom bothered to show up in court. Most are believed to be beyond reach, in China, where U.S. court judgments have no sway. Tiffany and Gucci declined to comment. Bank of China lawyer Andrew Rhys Davies did not respond to requests for comment. — AP

## NEW AUTO SAFETY TECHNOLOGIES LEAVE DRIVERS BEWILDERED

**WASHINGTON:** Many Americans buying new cars these days are baffled by a torrent of new safety technology. Some features will automatically turn a car back into its lane if it begins to drift, or hit the brakes if sensors detect that it's about to rear-end someone else. There are lane-change and blind-spot monitors, drowsiness alerts and cars that can park themselves. Technologies once limited to high-end models like adaptive cruise control, tire-pressure indicators and rear-view cameras have become more common.

The features hold tremendous potential to reduce deaths and injuries by eliminating collisions or mitigating their severity, safety advocates say. But there's one problem: Education on how to use them doesn't come standard. Bewildered drivers sometimes just turn them

off, defeating the safety potential. "If people don't understand how that works or what the car is doing, it may startle them or make them uncomfortable," said Deborah Hersman, president of the National Safety Council. "We want to make sure we're explaining things to people so that the technology that can make them safer is actually taken advantage of."

The council and the University of Iowa, along with the Department of Transportation, are kicking off an education campaign Wednesday to inform drivers on how the safety features work. The effort includes a website, MyCarDoesWhat.org, with video demonstrations. In a survey by the university, a majority of drivers expressed uncertainty about the way many of the safety technologies work. About 40 percent reported that their vehicles had

behaved in unexpected ways. The least understood technology was adaptive cruise control, which can slow or speed up a vehicle in order to maintain a constant following distance. That technology has been available in some models for at least a decade.

The features vary from manufacturer to manufacturer, from model to model and from one options package to another.

Joe Kraemer, 70, a retired accountant from Arlington, Virginia, said the first time he drove his wife's 2015 E-Series Mercedes he nearly jumped out of his seat. He was beginning to change lanes when suddenly there was a piercing "beep beep beep beep. ..." Now when that happens, his wife tells him: "Relax. It's just that you have somebody in your blind spot and you're about to kill us." Kraemer's wife, who has

been driving for 50 years, has been back to the dealer twice for hour-long lessons on how to use the car's features.

"She's really learning a computer," he said. But as the technologies become more available in lower-priced models, dealers may not be willing to spend as much time with drivers as Mercedes has with Kraemer's wife. Owner's manuals are also falling short, safety advocates say. They have become "documents written by lawyers for lawyers," said Clarence Ditlow, executive director at the Center for Auto Safety.

"From perhaps a 50-page understandable document 20 years ago, they have gone to a 500 page opus that is intimidating to all but the most studious car buyer," he said. Some manufacturers offer CDs or DVDs on how to use safety systems, but "most of the time drivers don't actu-

ally take the time to review them," said Peter Kissinger, president of the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety. A study by the foundation of early safety technology adopters found that some drivers believed collision warning systems would brake to stop their vehicles for them, when actually the systems only alert drivers to an impending collision. It's still up to the driver to hit the brakes. "That's a dangerous scenario," Kissinger said. Some collision mitigation systems, increasing in availability, do more than warn, actually applying the brake if the driver doesn't act quickly enough. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration announced last month that it has reached voluntary agreements with 10 automakers to make automatic braking standard in their cars, although there is no timeline yet. — AP

## MICROSOFT REDEFINES THE LAPTOP WITH SURFACE BOOK

**KUWAIT:** Microsoft Corp. on Tuesday unveiled new Surface, Lumia and Microsoft Band devices, taking advantage of powerful and versatile hardware to unlock new Windows 10 experiences, including fast and secured login with Windows Hello; new Cortana2 experiences that turn Windows 10 devices into a personal assistant; improved touch and pen experiences on Surface; and Continuum for phones, which enables the new Lumia 950 and 950 XL phones to work like PCs. Showcasing the innovation possible with Windows 10, Microsoft also shared new gaming experiences from Xbox and new details on Microsoft HoloLens, the first fully untethered holographic computer.

Now running on 110 million devices around the world, Windows 10 is off to the fastest start in history - seeing upgrades at three times the rate of Windows 7 in the same time period. With more than 1.25 billion visits to the Windows Store, Microsoft announced all-new universal apps for Windows 10, including Box, Facebook, Instagram, Candy Crush Soda Saga, Flipagram, Uber, and others. These apps add to the existing Windows 10 experiences that will be available on the new Microsoft devices.

"With Windows 10 and these new Microsoft devices, you are at the center of magical new

experiences," said Satya Nadella, chief executive officer of Microsoft. "We're moving people from needing to choosing to loving Windows, and these devices promise to fuel even more enthusiasm and opportunity for the entire Windows ecosystem."

allows Surface Book to harness the full power of hardware-accelerated graphics for seamless video editing, fast rendering or immersive gaming.

The tablet that can replace your laptop just got thinner, lighter, faster

Microsoft also introduced Surface Pro 4, the thinnest, lightest and most powerful tablet that can replace your laptop. At only 8.4 mm thin, it features a stunning 12.3-inch PixelSense Display and 6th Generation Intel(r) Core m, Core i5, and Core i7 processors, enabling everyone from students to professionals to get more done on the go. Starting at \$899, Surface Pro 4 is not only 30 percent more powerful than Surface Pro 3 but also quieter, runs cooler, and is even more efficient with up to nine hours of battery life. The new Surface Pro 4 Type Cover6 takes Surface Pro 4 from tablet to laptop in an instant and features a redesigned mechanical keyboard with optimal key spacing for fast and fluid typing. Backwards compatible with Surface Pro 3, the new Surface Pro 4 Type Cover comes with an optional fingerprint reader, bringing the convenience and enterprise-grade security of Windows Hello to existing customers. The redesigned Surface Pen packs 1,024 levels of pressure sensitivity, letting you write, draw and mark documents with precision ink on one end and an eraser on the other.



Surface Book, Surface Pro 4 and new accessories are available for preorder in select markets Oct. 7, then for purchase in Canada and the United States on Oct. 26, with additional markets to follow. Full device and accessory specs are available here, here and here.

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### Surface redefines the laptop

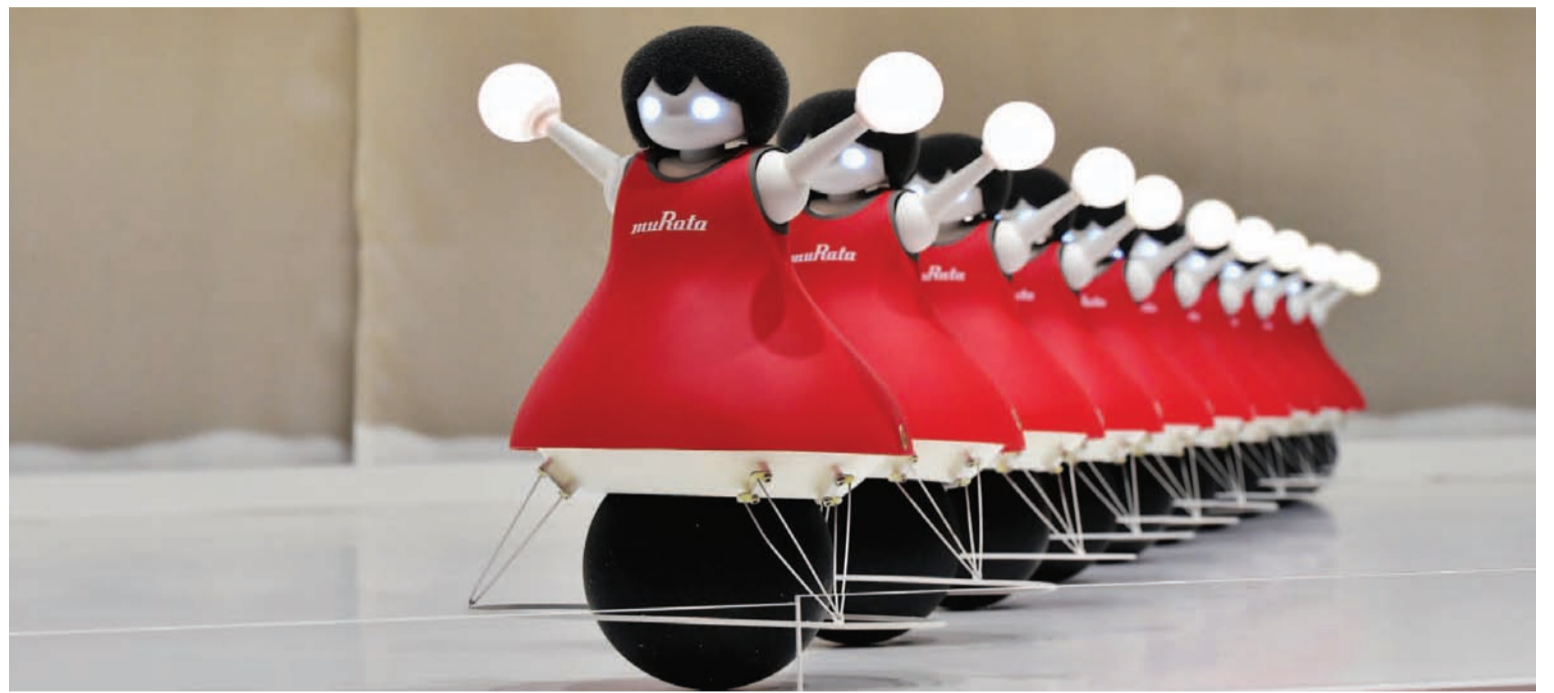
Building on its track record of pioneering new categories, Microsoft is redefining the laptop with the new Surface Book - a powerful, high-performance laptop with stunning craftsmanship and incredibly accurate and responsive pen and touch support. Ultrathin, Surface Book combines the impressive power of 6th Generation Intel(r) Core(tm) i5 and Core(tm) i7 processors with up to 12 hours of battery life. The 13.5-inch optically bonded PixelSense Display delivers a high-contrast 267 dpi display with improved latency and parallax, making it not just beautiful to look at but natural and fluid to write on. The screen also detaches, so it can be used like a clipboard to sketch, take notes and benefit from Windows programs like Microsoft Edge. An optional discrete GPU

### Lumia phones showcase power of Windows 10

The company also reinforced its commitment to mobile with the introduction of Lumia 950 and Lumia 950 XL, the first Windows 10 Lumia phones and newest premium phones from Microsoft. With more people using multiple devices throughout their day, Windows 10 provides a familiar and consistent experience that enables a seamless and productive transition from one device to another, whether PCs, tablets or the new phones. With Continuum capability for phones enhanced by the new Microsoft Display Dock accessory, connect the phone to a monitor and transform it for larger-screen entertainment, or add a keyboard and mouse to work like a PC with Windows 10 apps like Microsoft Office, while simultaneously taking calls or performing other tasks. With the latest-generation PureView cameras with 20-megapixel sensors, triple LED natural flash and 4K video capture, the Lumia 950 and Lumia 950 XL enable faster focus and crisper images and videos even in challenging conditions. Lumia 950 and Lumia 950 XL will become available in select markets in November; local retailers or operators can give pricing and availability. Full device specs are available here and here.

Lumia 550, Microsoft's most affordable 4G LTE smartphone running Windows 10, also joins the Lumia family. For people who value affordability, uncompromised quality and signature Microsoft services, Lumia 550 combines superfast Internet, the latest Qualcomm(r) Snapdragon(tm) quad-core processor with ultrafast LTE speeds, and the best of Microsoft services for just \$1395. Lumia 550 will begin rolling out in select European markets in December, with additional markets to follow. Full device specs are available here.

Achieve your fitness goals with Microsoft Band 2. The latest fitness wearable designed to help you live healthier and achieve more. The new Microsoft Band features a new curved display, making it even more comfortable to wear, and Cortana2 enables you to reply to texts or set reminders with the touch of a button. Alongside a continuous optical heart rate monitor and onboard GPS, the smart band still tracks calories burned, deep exercise and sleep quality - and now records floors climbed - all while maintaining up to two-day battery life. Microsoft Health is available as a universal Windows app, a dedicated app for iOS and Android devices, and via a Web Dashboard, all enabling people to set wellness goals and receive actionable insights.



**CHIBA:** Japan's electronic parts maker Murata Manufacturing displays a formation dance of small robots, known as the "Murata Cheerleaders," as they perform at the Ceatec electronics trade show in Chiba, suburban Tokyo yesterday. — AFP

## PING PONG ROBOT AND A MIRROR THAT DOESN'T LIE, UNVEILED IN JAPAN

CEATEC ASIA'S LARGEST ELECTRONICS FAIR

**CHIBA:** A ping pong playing robot, a flying origami bird and a mirror that some might find a little too honest for comfort were on display at a huge tech show in Japan yesterday. The gadgets are all part of this year's Cutting-edge IT & Electronics Comprehensive Exhibition (CEATEC), Asia's largest electronics fair, outside Tokyo.

Prominent among the pack was a robot arm made by automation parts maker Omron that can play-and coach humans at ping pong. "Immediately after the player hits the ball, the location of the robot's return ball is displayed on the table-tennis board, helping the player's next return," spokesman Masayuki Atsumi told AFP.

The robot uses both a camera and an array of sensors to detect the balls

movement and play a near flawless rally. The same technology can be used in vehicles to avoid collisions, said the company, which is known for its healthcare products. High above attendees, the sound of flapping wings could be heard. Rohm, a major maker of semiconductor devices and other electronic parts, had managed to create a foot-long origami crane bird, weighing just 31 grams, that can fly thanks to an ultra-light motor.

"Making everything light was a difficult part in developing this," spokesman Takumi Furukawa told AFP. The same company has also invented a sensor which can be placed in luggage to reveal whether suitcases get bashed around by handlers during flights-and reveal a suitcase's location should it get



**CHIBA:** Japan's electronics giant Kyocera demonstrates a prototype device and a smartphone that can analyse health parameters from a user's breath during Ceatec, Asia's largest electronics trade show in Chiba. — AFP



**CHIBA:** An employee of Japan's computer giant Fujitsu demonstrates a prototype of the "Retissa" retinal imaging eyewear - which can project digital images onto the user's retina using laser beams for low vision patients. — AFP

lost in transit. Furukawa said the sensor was a prototype that they hoped could be commercialised by a luggage manufacturer.

Electronics giant Panasonic also displayed their vision of what a hi-tech home could look like, complete with a variety of gadgets and appliances that communicate with each other.

That includes a mirror which, when hooked up to the rest of the gadgets in the home, can display your body mass index (BMI) — a measure of body fat based on height and weight-when a user sits down in front of it. The mirror can also gauge how healthy your skin is as well as overlay virtual cosmetics on a user's face to help guide their morning make-up routine after a

regret-tinged night on the tiles.

The same home also boasted a dining room table and window which can react to conversations-displaying, for example, images of a recent trip a family might have taken once they start talking about it. Company spokesman Daisuke Uehara said their presentation was an idea of what a home might look like in 2018-20.

"There are no concrete commercialisation plans but we already have this technology to realise if customers wanted it," he said. About 530 companies are taking part in the trade show, around one quarter foreign exhibitors from 19 countries and regions, led by China, Taiwan and the United States. — AFP

## EMC AND IDC SHOWCASE FOUNDATION FRAMEWORK FOR THE SMART CITY

**DUBAI:** EMC Middle East and International Data Corporation (IDC) yesterday released a white paper that provides deep insights designed to empower governments around the world and in the region to aid the transformation of their urban centers into Smart Cities.

The whitepaper comes at a time where the rapid pace of urbanization, coupled with the digital transformation characterized by the pervasive adoption of information and communication technology (ICT) among individuals, businesses, and governments, are driving the social and economic transformation of cities around the world. A recent United Nations (UN) report predicts that, by 2050, nearly 70% of the world's population will be concentrated in urban centers; the GCC countries are widely expected to have one of the highest urbanization rates in the world, ranging from 80% to 100%.

EMC aims to provide a Smart City platform that is open, agile, software-defined and data analytics driven which deliver the speed, performance and scalability needed for hyper-connected,

data-driven cities. Comprising three critical layers, the EMC Federation Smart City platform brings together best-of-breed technologies from EMCII, VMware, VCE, Pivotal, RSA and Virtu stream. The EMC Federation Smart City Platform provides leading edge technologies to host the applications of today and to enable the development of Cloud Native applications which will enable the Cities to accelerate innovation adoption, deliver superior, fast and personalized Citizens and businesses experience and achieve agility and sustainability.

The whitepaper provides essential guidance to all stakeholders within the smart city ecosystem, outlining the benefits, the key ICT building blocks of a smart city and the significant role of ICT innovation. The research shares insights into the effective deployment of a comprehensive set of transformation technologies including cloud, big data analytics, data lakes, and security to build the agile, data-driven cities of tomorrow. Citing the need for a strong, collaborative ecosystem of stakeholders, the research also outlines a Smart City maturity mod-

el2 that can be used to assess a single Smart City stakeholder or project or multiple stakeholders within the city ecosystem. IDC provides insight on the five stages of maturity of a Smart City each based on the evaluation of ICT readiness, government processes, coordination, collaboration and data governance.

IDC predicts that by 2020, the world will see more than 30 billion connected devices forming the internet of things ecosystem and all the apps and devices

creating as much as 44 zettabytes of data (or 44 trillion gigabytes) in the digital universe. This transformation will lead to a data-driven software-defined world in which every "Smart device" will be receiving or transmitting vast amounts of data. The GCC region is already witnessing the innovation-powered transformation of cities across the region. In Saudi Arabia, cities such as Jeddah, Makkah and Riyadh have been earmarked for modernization.



## A LOOK AT EFFORTS TO LEGALIZE PHYSICIAN-ASSISTED DEATHS

**SAN DIEGO:** California's governor has signed a bill that will give the terminally ill in the nation's most populous state the right to end their lives with drugs prescribed by a doctor. Right-to-die advocates have been pushing for decades to get such legislation passed in the state and say Monday's signing is a major victory that could spur other states to follow suit. Opponents disagree and are launching a drive for a referendum to overturn the law.

They say similar bills in numerous states have stalled. The Catholic Church and advocates for people with disabilities say it legalizes premature suicide and puts terminally ill patients at risk for coerced death. California is the fifth state to allow doctors to assist such deaths. Here is a look at the states where the practice is legal.

### Which state has the longest history with such a law?

After a ballot initiative went into effect in 1998, Oregon became the first state to make it legal for a doctor to prescribe a life-ending drug to a terminally ill patient of sound mind

who makes the request. Another ballot initiative in neighboring Washington made it legal in that state in 2008. In Montana, a 2009 state Supreme Court ruling found that nothing in state law expressly prohibits physician-assisted suicide, and that doctors could use a patient's request for life-ending medication as a defense against criminal charges. Since then, the state Legislature has rejected bills each session that would either prohibit physician-assisted suicide or explicitly legitimize it in state law. In 2013, Vermont's legislature became the first in the nation to adopt it through legislation and not voter referendum.

### How many have opted for physician-assisted deaths?

Since it was enacted, more than 850 people in Oregon have used the law to die as of Dec 31, 2014. In Vermont, six people had requested life-ending drugs and lawmakers said they had not detected any abuse of the law. In Montana, no state agencies track how often it happens since it falls into a legal gray area. In Washington, 656 people have died

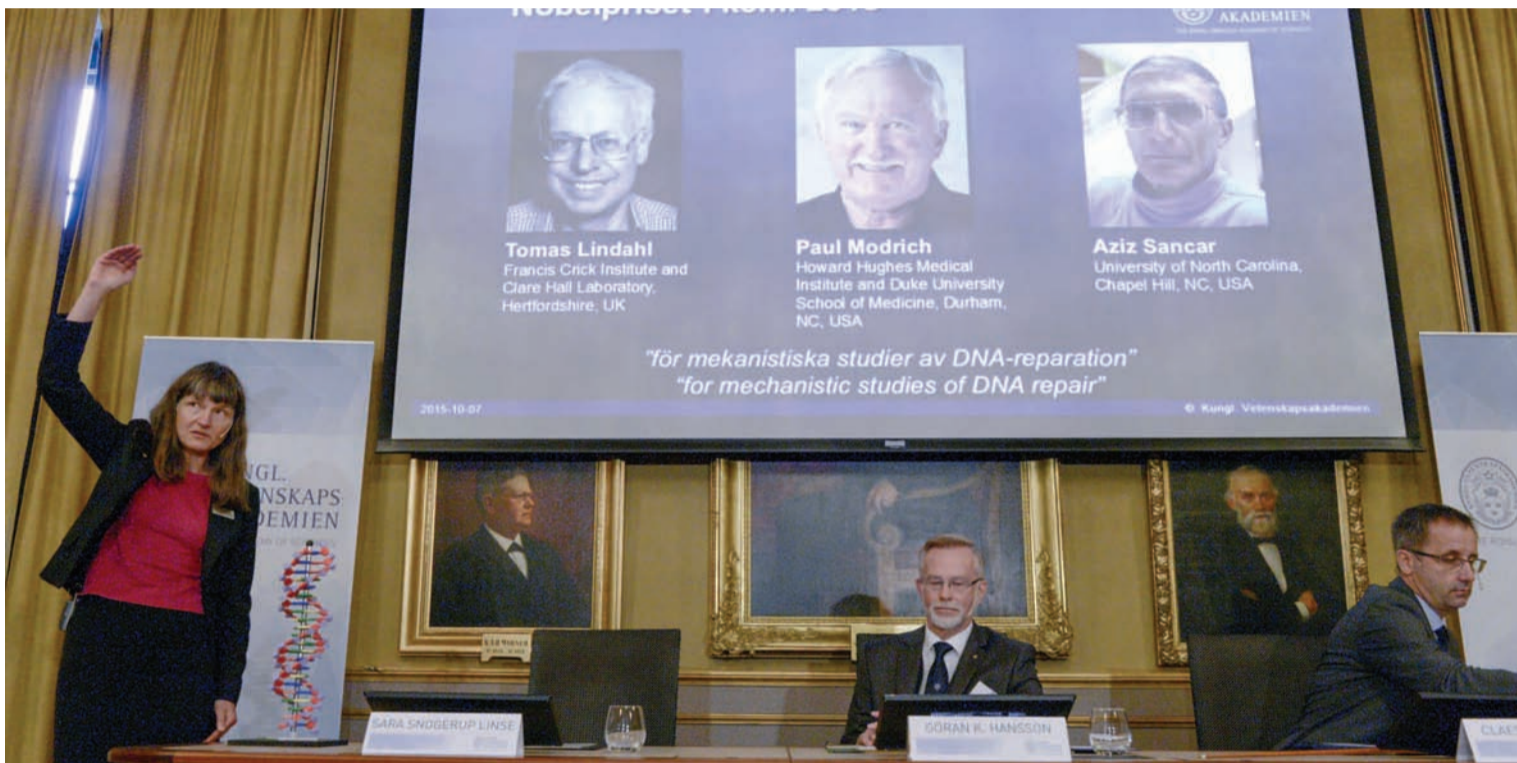
after receiving a prescription for the drugs since 2009. Of those, Washington officials have verified 485 of them took the drugs, another 59 cases have not been confirmed and the rest died from health problems before taking their prescription.

### What do we know about residents who have chosen this option?

Of the 155 patients for whom prescriptions were written last year, 94 ingested the medication and died and 37 died from their health problems before taking the drug. The median age of the deceased is 71. About 90 percent of those patients died at home and all had some form of health care insurance, although the number of patients who had only Medicare or Medicaid was higher than in previous years. Three of the patients who died during 2014 were referred for formal psychiatric or psychological evaluation. Prescribing physicians were present at the time of death for 14 of the 105 patients. The median age of the deceased is 71. The patient must swallow the drug without help; it is illegal for a doctor to administer it. — AP



**SACRAMENTO:** In this Sept 9, 2015, file photo, Debbie Ziegler holds a photo of her late daughter, Brittany Maynard, as she receives congratulations from Ellen Pontac, (left) after a right-to-die measure was approved by the state. — AP



**STOCKHOLM:** (Left to right) Sara Snogerup Linse, Chairman of the Nobel Committee for Chemistry, Goran K Hansson, Secretary General of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences and Claes Gustafsson, member of the Nobel Committee for Chemistry, are seen in front of a screen displaying the portraits of the winners of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2015 (Left to right) Sweden's Tomas Lindahl, Paul Modrich of US and Turkish-American Aziz Sancar during a press conference at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences. — AFP

## TRIO WINS NOBEL CHEMISTRY PRIZE FOR DNA REPAIR WORK

BREAKTHROUGH DISCOVERIES IN CANCER DEVELOPMENT AND AGEING

**STOCKHOLM:** Sweden's Tomas Lindahl, Paul Modrich of the US and Aziz Sancar, a Turkish-American, won the 2015 Nobel Chemistry Prize yesterday for work on how cells repair damaged DNA. The three opened a dazzling frontier in medicine by unveiling how the body repairs DNA mutations that can cause sickness and contribute to ageing, the Nobel jury said.

"Their systematic work has made a decisive contribution to the understanding of how the living cell functions, as well as providing knowledge about the molecular causes of several hereditary diseases and about mechanisms behind both cancer development and ageing," the panel said. DNA-deoxyribonucleic acid is the chemical code for making and sustaining life.

Cells divide, or replicate, billions of times through our lifetime. Molecular machines seek to copy the code perfectly, but random slipups in their work can cause the daughter cells to die or malfunction. DNA can also be damaged by strong sunlight and other environmental factors. But there is a swarm of proteins - molecular

repair kit - designed to monitor the process. It prods reads the code and repairs damage.

The three were lauded for mapping these processes, starting with Lindahl, who identified so-called repair enzymes - the basics in the toolbox. Sancar discovered the mechanisms used by cells to fix damage by ultraviolet radiation. Modrich laid bare a complex DNA-mending process called mismatch repair.

### Eternal life?

"The basic research carried out by the 2015 Nobel laureates in chemistry has not only deepened our knowledge of how we function, but could also lead to the development of lifesaving treatments," the Nobel committee said. With cells able to repair themselves, one could ponder the dizzying possibility that humans could go on living forever. "No, I don't believe in eternal life," Lindahl, who is based in Britain, told reporters at the prize announcement, saying winning the prestigious honor was "a surprise". Other scientists heaped praise on

Lindahl for his pioneering work. They included Britain's prestigious Royal Society, of which he is a fellow, and British biochemist Sir Tim Hunt, who co-won the 2001 Nobel for cell duplication. "This is wonderful news!" Hunt told the Science Media Centre (SMC) in London. "Tomas was my boss for almost 20 years, a real scientist's scientist... (a) richly-deserved prize."

It is the seventh time DNA research has been honored with a Nobel prize. The first was in 1962, for the discovery of the structure of DNA. Lindahl, Modrich and Sancar share the prize sum of eight million Swedish kronor (around \$950,000 or 855,000 euros). Lindahl, 77, is the emeritus director of Cancer Research UK at Clare Hall Laboratory in Britain. Modrich, born in 1946, is also a professor of biochemistry, at Duke University in the US. Sancar, 69, was born one of eight children in the small Turkish town of Savur. He could have become a professional football player - Turkey's national junior team courted him to become their goalkeeper - but he chose to focus on his academic studies instead. — AFP

## CHINA WINS LONG-SOUGHT NOBEL PRIZE IN SCIENCE

**BEIJING:** For decades, China has yearned for a Nobel Prize in science. Now, a little-known researcher who helped develop a malaria medicine in a secret military project to assist Vietnam in its war against the US has finally won Beijing that honor. Tu Youyou (pronounced "TOO yoo-oo"), 84, who shared a medical Nobel for her work in isolating an anti-malaria medicine inspired by an ancient Chinese remedy, also became the country's first woman to win any Nobel prize.

Until the Monday announcement, Tu had never achieved much public acclaim in China for her part in the 1971 discovery, and never was accepted into the

country's prestigious national academy of science despite several attempts. But her breakthrough with the Nobel has drawn jubilant congratulations, sent her name trending on social media and drawn praise for the country's medical research.

Premier Li Keqiang congratulated Tu for winning the award, as did Vice Premier Liu Yandong, who is in charge of China's education, science and research. The award also has revived memories of a time when collective action was paramount in China, and has raised questions about how much the single researcher should be credited for work that was part of a massive

government project. Tu appeared on state broadcaster CCTV to say the award was a "great honor," while declining to take all of the credit for her work in discovering artemisinin and dihydroartemisinin, extracted from sweet wormwood, or *Artemisia annua*. "The successful finding of artemisinin is the collective achievement of the research team, and it is a collective honor for all Chinese scientists," Tu said.

### Intellectuals were belittled

As a junior researcher, Tu was recruited by the Chinese government to work on a secretive military project in 1969 to find anti-malaria drugs. Known as Project 523, it was launched two years earlier at the request of North Vietnam, which was at war with the United States but losing its soldiers to the disease. The project also coincided with China's Cultural Revolution, when intellectuals were belittled and education and research trampled on. Tu and her teammates combed through ancient medicine books, herbal therapies and folk remedies before they compiled 640 medical treatments.

The team conducted research on more than 200 of the herbal medicines and later focused on sweet wormwood - a remedy cited originally in a Chinese text by the fourth century pharmacist Ge Hong. They found that a compound extracted from the wormwood was effective in treating malaria. The team later purified the compound in crystal forms, which came to be known as artemisinin. As a group leader, Tu got to report on the findings, which were deemed collective work without having credit assigned to individual researchers. In 2007, two researchers at the US National Institutes of Health delved into the history of the discovery of artemisinin and concluded that the major credit should go to Tu, who realized that high-temperature extractions could damage the active ingredient and switched instead to ether extraction at lower temperatures. — AP



**BEIJING:** This photo taken in the 1950s and released by Xinhua News Agency on Monday Oct 5, 2015 shows Tu Youyou, (right) a pharmacologist with the China Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences in Beijing, working with Prof Lou Zhenen to study traditional Chinese medicine. — AP

## HARVARD'S DEBATE TEAM LOSES TO PRISON INMATES

**BOSTON:** Months after winning a national title, Harvard's debate team has fallen to a group of New York prison inmates. The showdown took place at the Eastern New York Correctional Facility, a maximum-security prison where convicts can take courses taught by faculty from nearby Bard College, and where inmates have formed a popular debate club. Last month, they invited the Ivy League undergraduates and this year's national debate champions over for a friendly competition.

The Harvard debate team also was crowned world champions in 2014. But the inmates are building a reputation of their own. In the two years since they started a debate club, the prisoners have beaten teams from the US Military Academy at West Point and the University of Vermont. The competition with West Point, which is now an annual affair, has grown into a rivalry.

At Bard, those who help teach the inmates aren't particularly surprised by their success. "Students in the prison are held to the exact same standards, levels of rigor and expectation as students on Bard's main campus," said Max Kenner, executive director of the Bard Prison Initiative, which operates in six New York prisons. "Those students are serious. They are not condescended to by their faculty."

### Phenomenally intelligent

Students on the Harvard team weren't immediately available for comment, but

shortly after the loss, they posted a comment on a team Facebook page. "There are few teams we are prouder of having lost a debate to than the phenomenally intelligent and articulate team we faced this weekend," they wrote. "And we are incredibly thankful to Bard and the Eastern New York Correctional Facility for the work they do and for organizing this event."

Against Harvard, the inmates were tasked with defending a position they opposed: They had to argue that public schools should be allowed to turn away students whose parents entered the US illegally. The inmates brought up arguments that the Harvard team hadn't considered. Three students from Harvard's team responded, and a panel of neutral judges declared the inmates victorious.

"The fact that we won is nice, but it isn't the most important thing," said Kenner, adding that the club is meant to help students articulate what they've learned. Inmates can earn various degrees through the initiative, which is taught primarily by Bard faculty. About 15 percent of the all-male inmates at the Eastern New York Correctional Facility in Napanoch are enrolled. Graduates of the program have continued their studies at Yale and Columbia universities, Kenner said. While in prison, they learn without the help of the Internet, relying instead on resources provided by the college. "They make the most of every opportunity they have," Kenner said. — AP



**HONG KONG:** This handout photograph taken and released by Ocean Park yesterday shows giant panda Ying Ying eating in a back-of-house area at Ocean Park. — AFP

## HONG KONG PANDA YING YING LOSES CUB

**HONG KONG:** Hong Kong panda Ying Ying has lost the long-awaited cub she was expecting, vets said yesterday. It would have been the first ever giant panda born in the city. After years of trying, 10-year-old Ying Ying began to show signs of pregnancy in July and was due to give birth this week. The pregnancy came after several attempts, both natural and artificial, at insemination. But animal carers at Hong Kong's Ocean Park, where Ying Ying lives, announced yesterday that she had miscarried the cub. "Unfortunately we have sad news to share," Ocean Park vet Lee Foo Khong told reporters. "Based on recent scans, the pregnancy is no longer viable."

Lee said that scans taken yesterday

morning showed the fetus had stopped developing.

"The structure was no longer distinct... it was breaking down," Lee said. He added they had not determined the reason for the failed pregnancy. Panda pregnancies are fragile and vets had already warned when the imminent birth was announced last week that it was possible Ying Ying could reabsorb or miscarry the fetus. A team of specialists had been assigned to keep an eye on her around the clock and park managers had sought to protect her from noise and disturbance. Female pandas are only interested in mating for three days a year, and have a gestation period of three to five months. — AFP

# GERMAN WOMAN DIES FROM JELLYFISH STING

**BANGKOK:** A 20-year-old German woman died at a popular Thai resort island after being stung by a box jellyfish, police said yesterday, the third reported fatality in Thailand in 14 months from one of the world's most toxic jellyfish. Police Lt Col Thewet Pruemsut said the woman was taking an evening swim Tuesday when she was stung by the jellyfish, whose sting can kill an adult within minutes. A friend of the woman, also a

German tourist, was stung on the hand by a jellyfish but survived, he said.

The other two recent deaths from box jellyfish occurred at another popular island in the Gulf of Thailand, Koh Phangan, known for the infamous Full Moon Party. A Thai woman died there after being stung this past August, while a 5-year-old French boy died from a sting in August 2014. Police on Samui met yesterday with business owners and municipal officials to discuss how to prevent future casualties from box jellyfish, which are not common to most parts of Thailand.

"Business owners are afraid that putting up warning signs would reduce the number of tourists, but we explained the necessity of this practice," Thewet said. He said that jellyfish are typically found in Thai waters during the rainy season, which runs roughly from June through

October. Thon Thamrongnawasawat, a marine biology expert and vice dean of the fisheries department at Bangkok's Kasetsart University, said that in the past seven years the numbers of box jellyfish in Thailand have increased due to several factors, including global warming, waste released from the shore that attracts jellyfish seeking food into shallow waters, and a decline in the numbers of sea turtles that eat jellyfish.

Unlike many other jellyfish, box jellyfish do not float on the sea surface but swim deeper and are harder to see, he said, making it advisable not to swim at night. Box jellyfish have tentacles that can reach 3 meters long. The sting is so excruciating that many victims go into shock and drown. Those who make it out of the water often die from the venom, which quickly attacks the heart and nervous system. — AP

# LUXURY BIRTHING CLINICS SPUR CESAREAN 'EPIDEMIC' IN BRAZIL

**RIO DE JANEIRO:** Thais Faria sank into a leather love seat, relaxing under the ministrations first of a masseuse, then a manicurist and finally a hairdresser-cum-make-up artist. Not 24 hours after her daughter was born via cesarean, Faria was being pampered at an upscale Rio de Janeiro maternity clinic. Cesarean births aren't typically associated with luxury. But the procedures have become de rigueur among Brazil's wealthy, with new mothers at some high-end clinics enjoying beauty treatments after the operation in a culture that has come to regard births as glamorous social events - equal parts spa, cocktail party and family get-together. In private clinics nationwide, C-sections account for more than eight of every 10 births.

Authorities want to turn the tide on what Health Ministry officials have called an "epidemic" of cesarean births in the country, with Brazil now the world's No. 2 recipient of C-sections, second only to China in raw numbers. They have designed new rules aimed at discouraging the procedure when it's medically unnecessary, saying C-sections dramatically raise the risk of respiratory problems for the infant and death for the mother.

### Status symbols

C-sections aren't more costly than natural births, but many Brazilian doctors prefer to perform surgeries, which end up being more lucrative and more convenient over the long run because they can be scheduled during regular work hours. The vast majority of Brazil's mothers-to-be also prefer C-sections, which have become something of a status symbol. Even in the country's poor public hospitals, where any Brazilian can seek free health care, C-sections represent around 40 percent of deliveries - more than the United States' 33 percent cesarean rate, which public health experts consider high. In France, C-sections account for around 20 percent of births; in Sweden, 17 percent.

"The very special first meeting of mother and child has been transformed into a party. And any party has to have a specific time and place, so hence the cesareans," said Dr. Marcos Dias, a Rio

obstetrician who advocates natural childbirth.

At the Perinatal private clinic, where Faria gave birth to her first child, women reserve their spot upon learning of their pregnancies, booking their cesareans months in advance. Fridays are the most popular, because they allow for weekend visits by friends and family.

Ostensibly aimed at bolstering new mom's self-esteem, Shiatsu massages, mani-pedis and makeovers to prepare fatigued new mothers for their close-ups are included in the standard package at the Perinatal. With its uniformed bellhops pushing luggage-laden roller carts and a cafe serving flutes of Champagne, the clinic more resembles a boutique hotel than a hospital.

In clinics like Perinatal, most new mothers have medical insurance that cover the \$4,200 price tag of the C-sections, plus a three-day stay in a private room. But that cost can rise considerably. Women with deep pockets can also choose from a selection of pricey extras including personalized room decorations that average about \$400, camera and video crews to document the big event and in-room catered buffets costing about \$200-\$400. For an extra \$270, they can rent the Cine Perinatal, a private room where up to 14 guests can follow the birth on a giant flat screen TV as they nibble on hors d'oeuvres. The clinic's seven deluxe suites aren't covered by health insurance plans and run an extra \$500 for the standard three-night stay.

### 'Part of the package'

New mother Faria chose a deluxe suite and also splurged on personalized decorations. Pink bears that held balloons emblazoned with newborn Rafaella's name decorated the two-room suite. Bears concocted of pink sugar sat atop a multi-tiered cake, the centerpiece of a spread that included bottles of bubbly, their labels papered over with pink stickers reading "Rafaella." "The birth of your child is such a special event, it's only natural that you want it to be perfect," said Faria, a 29-year-old dentist whose long, perfectly blown out locks and natural-look makeup belied the fact she'd undergone major surgery a day before. — AP



MANILA: Environmentalists from different climate activist organizations display placards during a briefing. — AFP

# CLIMATE-LINKED INSURANCE AN ADVANTAGE FOR POOR FARMERS

## SCHEMES HELPING FARMERS AGAINST BAD HARVESTS

**PARIS:** Poor farmers the world over are increasingly falling prey to natural disasters, droughts and torrential rain largely due to climate change. But there is some good news as well. Thanks to new technologies, the widespread use of satellites, and more powerful computers such events can largely be predicted in advance, thus making possible novel and more efficient insurance schemes for those at risk.

In earlier times, a natural disaster or sustained inclement weather would be followed by a tedious and lengthy insurance process with an expert being sent out to a farm to inspect the damage: too costly in poor or emerging countries where small holdings are often located in the back of beyond. But all that is in the past. Now climate-linked insurance schemes are increasingly helping protect poor farmers against bad harvests.

These so-called index-insurance schemes differ from traditional indemnity coverage in that they are based on factors such as rainfall rather than actual measured loss, and kick in the moment a threshold fixed in advance is breached.

One key advantage is that the transaction costs are lower, making index insurance financially viable for private-sector insurers and affordable to small farmers. This is critical for vulnerable growers whose fortunes are waning by the day. "For many farmers, climate change means basic-

ly more bad years," said Daniel Osgood, an expert on index-linked insurance at Columbia University. "For them, adaptation means taking advantage of the remaining years."

Index-linked insurance drastically cuts costs for farmers, giving them more spare cash for fertilizers and seeds and help them avoid penury by bypassing distressed sales of assets to escape the debt trap. "They have opportunities to improve productivity in normal years by, for example, taking a loan to improve the productivity of their seeds," Osgood said. But only a fraction of such farmers have been benefitted so far.

### 'Simple products'

"Out of 400 to 500 million farmers who are potential candidates for index-based insurance only 40 to 50 million have had coverage so far," said Gilles Galludec, the head of World Bank-run Global Index Insurance Facility. The majority of them are in emerging countries such as India where a healthy monsoon is vital for the agriculture sector and China, Mexico, Brazil, Kenya, Ethiopia and Senegal.

Pilot projects have multiplied in the past 15 years. In Kenya and Rwanda, 230,000 farmers and maize, sorghum, coffee and wheat cultivators have taken advantage of the scheme to protect themselves against drought, excessive rain and storms. On an average, such farmers have been

able to invest 19 percent more in their farms and earned 16 percent more than those who did not enjoy such insurance cover.

"We wanted simple products with a simple message," said Benjamin Njenga, the head of business analysis at Acre, a Kenyan company running index insurance schemes. Their solutions are innovative. Like a farmer buying seeds in a packet with a scratch off code, the number of which is sent to insurer Acre, which can then localize the farmer and register the purchase.

If there is a compensation claim, payment is transferred directly to the farmer's mobile phone to buy a new packet. The price of index insurance plans is usually around 10 Euros (\$11) per season but can vary depending on the weather and the value of the crops grown. If the figure is too steep for some farmers, other actors can intervene to subsidize the premium, experts say, citing seed and fertilizer manufacturers and retailers, banks, farm cooperatives and even governments.

Experts also say the success of index-based insurance also hinges on trust that science is not being used to benefit one party over another and have also stressed the need for a completely neutral arbiter to determine what kind of climate variation deserves a payout. They also stress on the financial backing of governments for such schemes and a regulatory mechanism to prevent misuse. — AFP



RIO DE JANEIRO: In this Aug 2, 2012 file photo, Daniele Coelho holds her newborn daughter, Hadassa, as doctors finish her caesarean section at the Perinatal Clinic. — AP

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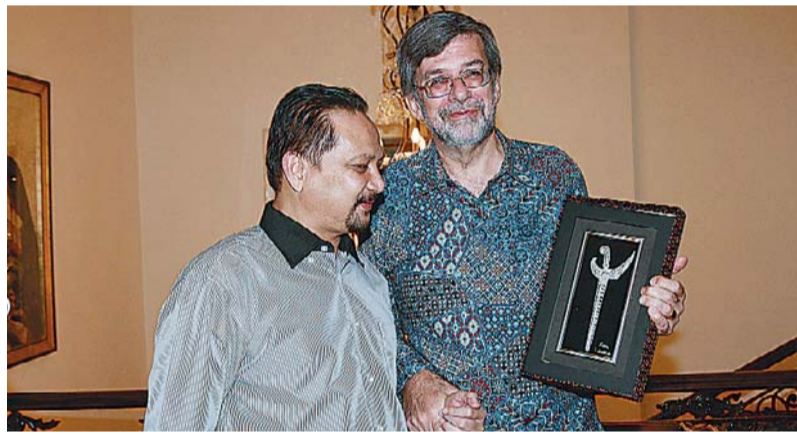
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The Armenian Embassy hosted a reception on the occasion of the National Day of Republic of Armenia at Salwa Al Sabah Hall recently. Top government officials, diplomats and members of the media attended the reception. — Photos by Joseph Shagra



Indonesian Ambassador held a farewell reception for Japanese and Swiss ambassadors. —Photos by Joseph Shagra

## KIFF KICKS OFF NEW SEASON

The European leagues have kicked off and the famed Indian Super League just opened in India. As the searing temperatures have subsided in Kuwait, the dawn has finally approached for the much anticipated KIFF season for the football loving Indian expatriate community, as the Kuwait Indian Football Federation announces the opening of the KIFF Season 2015-16 on 9 October 2015 at the Bayan Grounds. The season will kick off with the KIFF League matches and it's a treat for fans to watch their favorite team(s) battle it out in the KIFF League for the Late JP D'Mello

Memorial Rolling Trophy for season 2015-16. 16 teams grouped in 2 groups will participate in the KIFF league which will be played on a round robin league format with the top 4 teams from each group qualifying for the knockout stage. In addition to KIFF League, 11-a-side and 7-a-side tournaments pack the KIFF calendar for the season. KIFF President Derrick Gomindes along with the youthful and vibrant KIFF Managing Committee cordially invites all the former KIFF Presidents to take part in the opening ceremony at 6.30am sharp on 9

October 2015 at the Bayan Grounds. The KIFF Managing Committee also invites all the Presidents and members of the 16 affiliates to take part in the opening ceremony. KIFF season 2015-16 will be officiated by referees affiliated to KIFF under KIFF Referees Sub Committee headed by Salvador Dias, Bernard Fernandes and Robert Bernard. The KIFF Managing Committee for season 2015-16 is headed by the President Derrick Gomindes (GOA Maroons), along with Vice President Xavier Furtado (AVC), General Secretary BM Viegas (KGA -Nagoa Verna), Sports

Secretary Domnic Pereira (Curtorcares United), Treasurer Jinu Kurien (Kerala Challengers), Registrar Marshall Fernandes (YRC Rising Stars), Asst Sports Secretary Claro Fernandes (DHL), PRO Austin Abreo (Skynet Miracles FC) and Executive Member Robert Bernard (Indian Strikers). The 16 affiliates comprises of Indian Strikers FC, Santos United, Goan Overseas Association, United Goans Centre, YRC Rising Stars, Kerala Challengers, Navelim Youth Centre, Curtorcares United, Kuwait Goans Association - Nagoa Verna, FC Sparx, DHL

Football Club, AVC Overseas Sports & Cultural Association, Skynet Miracles SC, Malabar United FC, Don Bosco Oratory, and Soccer Kerala. Four matches will be held and the opener to the season will be between the defending Champions Don Bosco Oratory and the legendary GOA Maroons. The KIFF Managing Committee wishes all the 16 affiliates the very best for a grueling season 2015-2016. All the soccer loving fans are cordially invited for the opening ceremony and the games to follow during the new season. Let us all get together and chant in unison "LET'S FOOTBALL".



**T**he National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) recently opened a photography gallery for photographer Hamed Al-Ameeri, which included 80 photos reviewing the legacy of the late Sheikh Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah and his son Sheikh Salem Sabah Al-Salem and their role in building Kuwait's modern history. The inauguration ceremony was held under the auspices of Sheikh Mohammed Sabah Al-Salem.

**GIVE WINGS TO YOUR CHILD'S DREAMS - STUDY IN CANADA**

**G**links International Consultancy ([www.glinks-studyabroad.com](http://www.glinks-studyabroad.com)) with a continuous success in UAE now comes in Kuwait to help those parents who want their children to Study in Canada. Attend Glinks Seminar and Information Session on 13th Oct 2015 (Tue), Time 11 am to 6 pm at Grand Hotel Doha City Centre, Musherib Street (for location Call 4446 2222) and meet Karuna Ausman, International Student Recruitment Specialist. Canadian Institutions are recognized and respected globally for their excellence through high accreditation standards, program diversity, flexibility, research and work experience opportunities, modern facilities and top quality teachers. A degree from Canada gives students the qualifications to be internationally successful after graduation.

Choosing the best school, university and education pathway for student has always been an important and difficult task for most of the parents since kindergarten to college. If you choose the best quality of education, you may have to compromise with your budget however many of the readers might struggle to decide which country, university and course to opt. Glinks is here to take all your worries away and will provide you the best solutions. Students studying in Grade 8th onwards may visit with their parents. Discover the immense opportunities of studies, work and settlement in Canada. Hurry! Plan for next intake now! Give a Global Perspective to Your Child's Career! For details call/ whatsapp/ sms: +971 50 703 7747

**HOME CENTRE PICKS ARAB ICON NANCY AS BRAND AMBASSADOR**

**H**ome Centre, the largest home retailer in the Middle East, is proud to announce the appointment of Arab icon Nancy Ajram as their brand ambassador. This is a special announcement that comes on the occasion of Home Centre's 20th Anniversary. Speaking about the collaboration, Mederic Payne, CEO of Home Centre said: "This is an important and exciting year for Home Centre and we are very pleased to welcome Nancy Ajram to our Home Centre family. Nancy shares Home Centre's key attributes of being born in the MENA region. Her family oriented image makes

her perfectly complement a brand like ours. A well-loved celebrity with international recognition, Nancy Ajram is a household name in the Arab world. She truly represents our spirit of celebration which we want to share with our customers through our anniversary year."

Nancy Ajram spoke about her association with the region's largest home brand, "My career has always taken me far and wide, performing across the region and staying long hours out of home. So the one thing that I have always cherished is the sentiment of coming home to my family. Through the many years Home Centre has also reflected this warm feeling of making people love coming back home. I am delighted to be associated with Home Centre, a brand which touches the lives of so many people at a place that is closest to their hearts."

Nancy Ajram will be seen showcasing Home Centre's inspirational furniture pieces and elegant accessories in the brand's global campaign. The singer's graceful and glamorous appearance, will be reflected in a series of TV, print, outdoor and digital advertisements. This year's Home Centre catalogue features some of Nancy's favorite pieces from the brand's latest collections. Home Centre stores are located at Al Rai, Shuwaikh, The Avenues, Kuwait City and Fahaheel.



**GULF UNIVERSITY FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY RELEASES EXCELSIOR**

**G**ulf University for Science and Technology yesterday celebrated the release of the ninth volume of Excelsior at the A M Al-Refai Library. Excelsior is an academic platform created to showcase GUST's outstanding academic ventures. Present at the event were GUST's president, Professor Donald Bates, GUST Vice President for Academic Affairs and Acting Vice President for Planning and Development, Dr Salah Al Sharhan, the Excelsior committee members, and many of GUST's faculty, staff and students. GUST President, Professor Donald Bates said, "GUST, in its effort to showcase the university's talented individuals truly brings to life our motto of

"Premier Education". Such events encourage students to dig deep and find their creative side. Excelsior is an important output of GUST's achievements, as it furthers our attempt in honoring and supporting talent". Excelsior is an annual publication produced by students, faculty and staff at GUST. It is available at the Library for circulation on campus. The publication contains diverse collection of short stories, poetry, and art, reflecting GUST's creativity and innovation. As Kuwait's premier private university, GUST continuously strives to provide its students with the best educational environment, while encouraging their exceptional talents.



**TALABAT.COM ANNOUNCES THIRD DRAW WINNERS**

**Talabat.com**  
OUR PROUD WINNERS THIS WEEK  
AHMAD ALSHATTI

FADI MALKAWI 10000 CASH  
RAWAN AL-SULTAN TALABAT CREDIT  
FAHAD BOQAMBR AIR TICKETS  
FATEMA ALI AIR TICKETS

**A**s committed to always treat its customers and exceed their expectations with awarding prizes, Talabat.com, Kuwait's No 1 online food delivery portal is ongoing with its Out of the Box Campaign. Let's Eat... yesterday announced the third draw winners. Ahmad Al Shatti was the first winner of the mini cooper car; followed by Fadi Malkawi who won a KD 1000 cash; Fatema Fatema won tickets to Istanbul and the tickets to Dubai went to Fahad Boqambr as for the final winner Rawan Al Sultan -she was rewarded with a KD 500 Talabat.com credit.

The unprecedented new campaign keeps on attracting more participants amongst loyal customers who are in constant search for quali-

ty food in a convenient and simple way. The award-winning service provider has revolutionized the food delivery concept in Kuwait since its inception, providing an easy and simple way for users to order from any of their favorite restaurants with just a few clicks.

Now, the process has got even more tempting, with luxury cars, air tickets, cash and credit vouchers up for grabs. "As we congratulate our lucky winners, we are glad to announce that one more draw is to go on McLaren 650 S and other prizes, therefore the chance is still there for all of our customers to participate and win" said Rabih Al-Asmar, Head of Commercial and Offline Marketing. Versus each KD 1 spent by Talabat customers on any

order placed from any of the participating restaurants through Talabat.com will make them eligible for one chance to enter the weekly draw and grand prize draw

Fifty restaurants are participating in the "Let's Eat" campaign, and orders can be placed through all Talabat.com platforms, including the website, mobile site, call center and/or mobile applications. Winners will be chosen randomly by a lucky draw. The final grand draw will be held on October 14, 2015 under the supervision of Kuwait's Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The grand prize is a McLaren 650S luxury coupe, while the weekly prizes include Mini Cooper cars, KD 1,000 in cash, tickets to Istanbul and Dubai, and KD 500 in Talabat credit.

BBC lifestyle

00:05 Rachel Khoo's Kitchen
Notebook: Cosmo Cook
00:30 Masterchef: The Professionals
01:25 Bargain Hunt
02:10 Antiques Roadshow
03:05 Come Dine With Me
03:30 Hairy Dieters
04:20 Masterchef: The Professionals
05:15 Antiques Roadshow
06:10 Hairy Bikers' Bake-ation
07:00 Masterchef: The Professionals
07:55 Come Dine With Me
08:20 Fantasy Homes By The Sea
09:05 Rachel Khoo's Kitchen
Notebook: Cosmo Cook
09:30 Bargain Hunt
10:15 Antiques Roadshow
11:10 Hairy Dieters
12:00 Hairy Bikers' Bake-ation
12:50 Masterchef: The Professionals
13:45 Come Dine With Me
14:10 Fantasy Homes By The Sea
14:55 Rachel Khoo's Kitchen
Notebook: Cosmo Cook
15:20 Bargain Hunt
16:05 Antiques Roadshow
17:00 Hairy Dieters
17:50 Come Dine With Me
18:15 Building Dream Homes
19:15 Michela's Classic Italian
19:45 Bargain Hunt
20:30 Masterchef: The Professionals
21:25 The Roux Legacy
22:00 Come Dine With Me
22:25 Homes Under The Hammer
23:15 Building Dream Homes

Discovery Channel HD

00:20 Fast N' Loud
01:10 Dynamo: Magician Impossible
02:00 Chaos Caught On Camera
02:25 Chaos Caught On Camera
02:50 Head Games
03:40 Container Wars
04:05 Dallas Car Sharks
04:30 Baggage Battles
05:00 How It's Made: Dream Cars
05:30 How Do They Do It?
06:00 Ice Cold Gold
06:50 Extreme Car Hoarders
07:40 Fast N' Loud
08:30 Container Wars
08:55 Dallas Car Sharks
09:20 Baggage Battles
09:45 How It's Made: Dream Cars
10:10 How Do They Do It?
10:35 Dynamo: Magician Impossible
11:25 Chaos Caught On Camera
11:50 Chaos Caught On Camera
12:15 Head Games
13:05 Container Wars
13:30 Dallas Car Sharks
13:55 Baggage Battles
14:20 Ice Cold Gold
15:10 Extreme Car Hoarders
16:00 Fast N' Loud
16:50 How It's Made: Dream Cars
17:15 How Do They Do It?
17:40 Fire In The Hole
18:30 Fast N' Loud: Demolition Theater
19:20 Survive That!
20:10 Highway To Sell
21:00 Built To Survive
21:50 Fast N' Loud: Demolition Theater
22:40 Saint Hoods
23:30 Amish Mafia

ITV CHOICE

00:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
00:55 The Grace Helbig Show
01:25 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
02:20 El News
03:15 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
04:10 EIES
06:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
07:50 Style Star
08:20 El News
09:15 Giuliana & Bill
11:10 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
12:05 El News
13:05 WAGs
14:05 New Money
15:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
17:00 Fashion Bloggers
18:00 El News
19:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
21:00 Stewarts And Hamiltons
22:00 El News
23:00 The Soup

ITV CHOICE

00:10 The Chase
01:05 May The Best House Win
02:00 Emmerdale
02:25 Emmerdale
02:55 Coronation Street
03:25 Agatha Christie's Poirot
03:55 Murdoch Mysteries
06:10 Who's Doing The Dishes?
07:05 Coronation Street
07:30 Agatha Christie's Poirot
08:20 Who's Doing The Dishes?
10:15 I'm A Celebrity Get Me Out Of Here
11:10 Come Dine With Me Ireland
11:35 May The Best House Win
12:30 Murdoch Mysteries
13:25 Emmerdale
13:50 Eggheads
14:20 Coronation Street
14:45 The Chase
15:35 Who's Doing The Dishes?
16:30 Lewis
17:25 Tricked
18:20 Murdoch Mysteries
19:10 Coronation Street
19:35 Who's Doing The Dishes?
20:30 Lewis
21:25 Tricked
22:20 I'm A Celebrity Get Me Out Of Here
23:15 Come Dine With Me Ireland
23:40 Eggheads

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL HD

00:10 Danger Decoded
00:35 Danger Decoded
01:00 Science Of Stupid
01:30 Science Of Stupid
02:00 The Border
02:55 I Wouldn't Go In There: Ww2 Special
03:50 Danger Decoded
04:15 Danger Decoded
04:45 Beast Hunter
05:40 Wild Russia
06:35 Megastructures
07:30 Unlikely Animal Friends
08:25 Wild Scotland: The Western Isles

09:20 Beast Hunter
10:15 Engineering Connections
11:10 The Border
12:05 Malaysia From Below
13:00 To Catch A Smuggler
14:00 90s Greatest: Football Moments
15:00 Youtube Revolution
16:00 The 2000's Greatest Tragedies
17:00 Mega Bridges
18:00 I Wouldn't Go In There: Ww2 Special
19:00 Youtube Revolution
20:00 The 2000's Greatest Tragedies
20:50 Mega Bridges
21:40 I Wouldn't Go In There: Ww2 Special
22:30 Youtube Revolution
23:20 Wild Russia

OSN FIRST HD COMEDY

00:30 About A Boy
01:00 The Nightly Show With Larry Wilmore
01:30 Veep
02:00 Brickleberry
02:30 Family Guy
03:30 The Goldbergs
04:00 Mulaney
04:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
05:30 Fresh Off The Boat
06:00 Men At Work
06:30 Til Death
07:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
08:00 Mulaney
08:30 Fresh Off The Boat
10:30 Til Death
11:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
12:00 Men At Work
12:30 Mulaney
13:00 Fresh Off The Boat
13:30 Til Death
14:00 The Goldbergs
15:30 About A Boy
16:00 The Nightly Show With Larry Wilmore
16:30 Men At Work
17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
18:00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine
18:30 Cristela
19:00 Modern Family
19:30 Modern Family
20:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
21:00 About A Boy
21:30 The Nightly Show With Larry Wilmore
22:00 Veep
22:30 Brickleberry
23:00 Family Guy
23:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers

OSN FIRST HD

00:00 Tyrant
01:00 Marvel's Agents Of S.H.I.E.L.D.
02:00 The Flash
03:00 American Crime
04:00 Royal Pains
05:00 Royal Pains
06:00 Red Band Society
07:00 Glee
08:00 Chicago Fire
09:00 Royal Pains
10:00 Royal Pains
11:00 Red Band Society
12:00 Emmerdale
12:30 Coronation Street
13:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
14:00 Chicago Fire
15:00 Red Band Society
16:00 Emmerdale
16:30 Coronation Street
17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
18:00 Chicago Fire
19:00 Marvel's Agents Of S.H.I.E.L.D.
20:00 Covert Affairs
21:00 Blindspot
22:00 Empire
23:00 Mistresses

OSN FIRST MORE

00:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
01:00 Good Morning America
03:00 Bates Motel
04:00 Grimm
05:00 Good Morning America
07:00 Emmerdale
07:30 Coronation Street
08:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
09:00 Suits
10:00 Emmerdale
10:30 Coronation Street
11:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
12:00 Parenthood
13:00 Supernatural
14:00 Live Good Morning America
16:00 Suits
17:00 Parenthood
18:00 Supernatural

19:00 Suits
20:00 Parenthood
21:00 Supernatural
22:00 Bates Motel
23:00 Grimm

OSN MOVIES ACTION

00:00 Hitman
02:00 Cutter's Way
04:00 Kill Em All
06:00 Bloodsport
08:00 Arachnophobia
10:00 Rage
12:00 Kill Em All
14:00 Bloodsport
15:45 Left Behind
17:45 The Last Castle
20:00 Man Of Tai Chi
22:00 Closed Circuit

OSN MOVIES HD ACTION

00:00 Cutter's Way-18
02:00 Kill Em All-PG15
04:00 Bloodsport-PG15
06:00 Arachnophobia-PG15
08:00 Rage-PG15
10:00 Kill Em All-PG15
12:00 Bloodsport-PG15
13:45 Left Behind-PG15
15:45 The Last Castle-PG15
18:00 Man Of Tai Chi-PG15
20:00 Closed Circuit-PG15
22:00 Enemies Closer-PG15

OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

00:00 The Inbetweeners Movie 2
02:00 Struck By Lightning
04:00 Simon Birch
06:00 Foodfight!
08:00 The Last Shot
10:00 Simon Birch
12:00 Struck By Lightning
14:00 Life With Mikey
16:00 The Last Shot
18:00 Planes, Trains And Automobiles
20:00 Mental
22:00 Dumb And Dumber To

OSN MOVIES DRAMA

01:00 Breathe In-PG15
03:00 Still Mine-PG15
05:00 My Last Day Without You
07:00 10 Years-PG15
09:00 The Last Days On Mars
11:00 Testament Of Youth-PG15
13:15 The Truth About Emanuel
15:00 Still Mine-PG15
17:00 The Last Days On Mars
19:00 Blood-PG15
21:00 Out Of The Furnace-PG15
23:00 Seven Psychopaths-18

OSN MOVIES HD FESTIVAL

02:00 Next Goal Wins
04:00 Casanova
06:00 Odeio O Dia Dos Namorados
08:00 Great Expectations
10:30 Casanova
12:30 Serial (Bad) Weddings
14:15 The Boxer
16:30 Great Expectations
19:00 Eternal Sunshine Of The Spotless Mind
21:00 Men Of Honor
23:15 Bessie

OSN MOVIES HD

01:00 At Any Price-PG15
03:00 Upside Down-PG15
05:00 Big Hero 6-PG
06:45 Into The Woods-PG
09:00 Maleficent-PG
10:45 The Hunger Games: Catching Fire-PG15
13:15 The Gabby Douglas Story
15:00 The Lego Movie-PG
17:00 Maleficent-PG
18:45 Captain America: The Winter Soldier-PG15
21:00 Let's Be Cops-PG15
23:00 Sin City: A Dame To Kill For

OSN MOVIES HD KIDS

01:00 The Heart Of The Oak
02:45 The Elf Who Stole Christmas
04:30 Miffy The Movie
06:00 Zazara
08:00 Daddy I'm A Zombie
10:00 Worms
11:30 Tom And Jerry: The Lost Dragon
13:00 The Elf Who Stole Christmas
14:30 Goat Story 2

AMC

03:30 Posse
05:20 Thunderbirds Are Go
06:55 Apache
09:25 The Crocodile Hunter: Collision Course
09:55 Death Rides A Horse
11:50 Big Screen

16:00 Moomins And The Comet Chase
18:00 Worms
20:00 The Olsen Gang In Deep Trouble
22:00 Goat Story 2
23:30 Moomins And The Comet Chase

OSN MOVIES HD PREMIERE

00:00 Hunter-PG15
03:00 Stolen Child-PG15
04:00 Babylon A.D.-PG15
06:00 Tinker Bell And The Legend Of The NeverBeast-FAM
08:00 Quartet-PG15
10:00 Heaven's Door-PG
11:45 The Fault In Our Stars-PG15
14:00 The Good Witch's Wedding
16:00 Quartet-PG15
18:00 Homefront-PG15
20:00 The Calling-PG15
22:00 Without Men-18

STAR MOVIES

01:15 Six Days, Seven Nights
03:00 Struck By Lightning
04:30 Pearl Harbor
07:30 Valkyrie
09:30 My Bollywood Bride
11:15 Meskada
12:45 Transporter 3
14:30 The Village
16:30 Sweet Home Alabama
18:15 Wreck-It Ralph
20:00 Face Off
22:15 Meet Bill
23:45 The American

STAR WORLD

00:00 Grey's Anatomy
01:00 MasterChef Australia
02:00 Switched At Birth
03:00 The Secret Life Of The American Teenager
04:00 The Secret Life Of The American Teenager
05:00 Melissa & Joey
06:00 The Simpsons
07:00 Lost
08:00 Grey's Anatomy
09:00 MasterChef Australia
10:00 Switched At Birth
11:00 The Secret Life Of The American Teenager
12:00 The Secret Life Of The American Teenager
13:00 Melissa & Joey
13:30 Melissa & Joey
14:00 The Simpsons
15:00 Lost
16:00 Grey's Anatomy
17:00 MasterChef Australia
18:00 The Listener
19:00 The Listener
20:00 Castle
21:00 Happy Endings
21:30 Happy Endings
22:00 The Simpsons
22:30 The Simpsons
23:00 Lost

HISTORY

00:00 Down East Dickering
01:00 Swamp People
02:00 Mountain Men
03:00 WWI: The First Modern War
04:00 Ax Men
05:00 American Pickers
06:00 Ax Men
07:00 Big Rig Bounty Hunters
08:00 Alone
09:00 Shipping Wars
10:00 Ice Road Truckers
11:00 Big Rig Bounty Hunters
12:00 American Pickers
13:00 Storage Wars
14:00 Pawn Stars
15:00 Shipping Wars
15:30 Shipping Wars
16:00 Swamp People
17:00 Mountain Men
18:00 American Pickers
19:00 Storage Wars
19:30 Storage Wars
20:00 Alaska Off-Road Warriors
21:00 Pawn Stars
21:30 Pawn Stars
22:00 Ice Road Truckers
23:00 Counting Cars
23:30 Counting Cars

AMC

03:30 Posse
05:20 Thunderbirds Are Go
06:55 Apache
09:25 The Crocodile Hunter: Collision Course
09:55 Death Rides A Horse
11:50 Big Screen



CAPTAIN AMERICA- THE WINTER SOLDIER ON OSN MOVIES HD

12:05 Alexander The Great
14:20 Hoosiers
16:15 Dust Factory
17:55 Puckoon
19:20 The Adventures Of Buckaroo Banzai
21:00 The Divide
22:00 Fear The Walking Dead
23:00 Reservoir Dogs
00:40 Blue Steel
02:20 The Big Man

ANIMAL PLANET HD

03:25 Gator Boys
04:15 Lion Man: One World African Safari
05:02 Treehouse Masters
05:49 Echo And The Elephants Of Amboseli
06:36 Call Of The Wildman
07:25 Dogs 101
08:15 Lion Man: One World African Safari
09:10 Treehouse Masters
10:05 Tanked
11:50 Dogs 101
11:55 Bondi Vet
12:50 Ten Deadliest Snakes
13:45 Lion Man: One World African Safari
14:40 Treehouse Masters
15:35 Tanked
16:30 Echo And The Elephants Of Amboseli
17:25 Hunt For Hogzilla
18:20 Lion Man: One World African Safari
19:15 Treehouse Masters
20:10 Tanked
21:05 Predator's Playground
22:00 Zombie Sharks

22:55 Gator Boys
23:50 Lion Man: One World African Safari
00:45 Call Of The Wildman
01:40 Zombie Sharks
02:35 Tanked

BBC entertainment

03:20 New Tricks
04:10 The Weakest Link
05:00 The Green Balloon Club
05:25 Nina And The Neurons: In The Lab
05:40 Nina And The Neurons: In The Lab
05:55 Gogglebizz
06:10 The Green Balloon Club
06:30 Gogglebizz
06:45 Nina And The Neurons: In The Lab
07:20 The Weakest Link
08:05 Rev.
08:35 Doctors
09:05 Eastenders
09:35 Call The Midwife
10:25 The Paradise
11:20 The Weakest Link
12:05 The Office
12:35 Rev.
13:05 Call The Midwife
14:00 The Paradise
14:50 The Office
15:20 Rev.
15:50 Doctors
16:20 Eastenders
16:50 The Weakest Link
17:35 Rev.
18:05 Call The Midwife
19:00 Doctors
19:30 Eastenders
20:00 Last Tango In Halifax

03:20 Grojband
04:05 Total Drama: Pahkitew Island
04:50 Teen Titans Go!
05:10 Grojband
05:35 Grojband
06:00 The Amazing World Of Gumball
06:25 New Uncle Grandpa
06:37 Uncle Grandpa
06:50 Adventure Time
07:35 New Clarence
07:46 Clarence
08:00 Teen Titans Go!
08:20 Ninjago: Masters Of Spinjitzu
08:45 Ben 10
09:30 Regular Show
09:41 Regular Show
09:55 Dreamworks Dragons: Defenders Of Berk
10:20 Total Drama World Tour
10:40 Total Drama: Pahkitew Island
11:05 Johnny Test
11:50 Steven Universe
12:02 Steven Universe
12:15 Uncle Grandpa
12:40 Regular Show
13:25 Adventure Time
14:10 The Amazing World Of Gumball
15:00 Ben 10: Omniverse
15:20 Ben 10: Omniverse
15:45 Ninjago: Masters Of Spinjitzu
16:10 Matt Hatter New
16:30 Teen Titans Go!
17:20 New Clarence
17:31 Clarence
17:40 The Amazing World Of Gumball
18:30 Adventure Time

CN CARTOON NETWORK

03:00 Grojband
04:05 Total Drama: Pahkitew Island
04:50 Teen Titans Go!
05:10 Grojband
05:35 Grojband
06:00 The Amazing World Of Gumball
06:25 New Uncle Grandpa
06:37 Uncle Grandpa
06:50 Adventure Time
07:35 New Clarence
07:46 Clarence
08:00 Teen Titans Go!
08:20 Ninjago: Masters Of Spinjitzu
08:45 Ben 10
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09:41 Regular Show
09:55 Dreamworks Dragons: Defenders Of Berk
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15:00 Ben 10: Omniverse
15:20 Ben 10: Omniverse
15:45 Ninjago: Masters Of Spinjitzu
16:10 Matt Hatter New
16:30 Teen Titans Go!
17:20 New Clarence
17:31 Clarence
17:40 The Amazing World Of Gumball
18:30 Adventure Time

18:40 Adventure Time
18:50 Adventure Time
19:15 New Uncle Grandpa
19:27 Uncle Grandpa
19:40 Steven Universe
20:00 Regular Show
20:50 Ben 10: Omniverse
21:15 Ben 10: Omniverse
21:40 Adventure Time
22:25 Johnny Test
23:10 Regular Show
23:55 Total Drama: Revenge Of The Island
00:20 Total Drama: Revenge Of The Island

ID. INVESTIGATION DISCOVERY

03:00 Blood Relatives
03:45 Who On Earth...
04:10 Who On Earth...
04:30 The Haunted
05:20 Forensic Detectives
06:10 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
07:00 Nightmare Next Door
07:50 On The Case With Paula Zahn
08:40 Fatal Encounters
09:30 Murder Shift
10:20 Forensic Detectives
11:10 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
12:00 The Will
12:50 I Almost Got Away With It
13:40 California Investigator
14:05 Nightmare Next Door
14:55 Fatal Encounters
15:45 On The Case With Paula Zahn
16:35 Murder Shift
17:25 I Almost Got Away With It
18:15 Forensic Detectives
19:05 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
19:55 California Investigator
20:20 The Will
21:10 Who On Earth...
21:35 Who On Earth...
22:00 Deadly Sins
22:50 Evil, I
23:15 Evil, I
23:40 Who On Earth...
00:05 Who On Earth...
00:30 The Haunted
01:20 Ghost Lab

DISCOVERY SCIENCE

03:06 How It's Made
03:29 Space Voyages
04:16 Mind Control Freaks
04:38 Mind Control Freaks
05:03 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
05:50 How Do They Do It?
06:13 How Do They Do It?
06:37 How It's Made
07:00 How It's Made
07:23 Mythbusters
08:08 Bang Goes The Theory
08:31 Bang Goes The Theory
08:53 Da Vinci's Machines
09:38 Food Factory
10:00 Food Factory
10:23 The Big Brain Theory
11:08 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
11:53 Space Voyages
12:38 Bang Goes The Theory
13:01 Bang Goes The Theory
13:23 Da Vinci's Machines
14:10 How It's Made
14:34 How It's Made
14:57 The Big Brain Theory
15:44 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
16:31 Bang Goes The Theory
16:54 Bang Goes The Theory
17:18 How Do They Do It?
17:41 How Do They Do It?
18:05 Mythbusters
18:50 Race To Escape
19:40 Food Factory
20:02 Food Factory
20:25 How It's Made



MAN OF TAI CHI ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD



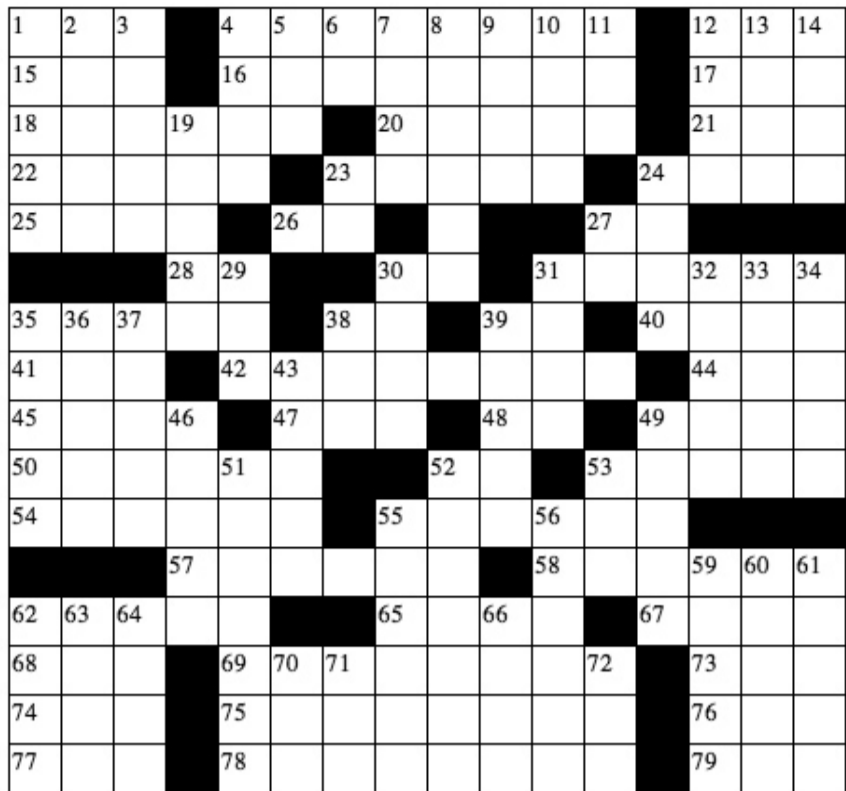
# CLASSIFIEDS



## KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (08/10/2015 TO 14/10/2015)

Time	Channel	Programme	Time	Channel	Programme	Time	Channel	Programme
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CROSSWORD 1043



ACROSS

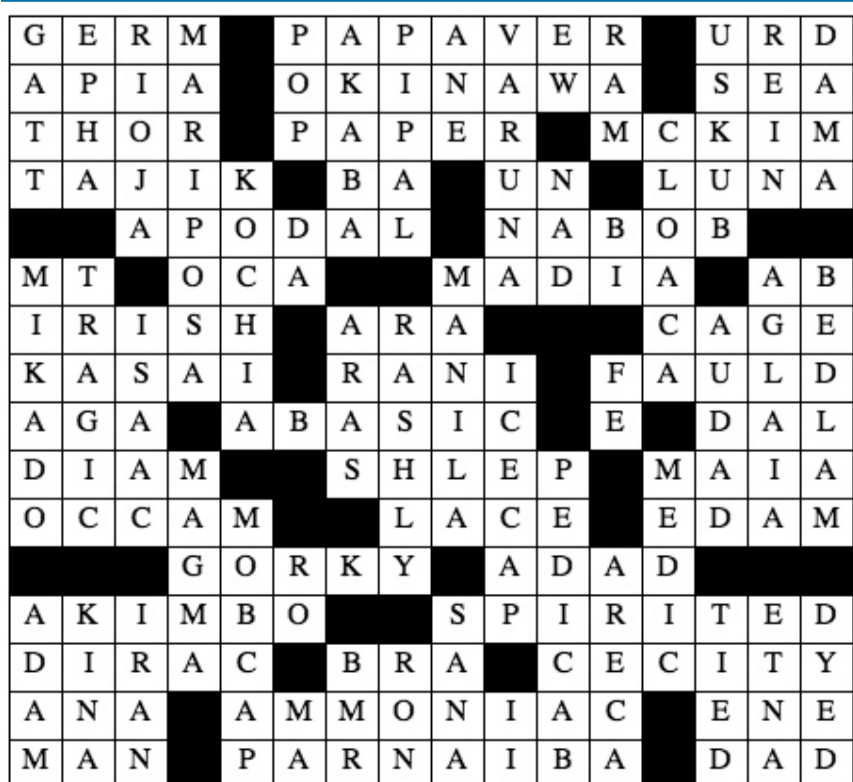
- Syndrome resulting from a serious acute (sometimes fatal) infection associated with the presence of staphylococcus.
- A fore-and-aft sail set on a stay (as between two masts).
- Inquire about.
- A member of the Siouan people inhabiting the valleys of the Platte and Missouri rivers in Nebraska.
- (Japan) Ritual suicide by self-disemboweling on a sword.
- Aircraft landing in bad weather in which the pilot is talked down by ground control using precision approach radar.
- A member of a Caddo people formerly living in north central Texas.
- Chief god.
- Thigh of a hog (usually smoked).
- (dentistry) A filling consisting of a solid substance (as gold or porcelain) fitted to a cavity in a tooth and cemented into place.
- An endorsement.
- A logarithmic unit of sound intensity.
- An official prosecutor for a judicial district.
- (Hindu) A manner of sitting (as in the practice of Yoga).
- The basic unit of money in Papua New Guinea.
- Nocturnal mouselike mammal with forelimbs modified to form membranous wings and anatomical adaptations for echolocation by which they navigate.
- A cut of pork ribs with much of the meat trimmed off.
- A lipoprotein that transports cholesterol in the blood.
- Small buffalo of the Celebes having small straight horns.
- A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
- (Akkadian) God of wisdom.
- A high-crowned black cap (usually made of felt or sheepskin) worn by men in Turkey and Iran and the Caucasus.
- The civil and religious leader of a Muslim state.
- A member of the Indian people of northern California and southern Oregon.
- A card game for 2 players.
- A member of the Siouan people formerly living in the Missouri river valley in NE Nebraska.
- (Babylonian) God of storms and wind.
- Horny plate covering and protecting part of the dorsal surface of the digits.
- A unit of electrical power in an AC circuit equal to the power dissipated when 1 volt produces a current of 1 ampere.
- Used of the language of the deaf.
- A self-funded retirement plan that allows you to contribute a limited yearly sum toward your retirement.
- A city in the European part of Russia.
- Not firm or firmly fixed.
- Being one more than nine.
- A member of a Mayan people of south-western Guatemala.
- A state of readiness to respond.
- A condition (mostly in boys) characterized by behavioral and learning disorders.

DOWN

- The capital and largest city of Japan.
- A distinctive odor that is offensively unpleasant.
- A plain plinth that supports a wall.

- A carriage consisting of two wheels and calash top.
- Of or relating to or characteristic of Thailand of its people.
- A colorless and odorless inert gas.
- An infectious tropical disease resembling syphilis in its early stages.
- Capital of modern Macedonia.
- An officer who acts as military assistant to a more senior officer.
- A theocratic republic in the Middle East in western Asia.
- United States sculptor and architect whose public works include the memorial to veterans of the Vietnam War in Washington (born in 1959).
- Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
- Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
- God of love and erotic desire.
- Austrian composer who influenced the classical form of the symphony (1732-1809).
- The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
- A person with an unusual or odd personality.
- A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.
- An associate degree in applied science.
- God of death.
- (Greek mythology) Goddess of the earth and mother of Cronus and the Titans in ancient mythology.
- Of a pale purple color.
- A branch of the Indo-Iranian family of languages.
- South African plant widely cultivated for its showy pure white spathe and yellow spadix.
- The capital and largest city of Yemen.
- An island consisting of a circular coral reef surrounding a lagoon.
- A compartment in front of a motor vehicle where driver sits.
- Relatively large in size or number or extent.
- A civil or military authority in Turkey or Egypt.
- Being or given to servile imitation.
- (Old Testament) The minister of the Persian emperor who hated the Jews and was hanged for plotting to massacre them.
- Loss of the ability to swallow.
- Bridge consisting of a series of arches supported by piers used to carry a road (or railroad) over a valley.
- A licensed medical practitioner.
- Any of the various silver or gold coins of ancient Greece.
- Consisting of or made of cedar.
- An Indian side dish of yogurt and chopped cucumbers and spices.
- Depleted of strength or energy.
- Either of two large African antelopes of the genus Taurotragus having short spirally twisted horns in both sexes.
- A Chadik language spoken south of Lake Chad.
- The biblical name for ancient Syria.
- Wild sheep of northern Africa.
- An inflammatory complication of leprosy that results in painful skin lesions on the arms and legs and face.
- The compass point midway between south and southeast.
- A human limb.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Had too much of a good thing? As love-planet Venus enters your sixth house of wellness today after an extra-long venture through dramatic Leo (since July 31), it's time to slow down and get grounded. Are you allowing yourself plenty of time for exercise, rest and activities like meal prep to make your life easier? Decide what's working and what isn't and adjust your agenda accordingly. Venus is here until November 8, giving you a month to get your glow back if you've been overindulging. If you're feeling a little lonely, adopting a furry friend can boost your spirits, but make sure you do your research before taking on such a big responsibility.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Cupid's got his eye on you, Taurus. Today romantic Venus moves into Virgo, your passionate fifth house, after a long run through your moody fourth house (since July 31). Venus is here for a month, giving you charisma in spades. If you're single, you'll be feeling flirty, so don't be afraid to make the first move—fortune favors the bold now. If you're already spoken for, radiant Venus will turn up the passion. Surprise your S.O. by re-creating your first date or planning a racy new adventure to remember.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Today love-planet Venus, which has been in fiery Leo since July 31, finally changes signs. For the next month, Venus tours Virgo and your homey fourth house, coaxing out your inner domestic diva. Prepare beautiful meals and work on your plating presentation—or check out that Michelin-starred place with the seasonal tasting menu. This is a time to stop and smell the roses, Gemini—and to arrange them, too. Couples will enjoy this sweetly sentimental month. If you're newly dating, you may introduce each other to friends and family. Single Geminis can meet someone through a childhood friend or even a relative. Never say never!



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Saying "I'm sorry" isn't a sign of weakness, Cancer—it just means that you're ready to move forward. As harmonious Venus moves into your communication sector after a long stint in dramatic Leo, you may decide you're ready to make peace with someone. This could involve a tough conversation, but luckily, Venus's visit here (until November 8) helps you voice your truth with love. Even if you can't go back to being BFFs right away, you can learn to respect each other's opinions. Single? You could meet someone mingling in your neighborhood, since the third house rules local action.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

After an extended two-month visit to your sign, love planet Venus departs Leo and moves into Virgo, spotlighting your luxe second house. The past few months have been a buzzing time for love and socializing, and now it's time to ground yourself. Pamper yourself and get in touch with your priorities—what values do you need your mate to share? If you're currently single, deactivate your Tinder account for a month and try falling in love the old-fashioned way—slowly and in-person. Coupled Leos will enjoy a centered month sharing simple pleasures and a few high-end date nights.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Great news, Virgo! Today harmonious Venus moves into your sign after spending an extra-long time (over two months) in dramatic Leo, your twelfth house of closure and sacrifice. If you recently ended a relationship or cut ties with someone close to you, it's time to focus on your own needs and desires for a while. Invest in a few outfits that make you look and feel amazing, rock a new hairstyle or indulge in some pampering. Even if you're happily coupled, you might need to work on expressing your needs and desires to your partner. Right now, it's all about you.



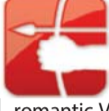
Libra (September 23-October 22)

Fantasy time? Today love planet Venus shifts into Virgo, your compassionate and healing twelfth house. Venus will be here until November 8, so if you've experienced some drama with your love, you could soon experience the fairytale ending or forgiveness you've been seeking. If you're parting ways, kind-hearted Venus will help you let go with love. Bring more enchantment and glamour to your world. Just watch for a tendency to wear "love goggles" and to put someone up on a pedestal, especially if they haven't yet fully earned your trust. We are all mere mortals here—nobody's perfect.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Reach for the stars, Scorpio! Today magnetic Venus moves into your group-oriented eleventh house after spending several months in your career zone. If you've made any positive connections recently through networking, social media or pure luck, this is the time to reach out. Your inner circle is ripe with possibilities, so turn to them. Whatever would make you feel fulfilled right now—a better job, a charitable event, friendship or true love—can be found with a little help from your tribe. Keep an open mind, because the joy you seek could come from an unconventional place. Don't forget to pay it forward by hooking your people up, too.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You deserve nothing but the best, Sagittarius, so don't settle. Today romantic Venus sashays into your ambitious and goal-focused tenth house after an extended journey through your ninth house of wanderlust. Venus is here until November 8, helping you clarify your romantic mission. If you're single, you may swap your adventurous ways for a more long-term connection. Since the tenth house rules career, you could even meet someone through work. You might also be attracted to someone a little older or more established than you (or perhaps you'll be the one in the power-player role).



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Swing outside your comfort zone, Capricorn. Today love planet Venus moves into Virgo, your adventurous ninth house, after two intense months in your intimate eighth house. Variety is the spice of life, and if you've always dated the same "type," consider some new possibilities. As long as your core values align, who cares where you both come from? You could also meet someone while traveling or taking a workshop, since the ninth house rules expanded horizons. If you're in a long-term relationship, seek out new ways to spice things up. Taking a trip or a class together can be stimulating. Make sure your passports are current!



Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

Ooh la la! Romantic Venus slinks into your magnetic and erotic eighth house, dialing up the intensity for a month. Venus spent some major time in your seventh house of relationships (it's been there since July 31), helping you iron out the kinks in your union. Now it's time for a private celebration—invest in some lingerie or sexy skivvies, or maybe do a boudoir photo shoot. Single? Playing up your sensual side will work wonders for your confidence. If it's been a while since you've felt desirable, get back in touch with your inner siren. Even just doing a few slow hip circles can get the tantric vibes flowing.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Feel the love? Today harmonious Venus moves from your structured sixth house into your committed relationship zone. You may have spent the last few months fine-tuning your friends list or just beautifying and organizing your life. Now that things are in order, you've got time for meaningful relationships. If you're single, social Venus can help you meet someone with long-term potential at an event or through mutual friends. Couples should focus on celebrating your bond with more fun activities and dates. It's also a perfect time to discuss next steps: moving in together, a proposal or a pregnancy.

WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

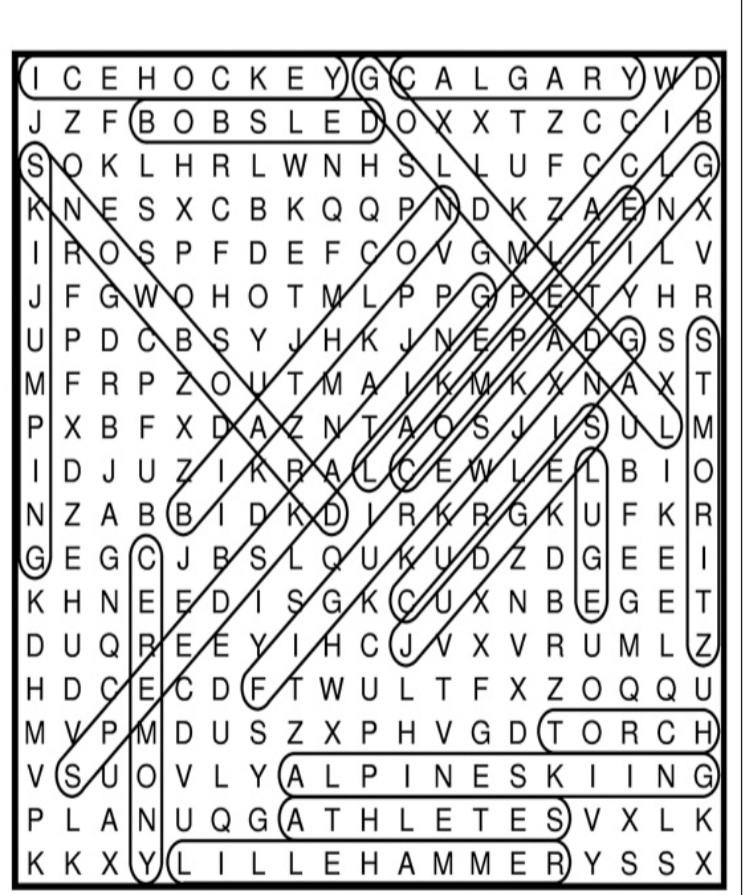
PSYCHOLOGY 101 WORD SEARCH PUZZLE



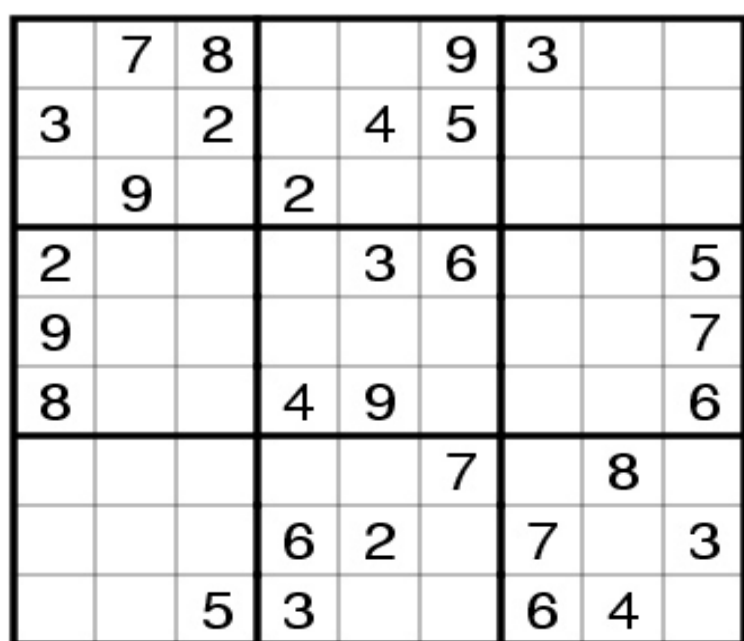
- |            |             |                |                   |
|------------|-------------|----------------|-------------------|
| ANTISOCIAL | CORRELATION | IVAN PAVLOV    | SCHIZOPHRENIA     |
| ANXIETY    | DUALISM     | NEUROSIS       | SCIENTIFIC METHOD |
| BEHAVIOR   | HORMONES    | PLACEBO        | SIGMUND FREUD     |
| CASE STUDY | HYPNOSIS    | PSYCHIATRY     | SURVEY            |
| COGNITIVE  | IDENTITY    | PSYCHOANALYSIS | WILHELM WUNDT     |

Yesterday's Solution

SOLUTION TO WINTER OLYMPICS PUZZLE

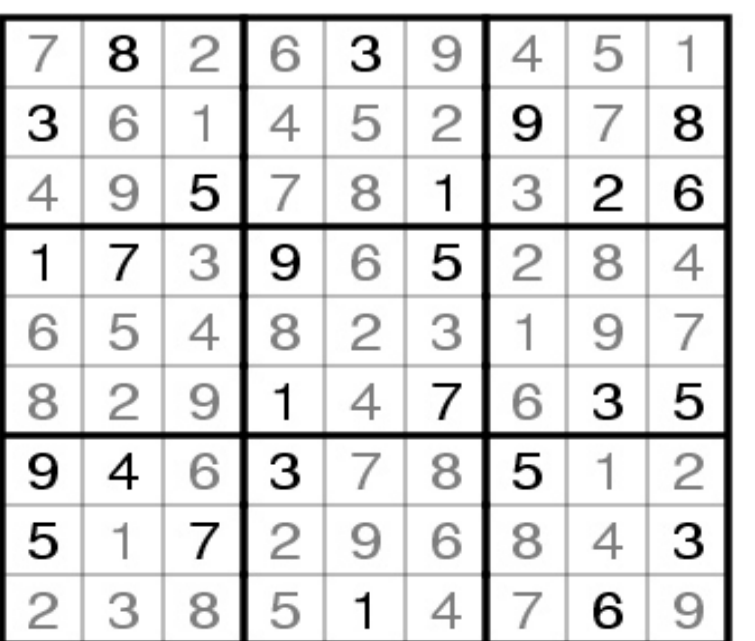


Daily SuDoku



easy

Yesterday's Solution



medium

For labor-related inquiries and complaints:  
Call MSAL hotline 128



**PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY**

**INTERNATIONAL CALLS**



**Hospitals**

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

**Clinics**

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khalidiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401
Jabriya	25316254
Maidan Hawally	25623444
Bayan	25388462
Mishref	25381200
W Hawally	22630786
Sabah	24810221
Jahra	24770319
New Jahra	24575755
West Jahra	24772608
South Jahra	24775066
North Jahra	24775992
North Jleeb	24311795
Ardhiya	24884079
Firdous	24892674
Omariya	24719048
N Khaitan	24710044
Fintas	23900322

GOVERNORATE	PHARMACY	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ahmadi	Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan	Fahaeel Makka St Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd	23915883 23715414 23726558
Jahra	Modern Jahra Madina Munawara	Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1 Jahra-Block 92	24575518 24566622
Capital	Ahlam Khalidiya Coop	Fahad Al-Salem St Khalidiya Coop	22436184 24833967
Farwaniya	New Shifa Ferdous Coop Modern Safwan	Farwaniya Block 40 Ferdous Coop Old Kheitan Block 11	24734000 24881201 24726638
Hawally	Tariq Hana Ikhlas Hawally & Rawdha Ghadeer Kindy Ibn Al-Nafis Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Salmiya-Amman St Hawally-Beirut St Hawally & Rawdha Coop Jabriya-Block 1A Jabriya-Block 3B Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	25726265 25647075 22625999 22564549 25340559 25326554 25721264 25380581 25628241

Afghanistan	0093	Luxembourg	00352
Albania	00355	Macau	00853
Algeria	00213	Macedonia	00389
Andorra	00376	Madagascar	00261
Angola	00244	Majorca	0034
Anguilla	001264	Malawi	00265
Antigua	001268	Malaysia	00660
Argentina	0054	Maldives	00960
Armenia	00374	Mali	00223
Australia	0061	Malta	00356
Austria	0043	Marshall Islands	00692
Bahamas	001242	Martinique	00596
Bahrain	00973	Mauritania	00222
Bangladesh	00880	Mauritius	00230
Barbados	001246	Mayotte	00269
Belarus	00375	Mexico	0052
Belgium	0032	Micronesia	00691
Belize	00501	Moldova	00373
Benin	00229	Monaco	00377
Bermuda	001441	Mongolia	00976
Bhutan	00975	Montserrat	001664
Bolivia	00591	Morocco	00212
Bosnia	00387	Mozambique	00258
Botswana	00267	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Brazil	0055	Namibia	00264
Brunei	00673	Nepal	00977
Bulgaria	00359	Netherlands	0031
Burkina	00226	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Burundi	00257	New Caledonia	00687
Cambodia	00855	New Zealand	0064
Cameroon	00237	Nicaragua	00505
Canada	001	Nigar	00227
Cape Verde	00238	Nigeria	00234
Cayman Islands	001345	Niue	00683
Central African	00236	Norfolk Island	00672
Chad	00235	N. Ireland (UK)	0044
Chile	0056	North Korea	00850
China	0086	Norway	0047
Colombia	0057	Oman	00968
Comoros	00269	Pakistan	0092
Congo	00242	Palau	00680
Cook Islands	00682	Panama	00507
Costa Rica	00506	Papua New Guinea	00675
Croatia	00385	Paraguay	00595
Cuba	0053	Peru	0051
Cyprus	00357	Philippines	0063
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Poland	0048
Czech Republic	00420	Portugal	00351
Denmark	0045	Puerto Rico	001787
Diego Garcia	00246	Qatar	00974
Djibouti	00253	Romania	0040
Dominica	001767	Russian Federation	007
Dominican Republic	001809	Rwanda	00250
Ecuador	00593	Saint Helena	00290
Egypt	0020	Saint Kitts	001869
El Salvador	00503	Saint Lucia	001758
England (UK)	0044	Saint Pierre	00508
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Saint Vincent	001784
Eritrea	00291	Samoa US	00684
Estonia	00372	Samoa West	00685
Ethiopia	00251	Sao Marino	00378
Falkland Islands	00500	Sao Tone	00239
Faroe Islands	00298	Saudi Arabia	00966
Fiji	00679	Scotland (UK)	0044
Finland	00358	Senegal	00221
France	0033	Seychelles	00284
French Guiana	00594	Sierra Leone	00232
French Polynesia	00689	Singapore	0065
Gabon	00241	Slovakia	00421
Gambia	00220	Slovenia	00386
Georgia	00995	Solomon Islands	00677
Germany	0049	Somalia	00252
Ghana	00233	South Africa	0027
Gibraltar	00350	South Korea	0082
Greece	0030	Spain	0034
Greenland	00299	Sri Lanka	0094
Grenada	001473	Sudan	00249
Guadeloupe	00590	Suriname	00597
Guam	001671	Swaziland	00268
Guatemala	00502	Sweden	0046
Guinea	00224	Switzerland	0041
Guyana	00592	Syria	00963
Haiti	00509	Serbia	00381
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Taiwan	00886
Honduras	00504	Tanzania	00255
Hong Kong	00852	Thailand	0066
Hungary	0036	Toga	00228
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Tonga	00676
Iceland	00354	Tokelau	00690
India	0091	Trinidad	001868
Indian Ocean	00873	Tunisia	00216
Indonesia	0062	Turkey	0090
Iran	0098	Tuvalu	00688
Iraq	00964	Uganda	00256
Ireland	00353	Ukraine	00380
Italy	0039	United Arab Emirates	00976
Ivory Coast	00225	United Kingdom	0044
Jamaica	001876	Uruguay	00598
Japan	0081	USA	001
Jordan	00962	Uzbekistan	00998
Kazakhstan	007	Vanuatu	00678
Kenya	00254	Venezuela	00582
Kiribati	00686	Vietnam	0084
Kuwait	00965	Virgin Islands UK	001284
Kyrgyzstan	00996	Virgin Islands US	001340
Laos	00856	Wales (UK)	0044
Latvia	00371	Yemen	00967
Lebanon	00961	Yugoslavia	00381
Liberia	00231	Zambia	00260
Libya	00218	Zimbabwe	00263
Lithuania	00370		

**STATE OF KUWAIT**  
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION  
METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

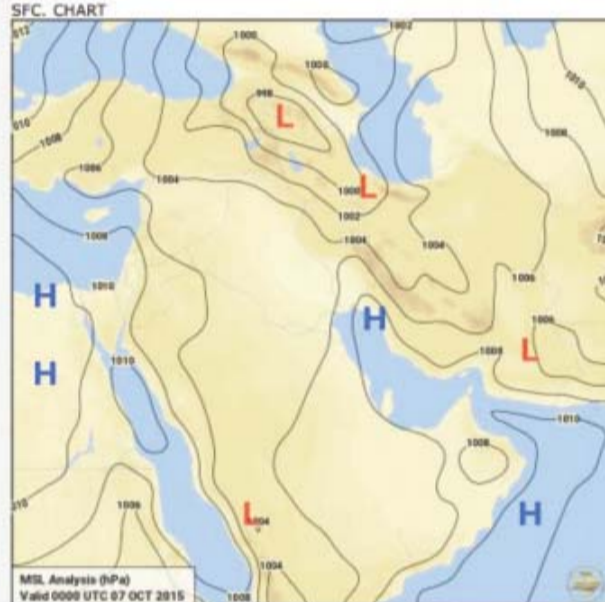


Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630  
Fax: (+965) 24348714  
www.met.gov.kw

**Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours**  
Issued 07/10/2015-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

**MAX Temperature 44 °C**

**By Day :** Hot with moderate to fresh southerly to south easterly wind, with speed of 25 - 50 km/h causing raising dust and some scattered clouds will appear  
**By Night :** Relatively humid with moderate freshening at times south easterly to southerly wind, with speed of 15 - 40 km/h with a chance for blowing dust



**Four-Day Forecast**

	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Expected Weather	hot	hot	hot	hot + chance for dust
Min Temp °C	25	24	24	23
Max Temp °C	45	42	40	39
Wind Direction	southerly to south easterly	variable wind changing to light to moderate north westerly	northerly to north westerly	north westerly
Wind Speed km/h	10 - 32	06 - 28	15 - 40	20 - 40

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

**Warnings**  
windy and rising dust

**Kuwait Forecast**

Station	MIN °C	REC	Max °C	EXP
KUWAIT CITY	32		42	
KUWAIT AIRPORT	27		44	
ABDALY	30		44	
BUBYAN	29		42	
JAHRA	31		44	
FAILAKA ISLAND	31		41	
SALMIYAH	32		36	
AHMADI	32		41	
JAL ALIYAH	29		43	
QAROH ISLAND	33		39	
UMM AL-MARADEM	32		37	
NUWAISIB	25		43	
WAFRA	29		44	
MANAGISH	28		42	
SALMY	27		42	
MUTRIBA	31		44	

**Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport**

Max Temp (°C)	43
Min Temp (°C)	23
Max Rel Hum (%)	50
Min Rel Hum (%)	06
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	25 S
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm

Sunrise	05:44
Sunset	17:27

**Prayer Times**

Fajr	04:25
Sunrise	05:44
Zuhr	11:36
Asr	14:57
Sunset	17:27
Isha	18:44



**PRIVATE CLINICS**

Ophthalmologists	
Dr. Abdallah Al-Mansoor	25622444
Dr. Samy Al-Rabea	25752222
Dr. Masoma Habeeb	25321171
Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy	25739999
Dr. Mohsen Abel	25757700
Dr. Adnan Hasan Alwayl	25732223
Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly	25732223
Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT)	
Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner	24555050 Ext 510
Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali	25644660
Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel	25646478
Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah	25311996
Dr. Mohammad Al-Daory	25731988
Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary	22620166
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz	25651426
General Practitioners	
Dr. Mohammed Y Majidi	24555050 Ext 123
Dr. Yousef Al-Omar	24719312
Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhaizeem	22639920
Dr. Kathem Maarafi	25730465
Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah	25655528
Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi	24577781
Dr. Dina Abdallah Al-Rafea	25333501
Urologists	
Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy	22641534
Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul	22639955
Dr. Khaleel Abidallah Al-Awadi	22616660
Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C)	25313120
Dr. Leons Joseph	66703427

Plastic Surgeons	
Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalaf	22547272
Dr. Abdal-Redha Lari	22617700
Dr. Abdel Quttainah	25625030/60
Family Doctor	
Dr Divya Damodar	23729596/23729581
Psychiatrists	
Dr. Esam Al-Ansari	22635047
Dr Eisa M. Al-Balhan	22613623/0
Gynaecologists & Obstetricians	
Dr Adrian arbe	23729596/23729581
Dr. Verginia s. Marin	2572-6666 ext 8321
Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan	22655539
Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliyami	25343406
Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly	25739272
Dr. Salem soso	22618787
General Surgeons	
Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer	22610044
Dr. Mohammad Yousef Basher	25327148
Internists, Chest & Heart	
Dr. Adnan Ebil	22639939
Dr. Mousa Khadada	22666300
Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisan	25728004
Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra	25355515
Dr. Mobarak Aldoub	24726446
Dr Nasser Behbehani	25654300/3

Paediatricians	
Dr. Khaled Hamadi	25665898
Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed	25340300
Dr. Zahra Qabazard	25710444
Dr. Sohail Qamar	22621099
Dr. Snaa Maarroof	25713514
Dr. Pradip Gujare	23713100
Dr. Zacharias Mathew	24334282
Dermatology	
Dr. Mohammed Salam	23845955
Dentists	
Dr Anil Thomas	3729596/3729581
Dr. Shamah Al-Matar	22641071/2
Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed	22562226
Dr. Abdallah Al-Amer	22561444
Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan	22619557
Dr. Abdallateef Al-Katrash	22525888
Dr. Abdallah Al-Duweisan	25653755
Dr. Bader Al-Ansari	25620111
Neurologists	
Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri	25633324
Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan	25345875
Gastrologists	
Dr. Sami Aman	22636464
Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly	25322030
Dr. Foad Abdallah Al-Ali	22633135

Endocrinologist	
Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman	25339330
Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari	25658888
Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr	25329924
Physiotherapists & VD	
Dr. Deyaa Shehab	25722291
Dr. Mused Faraj Khamees	22666288
Rheumatologists:	
Dr. Adel Al-Awadi	25330060
Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah	25722290
Internist, Chest & Heart	
DR.Mohammes Akkad	24555050 Ext 210
Consultant Cardiologist	
Dr. Mohammad Zubaid	MB, ChB, FRCP, PACC
Assistant Professor Of Medicine	Head, Division of Cardiology
Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital	25339667
Dr. Farida Al-Habib	2611555-2622555
MD, PH.D, FACC	
Inaya German Medical Center	
Te: 2575077	
Fax: 25723123	

Psychologists /Psychotherapists	Soor Center Tel: 2290-1677 Fax: 2290 1688	info@soorcenter.com www.soorcenter.com	Kaizen center 257
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# Yoga serving as inspiration for Aguilera's new music

Yoga is serving as inspiration for Christina Aguilera's upcoming album. The pop star says that the physical and mental exercise is helping her find inner peace, and that's influencing her music-making process. "Taking a love for yoga and breathing ... not looking at it as an exercise, but just feeling more one with the Earth and everyone being connected, it'll definitely have a reflection on the new record," Aguilera said in a recent interview.

She has "loosely been working on my record for a couple years now," even when she was pregnant with her daughter, who is 1. And now, "it's like really down to business and I've made a lot of headway and progress on the record, and you will see sort of the difference between this record and others in the past." Aguilera, 34, said she wants to release a new album next year. It would be the follow-up to 2012's "Lotus." "I am hoping for it to be next year and maybe around the time ... I return for (live episodes of) 'The Voice' season 10," she said.

This month she is pre-taping the beginning of season 10 of NBC's "The Voice," which will air next year. Season nine, with Gwen Stefani in Aguilera's chair, premiered last month. The Grammy winner said because two seasons of the show tape simultaneously, she has had to take breaks from the Emmy-winning series. "I absolutely need those breaks," she said, laughing. "I will wholeheartedly, openly be honest about it and just say that. I think it's a little easier for Blake (Shelton) and Adam (Levine) - the show has definitely catapulted their careers to new heights and it's awesome - but they're not parents yet. ... I love being a mom and I think life is all about balance and to me it's really important to take time off from the show."

"It also keeps things fresh," she continued. "They pump it out twice a year so for me personally, I feel like I'm better at my position on the show and being a coach to people if I'm not juggling two teams at once while one season is being pre-

taped and the other's airing ... which is what ends up happening." Aguilera says she's been keeping her big voice intact in between albums and tours, and she's learned to care less about being a technical singer and has learned to develop a "signature style."

"Maybe when I was younger and very green ... to the business and just wanting to emulate my idols, I would try probably harder to cross T's and dot I's and hit certain notes," she said. "But music is such an emotion to me and it's so felt from the heart, that at this point in my life it's really not about the image of a great singer, but the emotion of a great singer." — AP



Christina Aguilera speaks at the 50th annual Academy of Country Music Awards at AT&T Stadium, in Arlington, Texas. — AP

## Lopez to host the 2015 American Music Awards

Jennifer Lopez is taking on hosting duties at next month's American Music Awards. Producers say Lopez will host and perform at the Nov. 22 show, to air live on ABC from the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles. This will be her first time hosting an awards show. Dick Clark Productions said yesterday the 46-year-old entertainer will also perform material from her upcoming Las Vegas residency at Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino.

Singers Joe Jonas and Charlie Puth are set to announce AMA nominees on Oct 13. Nominees are chosen based on album sales, radio airplay, touring and social media. The show recognizes artists with fan-voted awards in such categories as pop/rock, rap/hip-hop, country, Latin and adult contemporary. — AP



File photo shows Jennifer Lopez performing on stage at Morocco's biggest music Mawazine Festival in Rabat, Morocco. — AP



Tommy Cash, brother of the late singer Johnny Cash kneels by his brother's star.



Steve Cropper poses by his star at an induction ceremony for the Music City Walk of Fame at Walk of Fame Park. — AP photos

# Cash, Lambert, Cropper get stars

Country stars Miranda Lambert and the late Johnny Cash, along with famed blues musician Steve Cropper, were honored Tuesday for helping to build Music City's reputation as a home for artists of any genre. The three musicians, along with Gaylord Entertainment business executive E.W. "Bud" Wendell, were given stars on the Music City Walk of Fame in downtown Nashville, Tennessee.

Lambert, a two-time Grammy winner originally from Texas, said she first came to Nashville a decade ago as a contestant on the talent show "Nashville Star," but has spent the better part of her career on the road. When she finally took some time off of touring and moved back to Nashville, she said she felt like it was home. "I have never felt more inspired," Lambert said. "It was my first summer kind of off the road and I have never felt more ready to make music and learn from music and learn from musicians and songwriters."

Cropper got his start at Stax Records, in Memphis, Tennessee, as a guitarist with Booker T and the M.G.s, The Mar-Kets and later as a member of the Blues Brothers with John Belushi and Dan Aykroyd. But he was drawn by country and studio musicians, including Chet Atkins and Hank Garland, and moved about 30 years ago to Nashville, where he also has a studio. "I have always said that Nashville has some of the greatest musicians that have ever walked on the Earth, period," Cropper said. Cash's youngest brother, Tommy Cash, accepted the honor on his brother's behalf. Wendell, an executive who helped to grow the Grand Ole Opry and Gaylord Entertainment, also was inducted. — AP



Miranda Lambert poses by her star.

## Julio Iglesias says will no longer perform in Trump casinos

Spanish singing legend Julio Iglesias says he will no longer perform in casinos belonging to US presidential hopeful Donald Trump because of his anti-immigrant comments, in an interview published yesterday. "I have sung many times in his casinos, but I won't do it again. He seems to be an \*\*\*\*\*," he told Barcelona-based daily newspaper La Vanguardia. "He thinks he can fix the world forgetting what immigrants have done for his country. He is a clown! And my apologies to clowns."

Real estate mogul and Republican presidential candidate Trump said in a speech June 16 that some Mexican immigrants bring drugs and crime to the United States, and some are rapists. He has also called for the mass deportation of illegal immigrants. Various organizations have severed their ties with Trump over the comments, including Spanish-American celebrity chef Jose Andres who backed out of plans to open a flagship restaurant in a new hotel under construction by the mogul.

Trump's inflammatory rhetoric has alienated Latino voters. He is viewed unfavorably by 82 percent of Hispanics, with just 15 percent viewing him favorably, according to a Washington Post/ABC News poll released last month. Famous for his romantic ballads and love life that has garnered tabloid headlines, Iglesias, 72, is Latin music's top-selling artist, with 300 million albums sold in his decades-long career. His latest album "Mexico" features 12 songs with a Mexican flavor and pays tribute to the country's great songwriters. — AFP



Julio Iglesias

## John Fogerty on ups, downs, becoming music's fortunate son

Although he wrote the classic Americana songbook, it took John Fogerty more than 30 years to come to terms with the realization he really was one of rock music's fortunate sons. For one incredible 12-month run, this blue-collar kid from a San Francisco suburb had been the leader of a band that reshaped popular music. In 1969 Creedence Clearwater Revival sold more records and had more hit songs - including classics like "Proud Mary," "Lodi," "Green River" and "Bad Moon Rising" - than even the Beatles.

Then three years later, it was over. The biggest band in the world had imploded in one of the most acrimonious splits of all time, one followed by decades of lawsuits and angry allegations. Even though Fogerty would go on to a successful solo career, he says now that it was a split so intense that it sent him into depression-driven drinking binges that lasted for days. "Which is a stinking way to live," he adds with a shy smile as he sits in the barn of a friend's house in Topanga, the wooded arts colony nestled in coastal canyons between Santa Monica and Malibu. Dressed in his trademark plaid flannel shirt, jeans and boots, Fogerty sat down on a scorching fall day to talk about his just-released memoir, "Fortunate Son: My Life, My Music," which he hopes will set the record straight about the band's estrangement.

### Surviving members

He recalls how just asking him about the possibility of a Creedence reunion used to send him into a towering rage. "I'd go, 'ARRRRGH, I WILL NEVER ...,'" he screams as he throws his hands up in mock anger. Then he laughs and shakes his head, adding he's finally let those feelings go. "So to answer your question," he says with a smile, "I don't know. Maybe." But he doubts it, and so do Creedence's other surviving members. "Things are too broken," says drummer Doug Clifford, who tours these days with bassist Stu Cook under the name Creedence Clearwater Revisited. Cook chuckles when he says, "I think it would be a milestone if we could just sit down and have a beer."



Musician John Fogerty poses for a portrait during an interview about his new memoir 'Fortunate Son: My Life, My Music,' in Topanga, Calif. — AP

Although Fogerty reminisces fondly at times about the early days of a group founded by his late brother, Tom, and the two friends he'd known since junior high school, he says things fell apart when the others came to believe they were equal to the Beatles in talent. But while the Beatles had three great songwriters, two great singers and four members with outsized personalities, he says, Creedence had only him. He wrote all the songs that became hits, he says, because no one else could. He sang all the leads in that instantly recognizable tenor for the same reason, and he arranged the band's unique, fuzz-guitar-driven sound he calls "swamp rock" because that was his vision.

While Clifford and Cook don't disagree with that assessment, they say it was Fogerty's unwillingness to let them have any say in anything that finally destroyed Creedence. "The songwriting he gets an A-plus for," Clifford says in a phone interview. "But when it comes to his shift to management, he gets an F-minus." After the band disintegrated, Fogerty turned to solo work, re-establishing his brilliance as a songwriter with "Centerfield," a song that's played at Major League Baseball games all over the country.

### Publishing rights

But another hit song, "The Old Man Down the Road," prompted his former record label, Fantasy, to sue, claiming he'd copied it from the Creedence hit "Run Through the Jungle," which he also wrote. Although Fogerty prevailed in court, the experience left him so angry that for years he wouldn't perform any Creedence songs because Fantasy owned the publishing rights. Meanwhile, his output of new material dried up as he drank heavily. He went 11 years between recordings until "Blue Moon Swamp" won the Grammy for best rock album in 1997.

He credits his second wife, Julie, and their children with putting him on the path to both sobriety and musical harmony, while inspiring him to sing his old songs again and write new ones. These days, the 70-year-old Fogerty awakens at 4 o'clock most mornings to work on music before taking his daughter, Kelsy, to school. Sons Tyler and Shane play in his band, and with the book done, he's looking to record a new album. Asked how he feels knowing that, despite all the travails, those old albums made him a legend, he nearly falls out of his chair laughing. "In all sincerity, I don't walk around feeling like that guy," he says. After some thought, he adds: "That guy who gets to go out and play those songs live, that part I'm very grateful for." — AP

## They gave peace a chance, but broke no world record

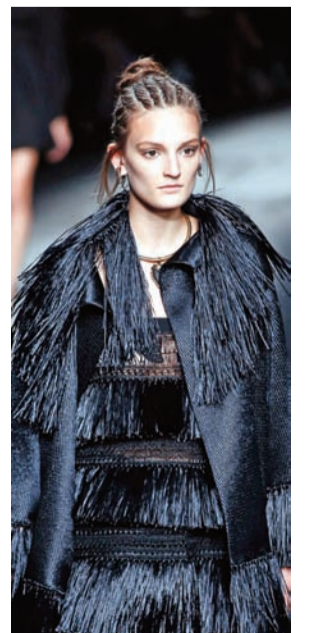
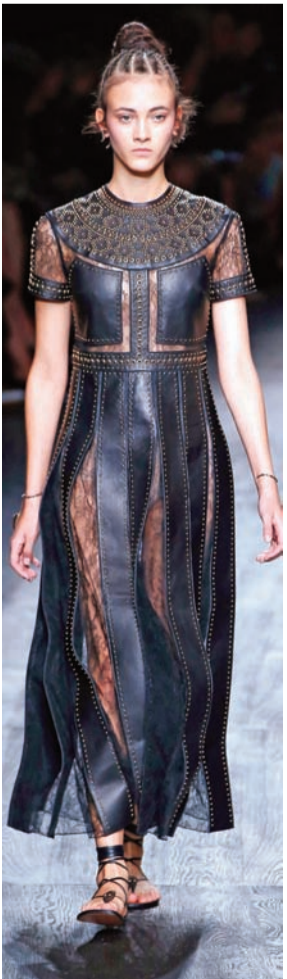
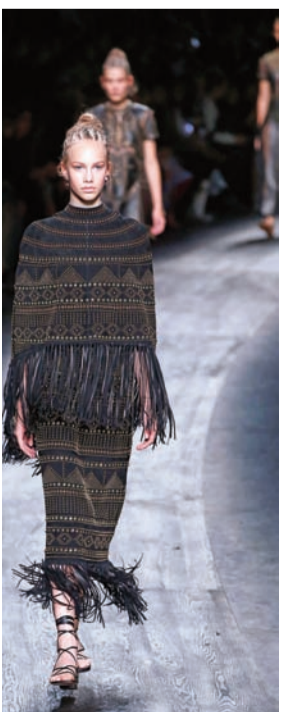
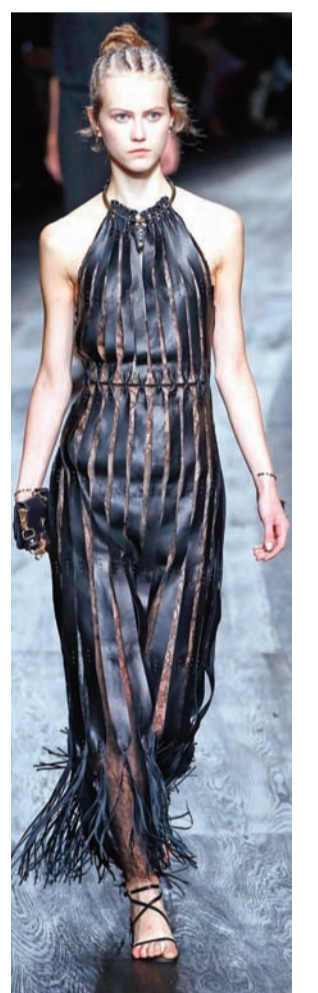
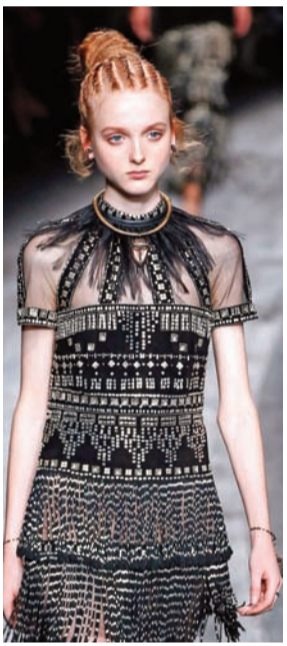
About 2,000 people turned out in New York's Central Park Tuesday to mark John Lennon's birthday-and to try to set a world record for the longest human chain in the shape of a peace sign. People of all ages-entire families and even some children-joined Lennon's widow, Yoko Ono, to celebrate just shy of what would have been his 75th birthday. Some who attended waved signs that said "No war in Syria," and "Make love, not war."

But the record was not in the offing. "Unfortunately this morning's record attempt for the largest human peace sign was unsuccessful," a statement from the book's publisher said. "While over 2,000 individuals participated, they did fall short of meeting the 5,000 person minimum requirement to set the record." Former Beatle John Lennon was born in October 9, 1940 in Liverpool. He was shot dead in Central Park on December 8, 1980. — AFP



A crowd gathered in Central Park to form a human peace sign to remember John Lennon and attempt a Guinness world record, raises their hands in a peace sign gesture. — AP

Fashion



Models present creations for Valentino during the 2016 Spring/Summer ready-to-wear collection fashion show.



# LAGERFELD'S 'PERFECT TRIP' ON CHANEL AIRLINES



**C**rowded airports, long security lines and flight delays. Flying today is not the most pleasant experience, and Karl Lagerfeld thinks those travelling on Chanel Airlines deserve a touch more glamour. The indefatigable 82-year-old fashion legend on Tuesday turned Paris's glass-roofed Grand Palais exhibition hall into a massive departure lounge when he unveiled his spring/summer ready-to-wear collection for 2016. At Lagerfeld's "perfect airport", everyone is dolled up in chic Chanel with flashes of luxury streetwear like a cap on backwards, a sweater casually draped over the shoulders and metallic gloves, shoes and hair accessories.

And no one is likely to ask you to remove your jacket, belt or shoes. The red, white and blue of France's flag, airplane motifs and accessories were throughout what the German designer called "a French collection, even if I am a stranger". And the irony of the timing of the show-as images of angry striking workers stripping the shirts off Air France executives hit front pages around the world was not lost on Lagerfeld. "It isn't very good for the image of France," he said of the woes at the national carrier. But at Chanel Airlines, there was no turbulence, and revealed torsos were intentionally so. "The inspiration is travel, travel around the whole world and of course perfect boarding conditions, which is not necessarily reality," Lagerfeld told AFP. The nostalgia for a time when travel was more glamorous comes after Lagerfeld's equally elaborate staging of a casino for his haute couture collection in July which he said at the time evoked "a time when people dressed up".



Fashion



Models present creations for Chanel during the 2016 Spring/Summer ready-to-wear collection fashion show at the Grand Palais in Paris. — AFP photos



French singer Vanessa Paradis (Center), her daughter Lily Rose Depp (right) and French photographer Jean-Paul Goude (second right) wait before the Chanel 2016 Spring/Summer ready-to-wear collection fashion show.

Cara Delevingne in front row

Lagerfeld said he has been working on the typically elaborate decor for six months. It included a giant board announcing upcoming flights, check-in counters, special Chanel Airline trolleys that fashionistas grabbed for a selfie, and boarding gate number five—a nod to the fashion house's famous perfume. "Airports today are not the funniest thing in the world," Lagerfeld said. "This is the proposition of a perfect trip to a perfect destination with perfect modern clothes with touches of streetwear but in expensive materials, well done and quite sophisticated."

"But they don't look as sophisticated as they really are because it's the attitude of the girl (that) changes it." Top model turned actress Cara Delevingne was in the front row as was Vanessa Paradis and her daughter with ex-partner Johnny Depp, Lily-Rose. Sports stars Lewis Hamilton and Maria Sharapova were also along for the ride. Kendall Jenner, Lagerfeld's latest muse, led the pack of youthful models who wore classic printed tweed looks with skirts grazing below the knee, accessorized with metallic gloves and a cap on back to front.

Large sunglasses, a rectangular block of blue eyeshadow and metallic and plastic lace-up shoes gave an urban edge to Chanel's classic suits. Their hair was parted into a double ponytail with a wide metallic clip—a nod to Lagerfeld's iconic

ponytail. The designer unveiled dozens of new looks, including a series of classic suits and dresses in white trimmed with colorful floral prints, and silver sequined tops paired with black bottoms such as wide-legged leather trousers layered with a skirt.

The split skirt over trousers look was seen on several models, paired with chunky wedge sandals. "If you close the zip you have a skirt, or you have the pants on their own, they co-exist," said Lagerfeld. But in between the brightly colored and busy prints, were more classic Chanel suits teamed with identical boxy little hats. One model wore a tweed jumpsuit with a chequered yellow and pink pattern, dragging "Coco Case" luggage behind her on the vast runway. According to a statement from the fashion house, the iconic Chanel suit in its latest form has "no collar, no pockets, no lace, no buttons, but nevertheless remains immediately recognizable." — AFP



Guests stand during the Chanel 2016 Spring/Summer ready-to-wear collection fashion show.



Lebanese actress Razane Jammal poses before the Chanel 2016 Spring/Summer ready-to-wear collection fashion show.



US singer Janelle Monae



A general view of Beirut's Sursock Museum.



A picture shows Beirut's Sursock Museum on October 5, 2015. — AFP



A picture shows Beirut's Sursock Museum in the Lebanese capital.



A picture shows the facade of Beirut's Sursock Museum.

## Sursock reborn as Beirut's first interactive museum

From nighttime walks around the city to workshops on art conservation, Beirut's grandiose Sursock Museum reopens this week as Lebanon's first interactive museum of contemporary art. Closed for eight years for major renovation work, the impressive mansion-turned-museum is to open to the public from Thursday, free of charge, with exhibits honoring the history of art in Beirut.

The walls have been adorned with photographs from Lebanese collector Fouad Debbas and vibrant, geomet-

ric paintings from the country's "golden era" in the 1960s. Outside, two grand white staircases curve upwards in an arch above the entrance, overlooking a spacious mezzanine to be used for a host of activities. "For a lot of people, a museum is a place to visit and to look. We hope that this museum will be more than this—that it'll be a place for interaction," said Tarek Mitri, who chairs the museum's committee.



A picture taken through painted glass shows the area around Beirut's Sursock Museum.

Among the plans are nighttime walks throughout Beirut hosted by local artists and photography classes for teenagers. The projects are a welcome innovation for Beirut residents, whose city has few museums of any kind and little public space. "Although we are a museum,

### Making art 'playful'

The Sursock Museum started out life as a mansion built in 1912. It first opened its doors as a museum in 1961, in accordance with the will of its owner Nicholas

Sursock who wanted his grand home transformed after his death. "The museum was very active since it opened in 1961 until the beginning of the civil war" in 1975, showcasing both international and local artists, Arida said. One of the museum's most prized events was the "salon d'automne," an invitation for artists to submit their work for a chance to have it displayed at the Sursock.

Now, the decades-old posters featuring winners from the 1960s and 1970s decorate Sursock's walls, and organizers say they will restart the competition next year. "We need to make the approach to contemporary art playful... People are coming to the museum to learn things, so it's a place for education but also a place for

fun, a place where people learn but don't get bored," Arida said. Nora Razian, the museum's head of programs and exhibitions, said a wide range of activities are planned for audiences of all ages and interests. Gardening classes and panel discussions on gender and on public space feature among the events of the first three months.

"A museum is a space for discussions, for debate, for discovery. So a public program really fits into the museum structure," she added, seated in Sursock's underground library. To preserve the original architecture of the more than century-old building, architects dug 20 meters (yards) underground to add the library, an auditorium, new exhibition spaces and rooms for conservation and restoration.

### 'Art is a way of thinking'

From the museum's sleek newly-constructed wings to the bright paintings on its walls, Sursock is a testament to "the history of art in Beirut," said the head of collections, Yasmine Chemali. "It's the first museum of modern and contemporary art in Beirut and this collection really shows the history of art," she said. The mixed-medium "Gazes at Beirut" collection of photographs, sketches and paintings traces the city's transformation from a small coastal town during the Ottoman empire to a buzzing metropolis by 1960.

And the Fouad Debbas collection of over 30,000 images covers the history of photography in Beirut from the end of the 19th century to the start of the 20th century, Chemali said. The museum's own architecture, too, tells the story of Beirut's evolution. Sleek hallways tinted with light falling through stained-glass windows seamlessly lead into wooden-paneled Arab sitting rooms on one floor and a modern reception area on another.

"The transition between the old building and the new premises is really smooth, and maybe metaphorically allows us to build a much needed bridge between our history, the collection that we preserved, and also our contemporary time," Arida said. Both Arida and Razian said they hope Sursock will contribute towards building a "museum culture" in Lebanon. "A museum necessarily has to reflect the society it's based in. It has to do that to stay relevant, to stay part of the discussion, to be an active member of civil society," Razian said. "Art is not only what you see on the wall... It is a way of looking at the world, a way of thinking." — AFP



A security man walks inside Beirut's Sursock Museum.



Painted glass is seen in Beirut's Sursock Museum.



Workers prepare display boards at Beirut's Sursock Museum.



Paintings are displayed at Beirut's Sursock Museum.



Paintings are displayed at Beirut's Sursock Museum.