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# Kuwait Times Friday Times

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# Design as art and brand

Pages 3-4

Local Spotlight

# THE DEATH PENALTY SCARES ME

By Muna Al-Fuzai

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Every time I read about a maid receiving a death sentence in court, I feel pain in my heart. It usually takes me some time to pretend that the decision is not mine and she probably received the right end for the crime she committed. Yet, I wonder if hanging a woman is the solution? Why we as a society have to put two young lives in danger without observing and digging into the probable roots of the problem that lead to this devastating route?!

Kuwait's Cassation Court recently upheld a death sentence for a 22 year old Ethiopian domestic helper for killing a Kuwaiti girl. A capital punishment verdict was issued after the maid admitted to the public prosecution that in March 2014 she took a knife and walked into the victim's bedroom where she stabbed her several times in the chest. She confessed that she killed the Kuwaiti sponsor's 19 year old daughter, a college student, when the family were resting after hosting a dinner reception. According to police reports, the maid stabbed the victim who was asleep, then locked herself inside her room before leaving her employer's house and eventually turning herself in to the police. Investigators confirmed that the maid killed the Kuwaiti because her fingerprints were all over the knife used in the crime. Last November, the court sentenced her to death by hanging.

Sadly this incident was not the first of its kind and I doubt it will be the last.

Now, I believe the bottom line is that we lost two people instead of one. The victim has lost her young life. And the maid will also be gone either when she is hanged or even if she went to jail for the rest of her life.

However such a horrific incident will not end the troubled relations here in Kuwait between sponsor and their servants. Not unless we hold the courage to point fingers over whom should be blamed for the unsettled contact among the two.

I believe in law. But I also believe in the need to enforce and implement laws rather than having them solely for the pleasure of the beautiful way they look written on a page. So, I believe maids in general must be given all their personal needs and space. That is a fact....when a maid is deprived of humane treatment, how can you expect her to act human?

A full day off is her right and not a gift from an employer. Whatever your excuse you are denying her a basic human need to have personal space and rest. Some employers argue that she might go out and get a boyfriend and get pregnant. But we all know that's just a lazy excuse. It's illegal to get pregnant here without marriage and if one does so, she will end up jail. The employer will not be held responsible for the maid breaking laws.

We forget that our helpers are people too. They have a legal right to have time to make friends and enjoy life. They are not slaves - though many are treated as such here in Kuwait.

No amount of pressure can excuse the taking of another human life.

But when employers deny domestic staff even a little bit of relaxation and fun, a day to rest and release some of the stress and pressure that all human beings feel, the only possible result is that some will go crazy. Moving from home to a new land is never easy for any one, so if it is not easy for professionals or housewives, you can imagine that it is surely not easy for a woman who may suffer from homesickness, missing her partners, family members or children.

Also verbal abuse which is very common here is hard to deal with....I know some here may deny such vulgar behavior but, it's happening and widely spread among a lot of people. I think such an environment can lead any person to depression, mental illness and the temptation to commit acts of extreme violence.

We need a balance study that sheds light on the real suffering of maids and point fingers towards the truth behind the horrifying daily news about human rights abuses in Kuwait.

Just kiddin', seriously

# IS KUWAIT HAPPY?

By Sahar Moussa

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A few days ago, Kuwait Times published a survey from Bayt.com entitled 'Top Cities in the Middle East and North Africa Survey 2015,' which revealed that half of the people living in Kuwait City are either very happy or somewhat happy living in their current city of residence. This survey was collected online with the participation of 3,613 respondents out of around 4,044,500 people living in Kuwait and polled from varying nationalities. This survey actually shocked me when I read it. The survey is divided into seven sections - starting with economic factors, labor rights, environmental factors, standard of living, socio-cultural factors, (sports, arts, culture and recreation), and entrepreneurship. Okay, I might not have any numbers or statistics, but I do know what it is like to live as an average earning person in Kuwait.

### Economic factor

Survey: According to the survey, 24 percent of the respondents believe that the availability of jobs is either good or excellent, while 15 percent think it is bad. Around a quarter believe that competitive salaries are good-to-excellent. Other important economic factors include benefits for working parents and reasonably priced amenities.

Me: Excuse me, but say what!!! Reasonably priced amenities? First of all, Kuwait is not like it used to be 10 years ago. Everything has changed. Prices have been increasing insanely every year while salaries remain the same. There is absolutely no balance between what you earn and what you spend. In the past years, if you go to a co-op, you were able to buy all your basic needs with KD 50 (for the whole month), but not nowadays. Don't let me mention the random increase in rents, transportation, even food and vegetables. Regarding availability of jobs - it is declining - if you compare it with how it was five years ago.

### Labor Rights

Survey: The survey showed that Kuwait City was the tenth top-scoring city in the MENA region (Middle East and North Africa Survey) in terms of labor rights. (31%) respondents believe that they have good-to-excellent end of service benefits, termination rights (27%), vacation allowances (44%), wage protection system (31%), and health insurance and social security system (36%).

Me: Kuwait laws protect expats and their rights and I'm very impressed by the end of service benefits for Kuwaitis. But unfortunately some of the company owners don't respect the law. They don't pay salaries on time; they don't give workers their days off; some use the law against the poor workers and scheme so as to deprive them of their rights - and eventually deport them. Some workers in many cases don't even have money to hire a lawyer to fight for their rights. The problem is not in the law itself but in the lack of implementation and oversight. And don't even get me started on the lack of laws protecting domestic workers.

### Environmental factors

Survey: The vast majority of respondents (53 percent) say that the cleanliness of their city streets is either good or excellent. While other factors include clean water (good-to-excellent: 47 percent) and beauty of the architecture and buildings (good-to-excellent: 45 percent).

Me: Yes! I do agree that Kuwait is pretty clean and they are trying as much as they can to plant trees. As for the beauty of the buildings and architecture, well it is okay but not amazing. We can see a few places with old and dilapidated buildings. I believe that a country like Kuwait with so much money should be a heaven on earth.

### Standard of living

Survey: A large number of respondents rated Kuwait City as good-to-excellent on most of the key factors affecting

the standard of living. These factors include the feeling of stability and security (good-to-excellent: 48 percent); the availability of healthcare facilities (good-to-excellent: 48 percent); water/electricity/sewage systems (good-to-excellent: 68 percent) and the quality of education (good-to-excellent: 41 percent).

Me: Kuwait is considered to be a relatively safe place, but after the tragedy of the suicide attack at Imam Al-Sadiq Mosque that killed 26 people and wounded 202, it seems no place is safe again. I believe that Kuwait should strengthen its security. I cannot agree more when it comes to water and electricity - it is perfect, but the sewage system needs more work in some places. The quality of education in government schools is very low and doesn't meet the standards at all. But as for the private schools, well, it depends on the systems and how they apply it. As for the healthcare facilities in Kuwait, if you compare it to other countries in the MENA, I think it is relatively good, but the recent move to stop providing kidney dialysis treatment for expatriates is just inhuman.

### Socio-cultural factors

Survey: Crime rate is rated as good-to-excellent by 40 percent of Kuwait City respondents; a stable political environment rated as good-to-excellent by 33 percent of Kuwait City respondents, and effective law enforcement rated as good and excellent by 38 percent. Others are equal treatment of both genders and tolerance to different cultures and ideas.

Me: Kuwait's crime rate is relatively low. I can't say that the political environment is stable because of sectarianism here - and you can feel the tension at the Parliament. As for the equal treatment of both genders and tolerance to different cultures and ideas, I think Kuwait really is doing a good job.

### Sports, arts, culture, recreation

Survey: Outdoor/sports activities (28 percent), the culture and arts offering (25 percent), and the availability of family-friendly activities (25 percent) - good or excellent 21 percent ranked the availability of natural areas/landscapes as good-to-excellent.

Me: What do you expect from a city located in the desert? The weather doesn't actually help, but at the same time, that didn't stop MENA countries from being an amazing region. Some cities try to create social activities - bringing artists from all over the world to do concerts and promote creativity and cultural exchange. Although most countries in the MENA region are Islamic - but still, that didn't stop them from enjoying social life.

### Entrepreneurship

Survey: Kuwait City ranked either good or excellent among respondents on the following factors: the ease of starting a new business (15 percent); lack of bureaucracy in procedures and paperwork (16 percent); the ease of finding finances to start a business (19 percent); market willingness to accept new ideas and innovations (32 percent); ability to find local talent to employ (26 percent) and affordability of taxes and fees (36 percent).

Me: One of my Kuwaiti friends once asked me "do you know how hard it is to start a new business in Kuwait? Can you imagine the hustle of the paperwork? That's why Kuwaitis prefer to open businesses outside Kuwait, since everything here works with wasta, and if you don't have wasta, you can forget it. I have heard this from so many Kuwaitis and non-Kuwaitis. They really get so frustrated because they can't achieve their dreams.

# The self-branded man

Ahmed Al-Rashid has carved out a name for himself by boldly taking risks

By Athoob A Al-Shuaibi



Customizing Bag - Dubai

For the past 15 years, Kuwaiti designer Ahmed Al-Rashid has been building his graphic design business empire by packaging himself as a brand and taking steady steps to develop his identity. "I create simple designs using bold colors - this is my approach. However, I'm not bound to a particular art technique," said Rashid. He is best known for three styles - graphic design, geometrical shapes and spattered and organic illustrations. "I draw on almost everything and not only on a computer screen or a piece of paper - walls, clothes, accessories, machines and cars; anything you can imagine," he added.

Visual communication is a changing art. Those who work in this field need to keep up with the change in order to stay relevant. This art can briefly be defined as the ability to turn ideas into effective and persuasive images or designs without the need for words. Thus, it is considered a universal language, but it is also restricted by symbolic meanings that vary from one nation to another. Therefore, popularity is linked to accommodating the meaning of the symbols.

For example, the "I ? NY" logo by Milton Glaser, designed in 1977, contains a powerful statement that relies on the symbolic context of shape and color. Its simplicity swept the world and made it wildly



Designer Ahmed Al-Rashid

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Customizing Bag - Kuwait

popular. Visual communicators like graphic designers tend to simplify complex approaches. Consistency creates unique features if the designer is able to separate mood swings and his style and perspective in design.

**Claim to fame**

"Although I started professionally 13 years ago, my first appearance on social media was when I started to post my hand-illustrated Starbucks paper cups. The project bloomed and led to a business collaboration between me and Starbucks in the Middle East, followed by Nespresso after I posted a picture of my design work on one of their products," Rashid said. He also shot to worldwide fame in fashion after showcasing his art on clothes and accessories of high street brands.

"My transition from one surface to another has puzzled my competitors. What is Ahmed doing? What I do is take risks and deliberate alterations. There are many talented graphic designers, but they are not willing to take the risk and draw their illustrations straight on an expensive item. I do," Rashid said confidently.

**Perseverance pays**

Rashid realizes that his beginnings are the real secret behind his excellence, along with practice and continuous learning. He was keen to learn from renowned graphic designers and advertising agencies in Britain and the Netherlands as a trainee. "I had to pay for some of them to let me in," Rashid revealed. "Besides the great understanding of the design business from those experiences, more importantly, I compiled a client base from all over the world. Hence, being popular on social media is minor compared to talent and perseverance as a development tool for self packaging and to reach a point where the industry recognizes a designer as a brand," Rashid stressed.

Given these points, Rashid believes that consistency in graphic design is an important element to widen the competition between him and other designers and agencies, in addition to maintaining his work between madness and rationality. An example is when he recently painted on the body of a super-model. He followed his style in design, and ignored those who did not welcome this daring step. At the same time, he chose not to draw on the whole body in respect to his society.

"I twisted the challenge to create dazzling work even though I painted on a small part of her body rather than challenging society," Rashid said. "You will know that I no longer live here if you see me painting on an entire body in a more culturally open society. I am now working on finding the right way to get to the world," he concluded.



Customizing Jeans with paint Leze Longboards New York



Body Paint art Project Private Client Dubai



Customizing Converse LEVEL SHOE DISTRICT - Dubai



# Kuwait Times

Established 1961

THE LEADING INDEPENDENT DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

*Presents*

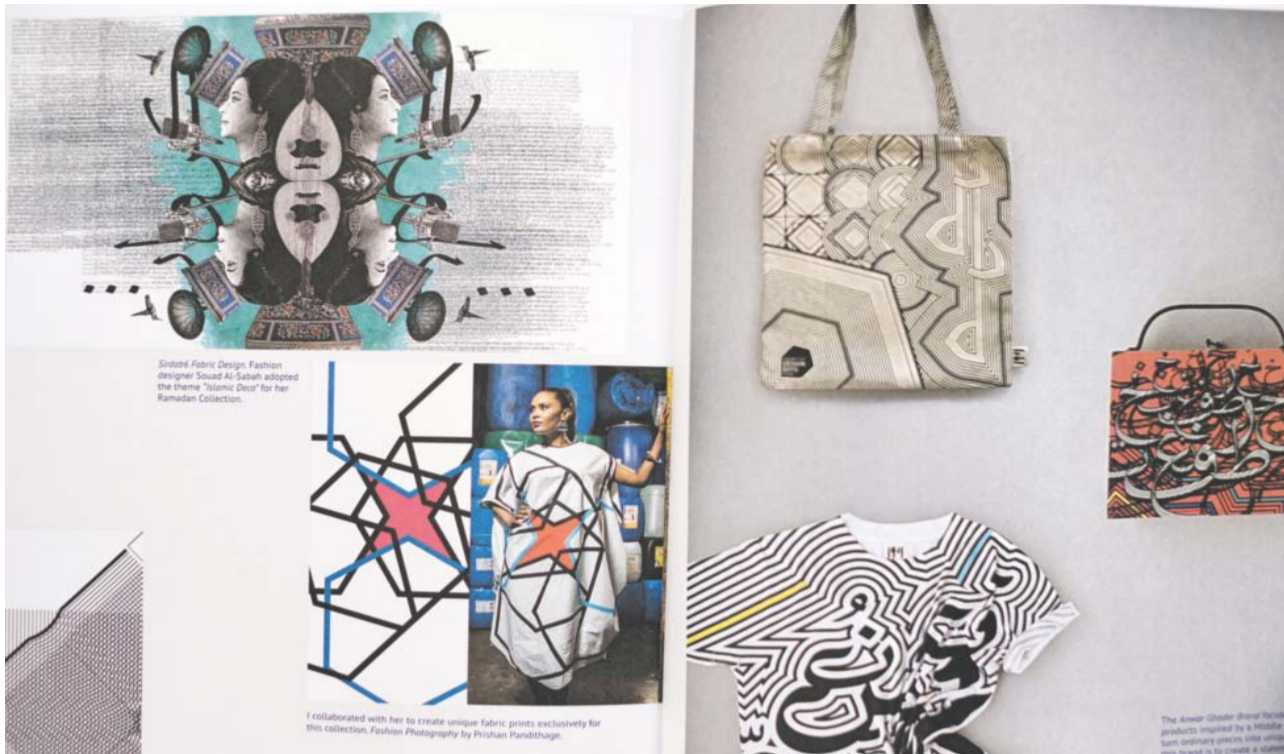
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Anwar Ghader Design Work



Co-founders Dhari Al-Muawad and Khaled Al-Bannay

# Creative directory of creatives in Kuwait

Series of Select books showcase local talents

By Athoob Al-Shuaibi

The world is witnessing a boom in the number of artists in the fields of design and photography. This is a result of providing innovative courses in these domains by universities worldwide to keep pace with the market needs and the young people's interest.

As matter of fact, any person now can develop a skill by learning from a free universal education system called the internet. Therefore, talent is not enough to get noticed, and be labeled a "great artist" is not something only based on your skill. It is an industry. To become a well known artist, you need to build a solid base of connections within your domain. Also, the society plays a key role in raising or burying a talent. In Kuwait, for example, the amateurs try to introduce their talents by offering their services free of charge which adversely affect those who attempt to use their talent as a source of income.

With this in mind, two Kuwaitis came up with the idea of a book titled "Select".

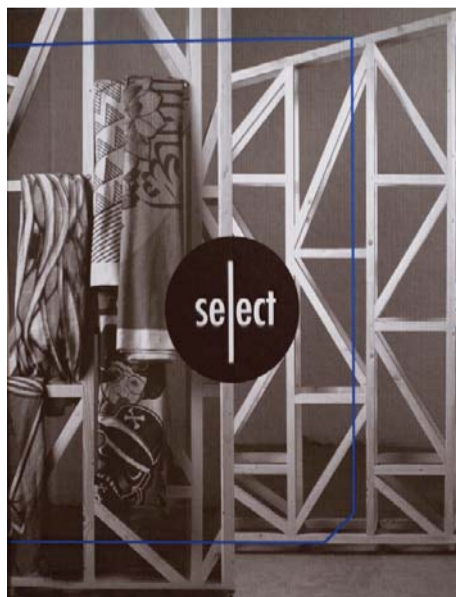
"A few years ago, while we were both working in the creative industry, we noticed there is a massive increase in people's awareness about art and design and how it's important to relate this field to their own businesses. Entrepreneurial projects were on the rise, and so was the demand for photographers and designers. The idea behind Select came out of an initial market need we felt early on in our careers: to filter through the masses and create a directory of local talents as a means to connect with them. Select is a coffee table book and directory that celebrates the local manifestation of creativity in its various forms: from architecture to photography, furniture design to applied arts," explains co-Founder Khaled Al-Bannay.

## Directory of designers

There are three editions so far in the Select book series. The Photography issue showcased photographers that specialize in art, commercial and documentary. The second issue gathered a selection of architects and interior designers. In the third edition, "The Design Practices Issue", exposes the work of a



Stark Studio Designs



Select book

number of established and emerging graphic designers in Kuwait.

"We have selected designers who are notable for work that creates resonance in society, for practices that develop the discourse of design, challenge established (mis)



Noura Al-Naggar and Noura Al-Rashed

conceptions, and who offer services that run the gamut from identity design to designed objects, from publication and production to finding innovative channels of marketing and distribution, contemporary designers are redefining their role in society, and reexamining

their potentials in our entrepreneurial economy," Bannay said.

Noura Al-Rashed and Noura Al-Naggar, both hold masters degrees in fine arts in graphic design. Their common interest resulted in a collaboration under the umbrella of Stark Studio.

"Select is a great platform for fulfilling an ongoing quest to benefit and develop the design field in Kuwait," they noted. "Many people are working to do just that. So, we wanted to contribute to the effort. Knowing they were working on the third issue of Select, we approached the founders and suggested we work together, as they are known for working with a specialized committee on the subjects they address."

Anwar Ghader, another graphic designer who used to work for an advertising agency before he started on his own said that he was glad with the entire experience.

"They emailed me to ask if I was interested in participating in this issue. I think the book will reach people around the Gulf and that would be good exposure to all who participated," Ghader exclaimed. He mentioned that he is invited with the team to represent the book in ArtDubai.

Select founders have been in the creative and business industries for more than five years. They have started to understand the market needs although they aren't specialized in the art and design fields but passionate about them. They do believe it's all about a right management.

Each issue has taken seven to 10 months of work. Al-Bannay concluded: "After every publication we do ask and follow up with the featured talents especially the newcomers if they have benefited from Select or not. I can tell you most of them said yes. We are thankful that the audience/clients believe and trust Select content, and the people who are featured in it. Especially when you go through the book and flip the pages. You will see established as well as newcomers. Both categories do have the talent and the good standards as we always try to present a balanced content."



## Local drone photographer talks about his passion and capturing Kuwait from the skies

By Faten Omar

**O**mar Al-Jassem, a 25-year-old Kuwaiti drone photographer, had a goal to capture Kuwait as no one had done before, and show the world the architectural beauty of the country. Together with his 17-year-old school-going cousin Mohammad Jaafar, Jassem has produced a collection of photos and videos of Kuwait and Bulgaria.

Jassem spoke to Kuwait Times to explain his work and passion.

**Kuwait Times: How did you get started in drone photography and why did it appeal to you?**

**Omar Al-Jassem:** I started a year ago by using the Phantom 2 Vision drone, shooting scenes with a fisheye lens. My brother gave this drone to me. It was not easy to control it at first, but I became a professional once I got the hang of it.

When I was trying to fly it for the first time, I broke it, so I went to a store to buy a new propeller. That is when I met a group of people who are specialists in drone photography. I joined them on their group on WhatsApp, where they posted their pictures and videos. I sent my videos too, but they weren't as good as theirs, but they taught me and I bought a new professional drone (Inspire 1), which shoots up to 4K video and captures 12 megapixel photos. Even Kuwaiti singer Nabil Shuel loves this and has started to use a drone.

**KT: Which is your favorite video and why?**

**Jassem:** My favorite video is the one I shot of the Liberation Tower in Kuwait City. It was an amazing shot from the sky. I love it because it shows the beauty of Kuwait in one scene. I also love my video of Marina Mall. People were shocked that this was Marina Mall, because when you see it, you will get the full picture of the beauty of the building mixed with the beauty of the seaside. The view from top feels different.

**KT: How would you describe your style or vision of filming?**

**Jassem:** My vision is to shoot my videos in a different way from others. I recently tried to shoot the same scene from the same angle in the sky at day and night. I used the coordinates and memorized them, then flew the drone again at night to get the same shot but at a different timing.



Omar Al-Jassem

**KT: Why do you film Kuwait?**

**Jassem:** Because Kuwait has many incredible buildings, and you can only see their beauty from above.

**KT: What do you like to do when you are not shooting?**

**Jassem:** I like to play football. I also like editing.

**KT: Who are some of your favorite drone/aerial photographers?**

**Jassem:** My favorite drone photographer is Ali Younes - he uses the s1000 drone. This drone is a highly professional one, and you can add a Nikon or Canon camera to it. It is as if a professional cameraman is up in the sky. I saw his pictures and videos, then met and asked him a lot of questions. He was very helpful and did not ignore me even once. He taught me the basics and keeps me updated.

**KT: Can you tell us about your editing process as well as what some of your favorite apps are?**

**Jassem:** My favorite applications are 'Video

Shop' or 'iMovie'. I have downloaded them on my iPad. When you use iMovie, you only have to cut the scenes you want and the music, and the app will turn it into a full video.

**KT: Can you tell us about your drone setup?**

**Jassem:** My drone is a strong carbon fiber one with arms out of sight, transforming the way you can shoot. You can get a full, unrestricted 360° view of the world below and create images and videos. You can shoot up to 4K video and capture 12 MP photos. The lens consists of 9 separate elements, including a spherical element for extreme clarity, while Adobe DNG RAW support gives you the power to make every shot a masterpiece. You also can take complete control of your flight system with a comprehensive mobile app.

**KT: In your opinion, what will drone technology and/or the drone landscape look like in the future?**

**Jassem:** A few days, a new drone was released in the market with a wide-angle lens. The old lenses shot a picture in eight colors, but this can capture 13 colors, which clearly show all

the things in a picture. They also added SSD, which allows you to save all the pictures and the videos automatically to your computer, and it has a hard disk, so you do not have to add memory cards.

**KT: Do you have any advice for aspiring photographers?**

**Jassem:** I advise them to follow security and safety measures, and they should at least take a training course with a well-known drone photographer to know the basics and the problems and difficulties they may face, such as losing the signal of the drone or losing control, and never to fly around communications towers.

**KT: Do you remember what it was like your first time shooting from the air?**

**Jassem:** The first time was at a chalet. My brother gave me the remote of the drone to try it out, but I flew it too fast, but thank God I did not lose it.

**KT: Are there any places you wish you could shoot from the air?**

**Jassem:** I want to go to Maldives to capture the beauty of thesea - it's like heaven. Also Britain and Bulgaria. But the place that I'm planning to go soon is Dubai, to shoot the Burj Khalifa.

**KT: What are some of the cool opportunities that have resulted from your success?**

**Jassem:** Companies always offer me free things because they like what I have done, but I'm not taking advantage of them. I shoot for myself to show the hidden beauty of places. Some companies and stores have also offered to pay me to shoot for them.

**KT: Do you use your drone to shoot illegal things?**

**Jassem:** Never - I hate trouble. And also, you cannot do this because you have to shoot from a short distance, so you will be busted. If you shoot from a high and long distance, the result will be just dots as zoom is not possible. But sometimes, curiosity drives me to follow some fishing boats to see them fishing, just for fun.

Crime

Report



## PAKISTANI, TURKISH NATIONAL CAUGHT SELLING HASHISH

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** Drugs Control General Department men arrested a Pakistani and Turkish national for selling illicit narcotics in Farwaniya area. The Pakistani was arrested in Jleeb with 250g of hashish. He said the source is a Turkish expat who works as a barber. The Turkish man was also arrested and found in possession of 750g of hashish. Both were sent to drugs prosecution.

### Bridge collapses

KFSSD book up center responded to a call about the collapse of metal bridge on an equipment transfer vehicle hauling a truck on King Fahad Road at 1:45am. The metal bridge was lifted and put aside. KFSD urged all drivers to make sure about the height of their vehicles before taking on the road to safeguard their safety and of motorists.

### Fires around Kuwait

South Salmiya firemen contained a fire in a residential building in Salwa area. The building is made of three floors, and the fire was in the ground floor kitchen. The building was evacuated and fire put out. No injuries were reported.

A fire broke out in a Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh house. Jleeb center fire fighters found the limited fire in the kitchen which was caused by faulty wiring in the water cooler. Power was cut off and the fire was put out without injuries.

Firemen from Fahaheel and Mangaf responded to a fire in a Mahboula building, on the fifth floor. Heavy smoke engulfed the area. Firemen found two infants from an African family suffered burns, and were handed to paramedics. Residents were taken to the roof then fought the fire. In another incident, a car accident on Mangaf coastal road left two persons trapped, so firemen had to cut the car to get them out and were handed to paramedics.

## KUWAIT AIRWAYS PLANE MAKES EMERGENCY RETURN TO HEATHROW

**KUWAIT:** A Kuwait Airways passenger plane made an emergency return to Heathrow Airport after the temperature in one of the engines rose above allowed levels. Flight KU104, an A300 Airbus, was over the English Channel, about 30km off the coast when it radioed that it needed to return to London's Heathrow. The flight was en route to Kuwait. A spokesperson for Heathrow airport confirmed the plane had landed safely but the airport could not release any information on what may have caused the flight to turn back. It is believed the plane has been in service since 1992. The model can generally carry 266 passengers and is most frequently used for short to medium-range flights. The A300 Airbus is one of five used by the international carrier, based in Kuwait. The company has flown to 34 international locations since November 2013.

## KUWAIT OIL PRICE FALLS TO \$43.51

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait oil price in Wednesday's trades dropped 84 cents to USD 43.51 per barrel as compared to \$44.35 pb on Tuesday, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation said yesterday. Oil prices had dropped since the International Energy Agency (IEA) cautioned of continuing market glut this year and 2016, despite a weak dollar which moved down to the lowest level in three week, thus trimming oil prices' losses. —KUNA



## TRADITIONAL WOMEN'S CLOTHING REFLECTIVE OF KUWAIT'S DESERT, SEA HERITAGE

**KUWAIT:** Cultures are usually reflected by the choice of clothing which people put on and that fact is very true when concerned with Kuwaiti society which derives its heritage from the desert and the sea. With its harsh desert environment which pushed most people near the coastline—also often humid and hot—traditional women clothing varied in design.

In the summer season, the clothes usually were made of lighter material to

fend of the harsh summer season with the case reversing in winter. Women wear in particular developed vastly from what men use to put on with each piece of clothing being worn for specific occasions like weddings, going to the market and so on.

The varying designs of women wear led the ladies in Kuwait to give name to the attire they wear with words like "Bukhnag" and "Burqu", both clothing to

cover either the face or hair. Kuwait was not in isolation from other countries in the region with elements of some cultures seeping into what people wear in the country due to travels made merchants and adventures on sea and land.

Of course with the passage of time, Kuwaiti clothes evolved with the introduction of imported goods such as women shoes, locally known as "Jouti" which created "hype" back in the day. —KUNA





## CONSTRUCTION WASTE PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED

By A. Saleh

**KUWAIT:** Municipality Director General Ahmad Al-Subaih said among the most important projects is that of construction left over project according to the B.O.T system, which aims at dealing with such material to utilize the largest quantity possible, and limit the use of lands as landfills and protect the environment. He said Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) project will be executed according to the public - private partnership (PPP) system, adding that "private sector is our partner in many projects."

### Air conditioners for schools

The coordinating committee between educational facilities will hold a meeting with engineering affairs development on Sunday to discuss orders of HH the Amir to replace school air conditioners at His Highness's expense. Sources said the budget that was allocated for maintenance was exhausted before work was completed, so work was halted.

### Nature preserve violations

A security source said that three vehicles with six men on board stormed into Sabah Al-Ahmad protectorate. They were arrested and sent to concerned authorities as their action is an environmental violation.

### Soldier hurt

An Amiri guard soldier was injured during training in Udaire area. The soldier accidentally shot himself in the right thigh. His injury was described as light and he is in good condition.

## INDIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH, KUWAIT FESTIVITIES TODAY

**KUWAIT:** The annual Harvest Festival and Sunday School Golden Jubilee closing ceremony of St Gregorios Indian Orthodox Church (Maha Edavaka), the largest parish of Malankara Orthodox Church (Established in AD 52), is being held at Al-Jeel Al-Jadeed School auditorium, Hawally today.



**Baselios Marthoma Paulose II**

HH Baselios Marthoma Paulose II, the supreme Head of Malankara Orthodox Church, along with Diocesan Bishop HG (Dr) Joseph Mar Dionysius, Director of Orthodox Syrian Sunday School of the East (OSSAE), Director of Sunday School Outside Kerala Region (OKR), diplomats and other dignitaries will attend the events.

The Harvest Festival of Kuwait parish is to support its humanitarian and charity projects. The day-long event will showcase variety of cultural programs, public meeting, procession, food festival, American auction, games etc, besides a full length musical show by a team of artists lead by Remya Nambesan, the playback singer and cine artist. Along with the Harvest Festival, the year-long Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Sunday School will also be concluded.



**KUWAIT:** A crane flipped over while performing a job at Abdallah Al-Mubarak School yesterday.



**MILAN:** National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanim visits Kuwaiti pavilion at Expo Milan 2015.

## AL-GHANIM VISITS KUWAITI PAVILION AT EXPO MILAN

**MILAN:** National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanim, accompanied by a parliamentary delegation, visited the Kuwaiti pavilion at Expo Milan 2015 yesterday. The expo is currently held under the banner "Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life".

Upon arrival, Al-Ghanim and his accompanying delegation were received by Faisal Al-Motalaqqem, Information Ministry's assistant undersecretary for foreign media affairs. The delegation listened to a detailed explanation on the pavilion's departments and its items as

well as the views and ideas of visitors about the pavilion.

Al-Ghanim also saw a documentary film on Kuwait's nature and achievements in the areas of energy and water as well as its experiment pertaining to Sabah Al-Ahmad Nature Reserve. MPs Faisal Al-Sahya, Auda Al-Ruwaie, Khalil Abdullah and Saif Al-Azmi accompanied the parliament speaker during the tour.

Minister of Education and Higher Education Dr Bader Al-Issa, Minister of Justice and Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Yaqoub Al-Sanea, Minister

of Commerce and Industry Dr Youssef Al-Ali, National Assembly General Secretary Allam Al-Kandari, Ambassador to Italy Sheikh Ali Al-Khaled Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and the country's General Consul in Milan Abdunnasser Bukhdhour accompanied the delegation as well.

Al-Ghanim and his accompanying delegation arrived here late Wednesday as part of a tour that will also take him to Geneva on Friday to lead the Kuwaiti parliamentary delegation to the 133th session of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) due between October 17-21. —KUNA



**CAIRO:** Kuwait bags 11 prizes at Cairo Artworks and Media Mondial. —KUNA

## KUWAIT BAGS 11 PRIZES AT CAIRO ARTWORKS AND MEDIA MONDIAL

**CAIRO:** The State of Kuwait has won 11 prizes out of 86 at the end of Cairo Artworks and Media Mondial that kicked off on October 10, coming in the second place after Egypt in terms of the number of prizes.

Mohammad Ramadan Al-Rowashda, head of the Mondial's arbitration committee, announced that at least 350 artworks from 18 Arab countries participated in the event. He said that Kuwait took part in the mondial with 56 artworks winning the first place in terms of the number of artworks followed by Egypt.

Meanwhile, the Kuwaiti Ministry of

Information's Assistant Undersecretary for Radio Affairs Sheikh Fahad Al-Mubarak Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah lauded the valuable prizes granted to Kuwait. "This success is the fruit of the massive efforts exerted by the ministry's staff," he told KUNA in a statement yesterday, noting that the next year will witness more artworks of Kuwait.

Sheikh Fahad Al-Mubarak revealed that there will be joint Egyptian-Kuwaiti artworks during the upcoming period and preparations will be underway for this move. In a similar statement to KUNA, Mohammad Al-Mesry,

director of the program department of the Kuwait TV, congratulated Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah and all senior officials of Ministry of Information on this success.

He expressed his satisfaction with winning a big number of varied prizes, hoping for further participations from TV and Radio staff in upcoming events. He said that Kuwait will take part in the festivals in Bahrain and Tunisia. A number of artists were honored during the mondial that ran until October 14. —KUNA

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**WASHINGTON: Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Marine General Joseph F. Dunford (left) and US Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter (center) listen while US President Barack Obama makes a statement in the Rosevelt Room of the White House.— AFP**

## OBAMA TO KEEP TROOPS IN AFGHANISTAN TILL 2016 CASTS ASIDE PROMISE TO END THE WAR

**WASHINGTON:** President Barack Obama will keep 5,500 US troops in Afghanistan when he leaves office in 2017, according to senior administration officials, casting aside his promise to end the war on his watch and instead ensuring he hands the conflict off to his successor. Obama had originally planned to pull out all but a small, embassy-based US military presence by the end of next year, a timeline coinciding with the final weeks of his presidency. But military leaders argued for months that the Afghans needed additional assistance and support from the US to beat back a resurgent Taliban and hold onto gains made over the last 14 years of American bloodshed and billions of dollars in aid.

The president was to announce the changes yesterday morning from the White House. Officials said he would outline plans to maintain the current force of 9,800 troops in Afghanistan through most of next year, then draw down to 5,500 troops in 2017, at a pace still to be determined by commanders. The officials previewed the decisions on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the matter publicly ahead of the president.

US officials have been hinting at the policy shift for weeks, noting that conditions on the ground in Afghanistan have changed since Obama's initial decision on a sharper troop withdrawal timeline was made more than two years ago. The White House has also been buoyed by having a more reliable partner in Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, who succeeded the mercurial Hamid Karzai last year.

"The narrative that we're leaving Afghanistan is self-defeating," Defense Secretary Ash Carter said Wednesday during a speech at the Association of the US Army. "We're not, we can't, and to do so would not be to take advantage of the success we've had to date."

While officials said the Afghan policy had been under review for several months, Obama's decision to leave more forces in Afghanistan than initially envisioned was reinforced when Taliban fighters took control of the key northern city of Kunduz late last month, prompting a protracted battle with

Afghan forces on the ground, supported by US airstrikes. During the fighting, a US airstrike hit a hospital, killing 22 people, including 12 Doctors Without Borders staff and 10 patients. Beyond the recent security troubles in Afghanistan, US commanders have also expressed concern about Islamic State fighters moving into the country and gaining recruits from within the Taliban. The troops staying in Afghanistan beyond next year will continue to focus on counterterrorism missions and training and advising Afghan security forces, the officials said. They will be based in Kabul and Bagram Air Field, as well as bases in Jalalabad and Kandahar. The president's decision to keep the US military in Afghanistan beyond his tenure thrusts the conflict into the 2016 presidential race. The next president will become the third US commander in chief to oversee the war, with the options of trying to bring it to a close, maintaining the presence as Obama left it or even ramping up US involvement in the conflict.

Until now, Afghanistan has barely factored into campaign discussions on foreign policy and was not mentioned in Tuesday's Democratic debate. The war was discussed only briefly in two Republican debates. Shukria Barakzai, a high-profile Afghan lawmaker and women's rights advocate, said she hoped her country's security would "not become a tool between the Republicans and Democrats" in the election. "I hope the Afghanistan issue is taken seriously," she said.

Officials said discussions on staying in Afghanistan longer

began during Ghani's visit to Washington in March. The top US commander in Afghanistan, Gen. John Campbell, recently presented the president with a range of options calling for keeping more troops there based on his judgment of what it would take to sustain the Afghan army and minimize the chances of losing more ground. Officials said NATO allies had expressed support for extending the troop presence in Afghanistan, but they did not outline any specific commitments from other nations.

Last week, during a meeting of defense ministers, Carter urged allies to remain flexible and consider abandoning their earlier timelines to cut troop levels in Afghanistan. NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg and other defense ministers were quick to agree, saying that the size of the force should be based on security conditions rather than a fixed timeline.

Upending the troop withdrawal decision, however, carries broad political implications. Obama campaigned for the White House on a pledge to end America's involvement in the two wars he inherited, Iraq and Afghanistan. Now, he'll likely finish his presidency with troops back in both countries.

The president did withdraw all US troops from Iraq in late 2011, a moment he heralded as a promise kept to a war-weary nation. But the rise of the Islamic State drew the US military back into Iraq last year to train and assist local security forces and launch airstrikes, a campaign Obama has said will likely last beyond his tenure. Obama announced the end of the Afghan war with similar fanfare last spring, saying it was time for the US to "turn the page" on more than a decade of deadly conflicts. But his remarks at the time also foreshadowed the difficulties he would face in fulfilling that pledge. "Americans have learned that it's harder to end wars than it is to begin them," he said. — AP

## ISRAELIS ARM THEMSELVES AFTER MORE KNIFE ATTACKS

**JERUSALEM:** Israeli security forces deployed massively in Jerusalem yesterday as Jews armed themselves with everything from guns to broomsticks, rattled by a wave of Palestinian attacks that have shaken the country. Some 300 soldiers were reinforcing police, stretched thin by a two-week upsurge in violence that has raised fears that a third Palestinian intifada, or uprising, might erupt.

It was not clear whether the troops were in place yet. The last time soldiers deployed in large numbers was in 2002, during the second intifada, according to a security source.

In addition to the attacks, violent protests have rocked annexed east Jerusalem, the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Seven Israelis have been killed and dozens wounded. At least 30 Palestinians have also died, including alleged attackers, and hundreds more been wounded in clashes with Israeli forces. In the first two intifadas, in 1987-1993 and 2000-2005, hundreds of people were killed and many more hurt in near daily violence.

Israel's best-selling newspaper, Yediot Aharonot, was full of photos yesterday of Jews arming themselves with even broomsticks and rolling pins, as gun sellers said demand had skyrocketed.



**EAST JERUSALEM:** Israeli border police search a Palestinian, next to newly placed concrete blocks in an east Jerusalem neighborhood yesterday. — AP

But other stores are suffering, with shoppers staying off the streets. "Business is at 15 percent of normal," said Aron Silverberg, who runs a cellphone shop in central Jerusalem's Mahane Yehuda market. With fear spreading among Jews, police said soldiers on a train near the northern port of Haifa saw someone they considered suspect

and began to shout "terrorist".

An officer sitting in the front carriage fired a single shot in the air and someone later pulled the emergency brake. No suspect was found and no one was hurt. "There is really a wave of terror," Defence Minister Moshe Yaalon told army radio. He said "civilians are in the front line, at very short range

as a consequence of the fact that the main weapon is the knife, occasionally also firearms."

### Stabbings defy security crackdown

On Wednesday, police began setting up checkpoints in parts of east Jerusalem, including the neighborhood that was home to three Palestinians who carried out gun, knife and car-ramming attacks this week. The move followed a decision by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's security cabinet authorising police to seal off or impose a curfew on parts of Jerusalem.

On one of the city's main thoroughfares, border police were boarding and searching every passing bus. Shahr Omraq, 51, a cleaner from east Jerusalem, said the unrest has made him and other Palestinians objects of Israeli hostility. "Everyone suspects us," he told AFP. "Racism is growing."

Despite the new security measures, there were two more stabbing incidents in Jerusalem Wednesday. In one, outside the Old City, a 20-year-old Palestinian was shot dead tried when he tried to stab a security guard. In the other, a 23-year-old Palestinian wounded an elderly woman near the crowded central bus station during rush hour before being shot dead by police. —AFP

## IRAQI FORCES IN BIG PUSH AGAINST IS

**BAGHDAD:** Iraqi forces battled the Islamic State jihadist group on separate fronts yesterday, ramping up operations to retake Baiji and Ramadi, two of the conflict's worst flashpoints.

The Baiji area has seen almost uninterrupted fighting since IS swept across Iraq last year, but top officers said yesterday the Baiji refinery, the country's largest, was almost secure. There were contradictory statements from the armed forces and the allied paramilitary Popular Mobilisation (Hashed al-Shaabi) on whether or not the refinery had been fully retaken. Senior commanders said it had been "completely cleared" but the Joint Operations Command said late Wednesday the sprawling complex had not yet been extensively swept by Iraqi forces.

A lieutenant colonel speaking from inside the complex told AFP troops had rained rockets on IS positions there over the past two days.

He said large numbers of wounded jihadists were thought to have been evacuated to nearby Sharqat and Hawijah. The refinery, which once produced 300,000 barrels per day of refined products meeting half of Iraq's needs, is said to have been damaged beyond repair and to no longer be of huge strategic interest. However, the Baiji area is at a crossroads between several key frontlines and officers said there is a push north past the refinery to further cut IS supply lines.

"We managed to cut off supply routes and Daesh's ability to communicate between the areas of Tikrit, Sharqat and Anbar," said a senior officer from Salaheddin province, using an Arab acronym for IS.

Hadi Al-Ameri and several other top commanders from the Hashed al-Shaabi, an umbrella organization dominated by Tehran-backed Shiite militia groups, were supervising operations in the area.

Qassem Soleimani, the commander of the foreign wing of Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards, was reported in Iraqi media to have been the mastermind of the latest Baiji offensive. Key positions in the Baiji area, around 200 kilometres (120 miles) north of Baghdad, have changed hands several times since IS launched a massive offensive in June 2014.

Top army officers said control of Baiji is essential to ensure the success of operations against IS in most of its remaining strongholds.

### Ready for Ramadi

Among them is Ramadi, where security forces backed by Sunni tribal fighters and US-led coalition air strikes have said they are poised to launch a much-delayed assault. The government resisted for more than a year in the capital of the western Anbar province until IS forces blitzed them out with dozens of suicide truck bombs in mid-May. After what was Baghdad's most stinging setback this year in the war against IS, Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi and Hashed leaders vowed to retake Ramadi within days. But the jihadists' sophisticated network of defences using explosives and taking advantage of searing summer temperatures thwarted plans for an immediate fightback. — AFP

## EGYPT ACQUITS ZAWAHIRI'S BROTHER, ORDERS NEW PROBE

### SISI TO TIGHTEN GRIP DESPITE NEW PARLIAMENT

**CAIRO:** An Egyptian court yesterday acquitted Al-Qaeda chief Ayman Al-Zawahiri's brother of charges of forming a "terrorist group" but ordered an investigation into a speech he made in court.

Mohamed Al-Zawahiri was arrested in August 2013 at the height of a campaign of repression of Islamists in the wake of the army's ouster of the country's Islamist president Mohamed Morsi. He and dozens of other defendants were accused of having formed "a terrorist group linked to Al-Qaeda" and plotting attacks on government installations, security forces and Egypt's Christian minority-all charges which defense lawyers denied.

Yesterday, the court acquitted Zawahiri of the charges but it upheld earlier death sentences handed down to 10 co-defendants. Those convicted were found guilty of "joining a terrorist group, inciting the killing of police and army officers and attacking police and government buildings".

Thirty-nine other defendants were handed prison terms ranging from one year to life in jail, which in Egypt runs to 25 years, while 15 defendants were acquitted. "The judge convicted some defendants for joining a terrorist group, but he acquitted Zawahiri of establishing or joining it," defense lawyer Kamel Mandour told AFP.

The judge, however, instructed the prose-

cution to investigate a speech made by Zawahiri during a court session that he felt "promoted the idea of forming another terrorist group".

"The judgment is fair given the prevailing political atmosphere against political Islam in the country," Mandour said. Hundreds of Islamists have been killed and thousands jailed in a government crackdown targeting supporters of Morsi, who was ousted in 2013.

Morsi and several leaders of his Muslim Brotherhood movement have since been sentenced to death after speedy mass trials.

### 'three abducted'

Militants kidnapped three pro-government tribal fighters manning a checkpoint in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula yesterday, officials said, in an attack claimed by jihadists. Two fighters from a tribal militia at the checkpoint were also wounded in the attack in the North Sinai town of Sheikh Zuweid, security officials and medics said.

The "Sinai Province", Egyptian affiliate of the Islamic State jihadist group, claimed the attack on a Twitter account, saying a number of tribal fighters were killed. Its claim could not be independently verified. In a separate attack late Wednesday, a civilian was killed and six policemen were wounded as a roadside bomb struck a passing armored police vehicle in El-Arish, provincial capital of North Sinai.

The area is a stronghold of jihadists, who have carried out regular attacks on security forces since the military's July 2013 ouster of Islamist president Mohamed Morsi. Jihadists say their attacks are in retaliation for a bloody crackdown on supporters of Morsi following his overthrow. — AFP



**CAIRO:** Egyptian radical Islamist Mohammed Al-Zawahiri, the brother of Al-Qaeda chief Ayman Al-Zawahiri, sitting in the defendants' cage during his trial with 68 other defendants in Cairo. — AFP

## BRITISH TEENAGE GIRL SENTENCED ON TERROR CHARGES

**LONDON:** A British court yesterday sentenced a 16-year-old girl to a 12-month rehabilitation program after she was arrested by police investigating an Islamic State-inspired "massacre" plot on an Anzac Day parade in Australia. The Manchester teenager, who cannot be named, had earlier pleaded guilty to two offences of downloading terrorist information as Manchester Youth Court heard how she had become radicalized online and intended to hack into the White House.

She was first detained in April along

with Britain's youngest convicted Islamic terrorist.

He was sentenced to a minimum of five years in jail earlier this month for masterminding the plot to behead police officers at a memorial event in Melbourne, from his bedroom in Lancashire, northern England, when aged just 14.

Police found that the pair had exchanged more than 2,000 WhatsApp messages and that she had downloaded instructions on how to make a bomb.

However, there was no evidence that she was aware of or involved in the Anzac Day plot, the court heard. The girl, flanked in court by her mother and an aunt, told judge Khalid Qureshi yesterday: "I deeply regret what I have done. I wish to make changes if I get the chance to prove I am not a terrorist."

On handing down the 12-month intensive referral order, Qureshi said: "It must be every parent's worst nightmare to discover their child has been accessing material they should not, of whatever type." Her lawyer Nasir Hafezi

told the court she had been lured into an online "fantasy world". "She became obsessed with the concept of suicide bombing and martyrdom, which she saw as a way out," he said. The teenager used her school's IT system to search for information on militant group Islamic State its executioner "Jihadi John", later telling police: "I thought I would one day hack into the White House." A referral order is a community sentence often imposed on youths that requires them to carry out rehabilitative and restorative programs. —AFP



**JOBAR:** A picture shows smoke billowing following reported Syrian regime bombings on rebel positions in Jobar, in eastern Damascus yesterday. Syrian regime bombing raids struck rebel positions around Damascus in a bid to dislodge insurgents entrenched on the outskirts of the capital, a military said. —AFP

## TURKEY, SAUDI WARN RUSSIA OVER 'BIG MISTAKE' IN SYRIA

### SYRIA REGIME IN NEW OFFENSIVE AS PUTIN BLASTS US

**ANKARA:** Turkey and Saudi Arabia yesterday warned Russia over the consequences of its intervention in Syria, with Ankara telling Moscow its bombing campaign in support of the regime was a "big mistake".

The two majority Sunni Muslim powers both support the moderate opposition in Syria and have been infuriated by Moscow's bombing campaign to prop the regime of President Bashar Al-Assad.

Ankara is particularly concerned over claims-denied by Moscow-that its bombing campaign has targeted anti-Assad rebels rather than the stated aim of Islamic State (IS) jihadists. "Saudi Arabia and Turkey are in agreement on supporting the opposition in Syria. What is important is a political solution," Jubeir said.

#### Russia push

Regime forces backed by Russian air strikes pushed an offensive in central Syria yesterday as President Vladimir Putin

slammed Washington for not working with Moscow on the conflict.

Russian warplanes launched at least 15 air strikes to support government troops as they began a new operation just north of the city of Homs, a monitoring group said. Syrian state television, citing a military source, said the army had begun a military operation in the north and northwest of Homs province "with the goal of restoring security and stability to the villages and towns in the area".

"Russia is making a big mistake," Turkish Foreign Minister Feridun Sinirlioglu told reporters after talks in Ankara with Saudi counterpart Adel Al-Jubeir.

"What it does will bring no meaning or benefit, other than delaying the transition process to help Syria out of the chaos," he added. "We will continue with our warnings."

"We are in agreement that there will certainly be no role for Bashar Al-Assad," he added. He said that in recent talks with top Russian officials, Riyadh had told Moscow

that the Syria crisis should be solved according to the 2012 Geneva communique which envisages a political transition in Syria.

"We (in Ankara) discussed the intervention of foreign powers, especially the Russian intervention which is a very critical issue and could lead to foreigners intervening in Syria from the outside," Jubeir said. Their united opposition to the Russian bombing campaign has intensified a rapprochement between Turkey and Saudi Arabia that has gained pace over the last months.

Riyadh and Ankara fell out badly over Saudi's support of the toppling by the Egyptian army of Egyptian president Mohamed Morsi in 2013 who Turkey has strongly supported.

But in a sign of warming ties, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan strongly defended Saudi Arabia against vehement criticism from within the Islamic world over the deaths of hundreds of pilgrims at a stampede during the Hajj pilgrimage. —AFP

## KOSOVO OPPN USES TEAR GAS TO DISRUPT PARLIAMENT

**PRISTINA, Kosovo:** Opposition lawmakers angry at Kosovo's recent deals with Serbia and Montenegro set off tear gas in Parliament yesterday, forcing the suspension of the session.

Lawmakers left the chamber after witnesses said a tear gas canister was opened in the opposition seats, followed by one or two others. It was the second week in a row that tear gas had been used while the protests in Parliament began with the egging Prime Minister Isa Mustafa last month.

The opposition, led by the Self-Determination party, said no more parliamentary sessions should be held, pledging to continue the protests. "Insistence on that will be a provocation and escalation of the situation in the Republic of Kosovo," said a three-party opposition statement.

One of the EU-sponsored deals gives Kosovo's Serb-majority areas greater powers, while the other covers border demarcation with Montenegro. The opposition wants the government to withdraw from the deals, saying they endanger Kosovo's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

"Only backtracking from these deals will bring institutional and social normalcy in Kosovo," said the opposition statement. The governing coalition says the opposition wants to come to power through unconstitutional means. Outside the building, about 100 opposition supporters rallied calmly.

Parliament decided Wednesday that all lawmakers should be checked as they entered the chamber. Police said they would investigate how tear gas canisters nevertheless made it in.

Fifteen policemen and a number of protesters were injured in clashes on Monday after Self-Determination leader Albin Kurti was detained for questioning. Llazar Semini in Tirana, Albania, contributed to this report. —AFP



**PRISTINA:** Parliamentarians disperse as a white cloud of tear gas rises after being released by opposition lawmakers in Kosovo's parliament in Pristina yesterday for the second time in a week. —AFP

# MERKEL FACES MAJOR DOMESTIC REVOLT OVER REFUGEE WELCOME

## 'THE CHANCELLOR IS WALKING ON THIN ICE'

**BERLIN:** Germany's Angela Merkel is used to owning the room when she speaks to her party faithful, but the mood turned hostile when she defended her open-door refugee policy this week.

In a heated atmosphere, some of the 1,000-odd members at the meeting warned of a "national disaster" and demanded shuttering the borders as Germany expects up to one million migrants this year. "Stop the refugee chaos-save German culture + values-dethrone Merkel," read a banner at the congress late Wednesday in the eastern state of Saxony, the home base for the anti-foreigner PEGIDA movement.

Merkel, who grew up behind the Iron Curtain in the communist East, insisted she would stay the course and told party members that "isolation already failed in the days of East Germany".

Managing the refugee crisis has turned into Merkel's greatest domestic political challenge since she took power almost 10 years ago, in November 2005. Long valued by the electorate for her level-headed leadership amid the euro-zone turmoil, Merkel has scared many with her welcoming stance amid a growing sentiment that the boat is full.

"The chancellor is walking on thin ice," judged the conservative daily Die Welt, pointing to a "growing gap" between Merkel and the base of her centre-right Christian Democrats (CDU) who demand she stem the record influx.

"The chancellor believes the nation can

manage the crisis, but this belief is rapidly vanishing in the country," said the newspaper.

**'We can do it'**

In a crisis that is local, regional and

den in a quota system.

On Sunday, she jets off to Turkey to discuss with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan how to slow the inflow sparked by war and upheaval across the Middle East and North Africa, with almost



**BRUSSELS:** German Chancellor Angela Merkel (left) speaks with British Prime Minister David Cameron (center) and French President Francois Hollande as they meet on the sidelines of an EU summit in Brussels yesterday. —AP

international, Merkel was heading to a Brussels summit later yesterday to reiterate her call for European "solidarity" and push for member-states to share the bur-

den in a quota system. 600,000 people arriving in Europe so far this year.

On the home front, Merkel has bravely insisted "we can do it", recalling US

President Barack Obama's campaign rallying cry of "Yes we can".

But many Germans—who in the summer greeted refugees at railway stations are losing faith as thousands keep coming daily and improvised refugee centres are bursting at the seams, including tent cities exposed to below-zero temperatures as winter approaches.

The Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung said that "the revolution" Merkel had sought to lead within her party "threatens to derail". The CDU has seen the defection of several thousand members, while usually rock-solid approval ratings for Merkel and her party are slipping.

The party and their Bavarian allies the CSU have slipped by three points to 38 percent, their lowest level since the last election in September 2013.

A letter by an initial 34 CDU members protesting against her policy has now been signed by 126, including many state legislators, reported Bild daily.

Bild even asserted Merkel was losing the support of her loyal veteran Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaeuble and mused whether he could replace her.

"The refugee crisis is stressing the successful duo," it said. "He disapproves of what she is doing." "Merkel is still the driving force," it added. "But if it goes on like this, how much longer?"

With three state elections in March, the report said, "everyone in the party knows: Schaeuble is the only one who could replace Merkel." — AFP

Kuwait Times

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LAS VEGAS: Hillary Rodham Clinton, (right), and Sen Bernie Sanders, of Vermont, speak during the CNN Democratic presidential debate. — AP

## POST DEBATE: SANDERS RAISES CASH, CLINTON CAMP PLEASED

### REST OF THE FIELD STRUGGLES TO GAIN TRACTION

**NORTH LAS VEGAS:** Bernie Sanders' campaign said it raised nearly \$2 million from the first Democratic debate of the 2016 race, and social media metrics showed he was the most-searched candidate on Google and most-discussed on Facebook and Twitter. Meanwhile, Hillary Rodham Clinton's backers celebrated the day after what some said was the best two hours of her campaign.

"We were over the moon," said former Michigan Gov Jennifer Granholm, a Clinton backer who'd traveled to Las Vegas to watch the first such confrontation between the 2016 Democratic nomination contenders. On morning cable news programs, Granholm could barely contain her glee. "It was such a great night," she said on MSNBC's "Morning Joe." Clinton, who spent yesterday campaigning in suburban Las Vegas, warned her backers that the contest was far from over. "There's a lot of work to be done between now and securing the nomination which I'm going to be focused on to earn every single vote," she said, taking questions after an event at a union hall.

Both Sanders and Clinton were looking Wednesday to build on their strong Democratic presidential debate performances as the rest of the field struggled to gain traction. Clinton, too, was trying to fundraise off her debate performance, emailing campaign backers with requests for donations from her husband, former President Bill Clinton, with the subject line "She won."

The debate commanded by Clinton and Sanders appeared to narrow any opening for a presidential bid by Vice President Joe Biden, Democratic strategists said. Biden watched the Tuesday matchup from Washington.

#### Public service record

"I was proud," he said Wednesday during a White House meeting on infrastructure. "I thought every one of those folks last night - my own prejudice - I thought they all did well." A day after aggressively defending her long public service record and contrasting it with that of Sanders, Clinton remained in Nevada, talking to local media in the early voting state.

She picked up the endorsement of the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades during an event at a training facility in suburban Las Vegas before attending a rally. "Last night was a good night, today is just as good getting the endorsement of this union," she said. Sanders attended a taping of "The Ellen DeGeneres Show," which has become a popular stop for presidential hopefuls. Later Wednesday, he was greeted with thunderous applause and shouts of "Bernie, Bernie" at a \$25-a-ticket fundraiser at a Hollywood nightclub.

"Family Guy" creator Seth MacFarlane warmed up the crowd, riffing that Sanders had ended his fear of saying that "capitalism and democratic socialism ... should coexist." Sanders' campaign is mapping out a strategy to convert its fundraising and enthusiasm into a winning organization that can compete in the early states and a slate of "Super Tuesday" states on March 1.

In another sign of its maturing operation, the campaign has hired Democratic pollster Ben Tulchin, whose past clients have included former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean, who ran for president in 2004, former California Gov. Gray Davis and Sen Patty Murray of Washington state.

#### 'Flash-in-the-pan campaign'

"This campaign is in it for the long haul. This is not a flash-in-the-pan campaign," said Sanders campaign manager Jeff Weaver. "We're going to have the resources to go all the way to the convention." The CNN debate, co-sponsored by Facebook, stretched for more than two hours and had more than 15 million viewers.

The audience was smaller than the record-setting 24 million who watched the first 2016 Republican debate on Fox News. Yet in a news release, CNN said the debate broke the previous Democratic debate record of 10.7 million viewers when Obama and Clinton squared off on ABC in 2008.

With millions of voters tuned in, the other three candidates on stage searched for a way to break out. Former Maryland Gov Martin O'Malley told CNN on Wednesday his debate performance showed that "more than two candidates" are seeking the nomination. Former Rhode Island Gov. Lincoln Chafee faced questions about his viability. In an interview with CNN, he pushed back against the notion that his campaign would be short-lived, saying: "I'm in it for as long as I can continue to raise these issues. They're important."

Even Republican presidential front-runner Donald Trump, who inserted himself into the debate coverage with live commentary on Twitter, said Wednesday that he felt Clinton had performed well. Trump's campaign appeared to have settled on a new target - Sanders - releasing an online ad Wednesday that portrays the Vermont senator as too weak to lead. — AP

## DEBATE RECOGNIZES BLACK LIVES MATTER

**WASHINGTON:** Democratic presidential candidates gave a meaningful public nod to the Black Lives Matter movement in their first televised debate, fully adopting its slogan and raising the core concerns stemming from police killings of African-Americans that protesters have articulated while disrupting some of their campaign events. Police relations with minority communities and the deaths of unarmed black men have been topics of great interest since the shootings of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin in 2012 in Florida and 18-year-old Michael Brown in 2014 in Ferguson, Missouri. Those deaths and others have inspired protests under the "Black Lives Matter" moniker around the country.

The candidates were careful to avoid uttering the phrase "all lives matter," showing they clearly learned from confrontations earlier this year with Black Lives Matter protesters. Some in the movement say the phrase "all lives matter" minimizes the deaths of African-American men and women at the hands of law enforcement. Sen Bernie Sanders of Vermont, the first to be confronted by Black Lives Matter protesters while campaigning, called during the debate for "major, major reforms" to the criminal justice system and invoked the name of Sandra Bland, the black woman found hanged in a Texas jail after being arrested on a traffic charge.

Former Maryland Gov Martin O'Malley apologized last summer after using the alternative "all lives matter" slogan. On the stage Tuesday night in Las Vegas, he said, "Black lives matter, and we have a lot of work to do to reform our criminal justice system, and to address race relations in our country."

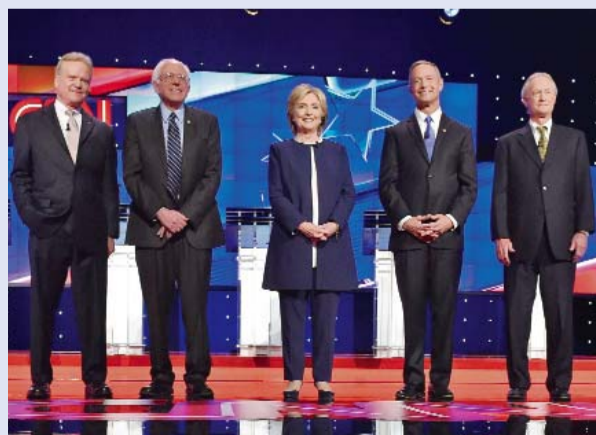
#### Grassroots protests

Both O'Malley and front-runner Hillary Rodham Clinton seemed to realize the need to acknowledge the grassroots protests was greater than any risk associated with not invoking Black Lives Matter, said Emory University political scientist Andra Gillespie. Clinton, the former secretary of state, came under criticism earlier this year for her "all lives matter" comment at an African-American church, and met later with activists.

"Their statements really reflected that they had already been challenged," she said. Observers noted that the candidates discussed some issues that people have complained about for years, even though there was no minority candidate in their midst - a rarity for Democrats. A black candidate has sought the Democratic presidential nomination in almost every election cycle since Jesse Jackson's second White House bid in 1988. Former Energy Secretary Bill Richardson, who is Hispanic, ran in 2008. No minority candidates ran against President Bill Clinton in his 1996 re-election campaign.

By contrast, the Republican field for 2016 has four candidates of color: Ben Carson, Marco Rubio, Bobby Jindal and Ted Cruz. Fredrick Harris, a Columbia University political science professor and director of its Center on African-American Politics and Society, said it would have been unlikely without the Black Lives Matter movement that any of the Democratic candidates would have been talking Tuesday night about the relationship between police and minority communities. "None of these things are issues unless black voters pressure the Democratic Party to do something or there's a black candidate running who is very conscious of these issues," Harris said.

Despite their influence, one of the co-leaders of the official Black Lives Matter organization, Alicia Garza, has said they will not be endorsing any presidential candidates this election cycle. She also told The Associated Press in an earlier interview that they may continue to make appearances at Democratic campaign events. — AP



LAS VEGAS: Democratic presidential candidates (from left) former Virginia Sen Jim Webb, Sen Bernie Sanders, I-Vt, Hillary Rodham Clinton, former Maryland Gov Martin O'Malley, and former Rhode Island Gov. Lincoln Chafee take the stage before the CNN Democratic presidential debate. — AP

## NO HIKE FOR SOCIAL SECURITY NEXT YEAR

**WASHINGTON:** There will be no benefit increase next year for millions of Social Security recipients, disabled veterans and federal retirees, the government said yesterday. It's just the third time in 40 years that payments will remain flat. All three times have come since 2010. And there's more bad news. The lack of a benefit increase means that many older people could face higher Medicare costs, an issue that has advocates lobbying Congress.

The main reason for no increase next year is low gas prices. By law, the annual cost-of-living adjustment, or COLA, is based on a government measure of inflation. That gauge came out yesterday. As of Wednesday, AAA said the average price of a gallon of regular gasoline was \$2.30, about 90 cents less than it was a year ago.

### 'Plunging gas prices'

"The big story has been the plunging gas prices," said Dean Baker, co-founder of the Center for Economic and Policy Research. "There's not a lot of inflation anywhere." The announcement will affect benefits for more than 70 million people, more than one-fifth of the nation's population. Almost 60 million retirees, disabled workers, spouses and children get Social Security benefits. The average monthly Social Security payment is \$1,224.

The COLA also affects benefits for about 4 million disabled veterans, 2.5 million federal retirees and their survivors, and more than 8 million people who get Supplemental Security Income, the disability program for the poor. Many people who get SSI also receive Social Security. Congress enacted automatic increases for Social Security beneficiaries in 1975, when inflation was high and there was a lot of pressure to regularly raise benefits. Since then, increases have averaged 4 percent a year.

But in the past decade, the COLA has been that big only once. Advocates for seniors said years of small increases or no increase are eroding the buying power of benefits, regardless of the official inflation numbers. "You've got all kinds of people receiving COLA-adjusted retirement benefits. This is going to be another blow to their retirement income," said Mary Johnson of The Senior Citizens League. "It's a huge amount over a lifetime."

Most Social Security recipients have their Medicare Part B premiums for outpatient care deducted directly from their Social Security payments, and the annual cost-of-living increase is usually enough to cover any rise in premiums. When that doesn't happen, a long-standing federal "hold harmless" law protects the majority of beneficiaries from having their Social Security payments reduced. But that leaves about 30 percent of Medicare beneficiaries on the hook for a premium increase that otherwise would be spread among all. Those who would pay the higher premiums include 2.8 million new beneficiaries, 1.6 million whose premiums aren't deducted from their Social Security payments, and 3.1 million people with higher incomes. Their premiums could jump by about \$54 a month; it could be more for those with higher incomes. States also would feel a budget impact because they pay part of the Medicare premium for about 10 million low-income beneficiaries.

### Protect all retirees

Both AARP and the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association are urging Congress to protect all retirees from dramatic increases in Medicare costs. "Ideally, all Medicare beneficiaries should be held harmless in the face of no Social Security COLA adjustment," Nancy LeaMond, AARP's executive vice president said in a letter to lawmakers.

Social Security is financed by a 12.4 percent tax on wages up to \$118,500, with half paid by workers and the other half paid by employers. The amount of wages subject to Social Security taxes usually goes up each year. But because there is no COLA, it will remain at \$118,500 next year. The cost-of-living adjustment is based on the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers, or CPI-W, a broad measure of consumer prices generated by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. — AP



**PENNSYLVANIA:** Carol Mead poses for a portrait at her home, in Montrose, Pa. Mead, 67, is retired and her husband, 70, must work at a local rock quarry to close the gap from her Social Security. — AP



**BALTIMORE:** Police stand near vans holding protesters early yesterday. — AP

## OFFICERS DISBAND SIT-IN AT BALTIMORE CITY HALL

PROTEST OVER NUMEROUS DEMANDS FOR BETTER POLICING

**BALTIMORE:** Baltimore police disbanded an overnight occupation of City Hall by activists opposed to making the interim police commissioner's appointment permanent, and at least 12 people could be seen being led away early yesterday to police vehicles.

At least 25 police officers converged at the building's front entrance hours before dawn as activists were still inside participating in a sit-in over numerous demands for better policing. Several demonstrators could be seen by an Associated Press reporter as they were led off in plastic handcuffs and loaded into transport vehicles at around 4 am. "It is our duty to fight for our freedom! We have nothing to lose but our chains!" others watching the police operation shouted at the officers.

### 'Failure to comply'

Police said in a statement posted on their social media site that a small number of protesters had decided to leave after hours of warnings to the demonstrators. "The remaining protesters refused to leave the building. As a direct result of their failure to comply, the remaining protesters have been arrested and charged with trespassing. There are no reported injuries at this time to any protesters or officers," the police statement added.

Police did not elaborate on the number of people arrested or their identities. A message left for Baltimore Police Department spokesman TJ Smith wasn't immediately returned. Following the police operation, police were seen leaving and the complex was largely quiet by 5 am. Many of the protesters were student activists, including at least two juveniles who were taken into custody.

The protesters said they opposed city

deliberations to make permanent the interim appointment of Police Commissioner Kevin Davis, adding they had been given no chance for input. The group also wanted a sit-down meeting with Davis and Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, and refused to leave City Hall until city officials agreed to meet a list of demands that included better treatment for protesters, a significant investment in public schools and social services and a promise that police would avoid using armored vehicles and riot gear. The protesters also asked that officers always wear badges and name tags.

After more than a dozen protesters were arrested, others left voluntarily but voiced their disappointment with the police response. "All we are doing is peacefully demonstrating. We were disrespected by Kevin Davis. He didn't take us seriously," said Kevin Wellons, 19, who left the sit-in around 3:30 am with several others.

Kwame Rose, an organizer who had been with the group for hours, also left with several others before police moved in. Rose said activists will continue to press for police reforms. "The politicians, they failed us today," Rose said. "All (Davis) had to do was come upstairs for ten minutes. All we wanted was for the commissioner to meet the people he's attacking. And now he's attacking us again."

Davis took the interim role in July after predecessor Anthony Batts was fired amid a spike in violent crime in Baltimore. The spike followed unrest and rioting in April after the death of Freddie Gray, a black man who died after suffering a severe injury in police custody. A City Council committee voted to make Davis the permanent police commissioner.

### 'No justice, no peace'

Members of the Baltimore Uprising coalition, which includes both high school and community activists, had begun shouting from the upper gallery of City Council chambers as a Council committee prepared for its vote Wednesday. "All night, all day, we will fight for Freddie Gray!" the activists chanted amid calls to postpone the vote. "No justice, no peace!" The activists then began their sit-in.

Davis' appointment still must be approved by the full council. A vote is expected Monday. Prior to the committee meeting, The Baltimore Sun surveyed Council members and found nine of 15 were prepared to vote for Davis at the full council meeting. If approved, Davis would earn \$200,000 a year under a contract to run through June of 2020.

Three of the committee's five members voted in favor of Davis. Councilman Nick Mosby, who is married to State's Attorney Marilyn Mosby, voted against the confirmation, while Carl Stokes, who is running for mayor, abstained. Marilyn Mosby had decided to prosecute six officers in connection with Gray's death. All of the officers are currently awaiting trial. After Mosby's decision and the widespread unrest, homicides began to rise and residents in crime-addled neighborhoods accused police officers of abandoning their posts.

Addressing the council committee Wednesday, Davis said that he remains committed to training officers to actively engage and interact with community members. Davis also emphasized his commitment to "respect and fight for the right for Americans to assemble and peacefully protest." — AP



**RANGPUR:** In this Oct 4, 2015 file photo, Bangladeshi people gather outside a morgue as policemen guard during the autopsy on the body of killed Japanese citizen Kunio Hoshi at Mahiganj village in Rangpur district. — AP

## RETAIL GIANTS RESTRICT TRAVEL TO BANGLADESH AFTER ATTACKS IS CLAIMS IT KILLED TWO FOREIGNERS, GOVT REJECTS

**DHAKA:** Business executives from global clothing giants H&M Inditex and Gap have cancelled trips to Dhaka this month after the killings of two foreigners, industry sources said, causing anxiety for Bangladesh's \$25 billion garment export sector.

Bangladeshi suppliers to the world's top brands said they didn't expect the disruptions to hurt their orders for the year-end Christmas season. But the attacks, claimed by the Islamic State, increase the pressure on an industry which faces competition from other low-wage countries and is trying to repair its safety image after several fatal accidents.

The United States and Canada have asked their diplomats to restrict their movements, and Britain warned of more attacks after an Italian aid worker and a Japanese man were shot dead a few days apart. Australia cancelled a cricket tour.

### Poor light

Bangladesh's government, however, rejected the claim by the Islamic State and blamed the growing violence in the country on its domestic political opponents trying to show it in poor light. The attacks on foreigners, while rare, follow the killings of four Bangladeshi bloggers this year by machete-wielding assailants, and have spawned fear

among the foreign community.

"Our Western buyers panicked after the killing of the two foreigners within five days. Some buyers cancelled their visits during this peak time when they are supposed to place more orders," said Siddiqur Rahman, chief of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association.

Shahidullah Azim, a garment exporter who supplies to Sears, Loblaws and Perry Ellis among others said one of his buyers asked him to come to Dubai instead, along with the clothing samples. Other foreign business executives asked for video conferences with their Bangladeshi counterparts, saying they couldn't travel to Dhaka because of the warnings issued by their governments.

"We are monitoring the situation in Bangladesh closely and we are taking the appropriate security measures. We are also in close dialogue with other brands regarding the situation," H&M spokeswoman Anna Eriksson said. Marks & Spencer said the firm stopped travel to Bangladesh for seven days a few weeks ago. Travel has since resumed, a spokeswoman said, and added there was no impact on business orders.

Gap declined to comment on a change in its travel plans. Tesco said it had not stopped business travel to Bangladesh, but had asked

its employees to be vigilant and consider their movements carefully.

Japan's Fast Retailing, which owns the Uniqlo casual wear brand, said it suspended business travel for Japanese employees to Bangladesh this month, and warned employees against going out alone except when necessary. It said its local stores were operating as usual.

### Masked men on bikes

Bangladesh has deployed paramilitary soldiers on nighttime patrols in the diplomatic quarter of Dhaka and issued a nationwide ban on people riding pillion after the two attacks were carried out by masked men riding bikes.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan, who has dismissed claims that the Islamic State was operating in the Muslim majority country of 160 million, said on Wednesday that police were close to a breakthrough on the killings. "We have taken these attacks very seriously. We won't spare the killers," he said.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has blamed the rising tide of violence on the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party and its key ally, Jamaat-e-Islami, many of whose leaders are being prosecuted for war crimes during the 1971 war of independence. The opposition denies any involvement. — Reuters

## INDIAN POLICE KILL TWO DESERTERS IN KASHMIR

**SRINAGAR:** Government forces in Indian-administered Kashmir yesterday killed two former police officers in a gun battle after the men deserted the force to join rebels in the restive territory. Inspector general of police Danish Rana said the two men had abandoned the force to join the Pakistan-based militant group Lashkar-e-Taiba, which is banned in India. "We were on hot pursuit against them. Today we eliminated them in a joint operation with the army," Rana told AFP.

Both were former rebels who had been recruited as Special Police Officers (SPOs), one in 1999 and the other in 2006. SPOs are mostly former rebels who have surrendered or served time in prison, and are mostly used in counter-insurgency work.

They are paid less than regular officers and there have been previous cases of them deserting the force—earlier this year an SPO guarding the residence of a local minister deserted his post to join the rebel group Hizbul Mujahideen.

Rana said the brief gun battle took place in the mountainous area of Doda, 175 kilometers southeast of the main city of Srinagar. Kashmir has been divided between India and Pakistan since the end of British colonial rule in 1947. Both claim the disputed territory in its entirety. For decades, several rebel groups have fought hundreds of thousands of Indian forces deployed in the region, for independence of the Himalayan territory or merger of its Indian-administered portion with Pakistan. The conflict has left tens of thousands, mostly civilians, dead. — AFP

## TAMIL PRISONERS GO ON HUNGER STRIKE

**COLOMBO:** More than 200 Tamil prisoners staged hunger strikes and other protests in jails across Sri Lanka this week against being incarcerated for years without trial, officials said yesterday. Eight inmates were taken to the prison hospital of Colombo's main jail on Wednesday night, after refusing food for three days to push their demands for progress in their drawn-out cases, national prisons chief Rohana Pushpakumara said.

Some of the 200 are refusing food while others are defying demands to return to their cells and follow orders, Justice Ministry spokesman Harsha Abeykoon said. The prisoners were arrested during Sri Lanka's 37-year civil war for suspected involvement with Tamil rebels fighting for a separate homeland for the ethnic minority.

Although the war ended in 2009, some of those arrested under draconian anti-terrorism laws at the height of the conflict still languish in jail without any charges ever being brought against them. Justice Minister Wijeyadasa Rajapakse visited the main Welikada prison in Colombo yesterday and assured the detainees that the government would expedite their cases.

"The minister promised them that the attorney general's department will speed up the cases or release those against whom there is no evidence," ministry spokesman Abeykoon said. The new government of President Maithripala Sirisena, who came to power in January, has promised speedy action to help detainees, as part of reconciliation efforts. The detention of Tamils without trial has been a key criticism of successive Sri Lankan governments which are dominated by the majority Sinhalese community. Sri Lanka also faces allegations that tens of thousands of Tamil civilians were killed by government forces while battling the Tiger rebels. At least 100,000 people were killed in fighting between 1972 and May 2009. — AFP

## MUTE INDIAN GIRL 'IDENTIFIES FAMILY'

**KARACHI:** A mute and deaf Indian girl who has been stuck in Pakistan for 13 years because she cannot remember where she came from may have finally identified her family, the charity looking after her said yesterday.

The new ray of hope for the woman known only as Geeta, believed to be in her early 20s, came after the Indian High Commission in Islamabad sent her a photograph of a family, whom she said she recognized.

The Edhi Foundation, Pakistan's largest

welfare organization who has been caring for Geeta since she was found 13 years ago, said it was trying to arrange a Skype video call with the family, reported to be based somewhere in India's Bihar province, to confirm their relationship. Geeta was 11 or 12 when she was found by police alone and disoriented with no identity papers on a train that had crossed the border from India into the eastern city of Lahore. She was believed to have strayed into Pakistani territory by mistake, but could not remember or explain exactly where she was from.

Unable to identify her or her family, Pakistani police handed her over to the Edhi Foundation. She now lives in one of the foundation's shelters in Karachi. Even the name "Geeta" was given to her by Edhi staff. "The Indian high commissioner has lately sent a family photo to us and Geeta has recognized the family," Anwer Kazmi, a senior official at the foundation, told AFP.

"We have showed the picture to Geeta and she says they are her family," Kazmi said. "We hope she will confirm the family identification during the Skype chat

through sign language," Kazmi said. It was not clear when the Skype chat would be held.

In August the Indian government pledged to bring Geeta home, prompted by fresh media coverage of a smash hit Bollywood film. "Bajrangi Bhaijaan", featuring Indian superstars Salman Khan and Kareena Kapoor, tells the mirror image of Geeta's story: a mute young Pakistani woman trapped in India. The Edhi foundation has made repeated attempts to trace Geeta's family, but with no success. — AFP



## DUTCH 'LEADER' OF MYANMAR SEPARATISTS ARRESTED

**DHAKA:** Bangladesh security forces said yesterday they have arrested a Dutch national suspected of leading a group of Myanmar separatists that attacked Bangladeshi border forces in August. Rannin Soe is an alleged leader of the Arakan Army, which has been fighting for an independent homeland in Myanmar's Rakhine state.

Bangladesh launched a huge man-hunt for the 47-year-old after the attack on its border forces in the Chittagong Hills in the south-east of the country, near Myanmar. "Soe is a Myanmar-origin Dutch national and a leader of the Arakan Army," local police

chief Ohidullah Sarker told AFP. "He had been on the run since the attack on a patrol team of Border Guard of Bangladesh." Police arrested him on Wednesday after they found his Dutch passport, identity card and fatigues of the Arakan Army at a hideout. "He has told us that he is a doctor who studied in Yangon," Sarker said, adding that Soe had been in Bangladesh since 2010.

In August a group of Arakan Army rebels ambushed a border guard patrol team near the border with Myanmar in what is thought to have been a revenge attack after Bangladeshi security forces seized 10 horses

from them. Two cases were filed against Soe after the incident—one under Bangladesh's anti-terrorism laws and another for illegal trespassing.

Following the attack, Bangladesh's army and police raided and sealed a luxury villa said to be owned by Soe in the Chittagong Hills and retrieved battle fatigues. Soe's assistant was also arrested in the raid. Myanmar's troubled Rakhine state suffered deadly religious violence in 2012 between ethnic Rakhine Buddhists and Muslims, mainly from the Rohingya minority.

In April, Myanmar's media reported that

the army had clashed with Arakan Army insurgents in the state in what was said to be the first time the rebels had fought troops in their home region. Sporadic civil wars have gripped Myanmar for some seven decades as militias in resource-rich and ethnically diverse border areas battle for greater autonomy. Relatively little is known about Soe, but a video uploaded to YouTube two weeks ago purported to show the rebel leader. In it he declares that the Arakan Army is "fighting (for) freedom, fighting for independence". There was no immediate comment from the Dutch embassy in Dhaka. — AFP

## SWISS SUPPORT BOMBING PROBE

**GENEVA:** Swiss Foreign Minister Didier Burkhalter said yesterday his country supported the use of an international commission based in Bern to probe a deadly US air strike on an Afghan hospital. Doctors Without Borders, which ran the hospital, has called for the Bern-based body to investigate the strike on a hospital in the northern city of Kunduz on October 3, which killed 22 people, including 12 of the medical charity's staff.

Burkhalter told reporters that Switzerland thought using the International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission (IHFFC), an independent mechanism created under international law but which has never before been used, was "a good solution".

Switzerland, the caretaker of the Geneva Conventions under which the IHFFC was created, had as secretary to the commission sent letters to the United States and Afghanistan requesting their needed agreement to launch the probe, Burkhalter said. MSF has condemned the attack as a war crime and insists an independent probe is needed not only to establish the facts of the attack, but also to reaffirm the international laws protecting humanitarian actors in all conflict zones.

Speaking at a Geneva conference aimed to prepare next year's World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul, UN Deputy Secretary Jan Eliasson decried "a growing lack of respect for international humanitarian law." He warned the world was witnessing a "competition of brutality", not only among terrorist groups but also increasingly governments, who in many cases were doing little to protect civilians in conflict zones. "This is something that we need to react to," he told the some 900 delegates at the Geneva conference.

Burkhalter also lamented a growing disregard for the global rules aimed at protecting civilians and aid workers in conflicts, pointing out that last year 155 humanitarian workers were killed in ongoing conflicts. He stressed the importance of an upcoming international conference hosted by the Red Cross in Geneva in December aimed at seeking ways and mechanisms to ensure compliance with the Geneva Conventions. "In this world, there are constitutional courts, assemblies and mechanisms to ensure respect for just about all principles, except when it comes to international humanitarian law," he told reporters. "Here you have the most universal of all conventions, and there is no way to ensure they are respected," he said. "It is not something that will happen by itself. In fact, it is happening less and less," he warned. — AFP



This file photo taken on November 20, 2014 shows an aerial view of the Great Barrier Reef off the coast of the Whitsunday Islands, along the central coast of Queensland. — AFP

## AUSTRALIA APPROVES ADANI MINE DESPITE FEARS FOR REEF

### 'MEASURES MUST BE APPROVED BEFORE MINING'

**SYDNEY:** Australia yesterday approved a controversial Indian-backed project to build one of the world's biggest coal mines despite conservationists' fears it threatens the Great Barrier Reef and vulnerable species while worsening global climate change.

The Aus\$16.5 billion (US\$12.1 billion) project in Galilee Basin in Queensland state has attracted fierce criticism from environmentalists who say the development, which requires coal to be shipped to a port on the coast, risks the World Heritage-listed reef's health and destroys local habitats. Critics have also warned that the mine—which they said could be as large as 28,000 hectares — would contribute to global warming, while supporters argue it would create thousands of jobs and boost regional infrastructure. Adani Enterprises has faced numerous hurdles for the open-cut and underground coal mine, possibly Australia's largest, with the approvals process so far stretching to five years.

Conservationists were yesterday also flagging possible fresh legal challenges following the decision, which came after two months after the Federal Court blocked the mine largely in relation to two vulnerable reptiles — the lizard-like yakka skink and the ornamental snake.

Environment Minister Greg Hunt said the project was approved subject to "36 of the

strictest conditions in Australian history". "The rigorous conditions will protect threatened species and provide long-term benefits for the environment through the development of an offset package," Hunt said in a statement.

"These measures must be approved by myself before mining can start," he added, noting that he had the power to suspend or revoke the approval and impose penalties if there was a breach of conditions. Under the conditions, all advice from an independent scientific committee has to be implemented, 31,000 hectares of southern black throated finch habitat will be protected and improved, and groundwater at a nearby wetland will be monitored. Some Aus\$1 million of funding over 10 years also has to be allocated to research programs that boost the conservation of threatened species in the Galilee Basin, about 1,200 kilometers northwest of Queensland's capital Brisbane.

#### 'Disaster for climate, reef'

The Indian conglomerate, which has accused activists of exploiting legal loopholes to stall the mine, welcomed Hunt's decision and the "rigorous and painstaking conditions". "Today's announcement of the final federal approval for the Carmichael Mine and North Galilee Basin Rail by Minister Hunt makes clear that these (conservation) concerns have been

addressed, reflected in rigorous and painstaking conditions," the company said in a statement, referring to a new rail line which will transport the coal to port.

Adani added that the mine would create 10,000 jobs and generate Aus\$22 billion in taxes and royalties, although the figures have been disputed by critics, who argue that plunging coal prices were making the development financially unviable.

At the same time, British bank Standard Chartered and the Commonwealth Bank of Australia have withdrawn as financial advisers, while major European and US banks have refused to fund the project due to environmental concerns. Shares in Adani, which has said the mine would produce 60 million tons of thermal coal a year, surged on the Bombay Stock Exchange following the announcement, closing 14 percent up.

Despite the government's conditions, the Mackay Conservation Group—which brought the legal challenge to the Federal Court—said the approval "risks threatened species, precious groundwater, the global climate and taxpayers' money". "Minister Hunt has again failed the people of Australia by ignoring new evidence on the devastating impacts of what would be Australia's largest coal mine," the group's co-coordinator Ellen Roberts said. — AFP



KUNDUZ: US soldiers walk into the charred remains of the Doctors Without Borders hospital. — AP

## HEAVY AIR POLLUTION IN 80% OF CHINESE CITIES

**BEIJING:** Pollution in nearly 80 percent of Chinese cities surveyed by Greenpeace "greatly exceeded" national standards over the first nine months of this year, the advocacy group said yesterday. The average level of PM2.5 particulates—small enough to deeply penetrate the lungs—in the 367 cities tested was also more than four times the maximum recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO), Greenpeace said.

Nearly 80 percent of the cities exceeded the national standard on PM2.5, which is significantly less strict than the WHO benchmark, despite an overall improvement from the same period last year. Widespread use of coal for power genera-

tion and emissions from heavy industry regularly swathe Chinese cities in smog, linked to hundreds of thousands of premature deaths each year.

It is a major source of discontent with the ruling Communist party, who have announced measures such as moving power plants, but few expect rapid improvements. Greenpeace said that average pollution levels were about 10 percent lower than the same period last year.

"Although we're seeing gradual improvement, air pollution levels are still unhealthy and unsafe," said Greenpeace East Asia Climate and Energy Campaigner Dong Liansai. The most polluted cities

were Kashgar and Hotan in China's northwestern Xinjiang region, and the northern industrial hub of Baoding.

Average PM2.5 readings across the surveyed cities was 47.2 micrograms per cubic meter. The WHO maximum for annual average exposure is 10 while China's annual standard is 35. Beijing's average over the nine months was 72.1 while Shanghai's was 50.4. China's capital ranked as one of the most polluted cities, despite factory closures to ensure blue skies for a massive military parade last month.

Locals dubbed the reprieve "parade blue" but Greenpeace said such short-term interventions had a "negligible

effect on overall long term air quality". "Rather than temporary measures, we need a long term strategy and systemic change to China's energy structure," Dong added.

Greenpeace called for a cap on coal use to be included in China's new five-year economic plan, currently being drafted by the ruling Communist party. "A cap on coal consumption is critical for reducing air pollution and bringing back healthy, breathable air to our cities," Dong said. Last week a player at the China Open tennis tournament held in Beijing in thick haze said pollution had made him vomit, while fans wore face masks. —AFP

## MYANMAR SIGNS TRUCE, REBEL CONFLICT PERSISTS

**YANGON:** Myanmar yesterday signed a ceasefire with eight ethnic minority armies in a step towards ending decades of civil war, a move weakened by the refusal of several other rebel groups to join the deal. The truce is the fruit of more than two years of negotiations and was a key goal of reformist President Thein Sein ahead of November elections, which are likely to sweep his army-backed party from power.

In a lavish televised signing ceremony in the remote capital Naypyidaw, Thein Sein said the deal would give "an inheritance of peace" to future generations. State-backed newspaper Global New Light of Myanmar said the agreement may herald a "fully fledged peace process that will end more than 60 years of civil conflict". But hopes for a full nationwide ceasefire before the November 8 election crumbled recently after several rebel groups balked at any deal without the inclusion of all insurgent forces—notably smaller organizations locked in conflict with the army.

Myanmar's powerful army chief and rebel representatives in ethnic dress attended the signing, while representatives from China, India, the European Union and United Nations were among the witnesses. In a statement, the US State Department welcomed "a critical first step" in building sustainable peace, but raised concerns over continuing fighting in northern Kachin and Shan state.

The deal enables the groups involved to begin political dialogue with the government—a longstanding demand of ethnic minorities calling for greater autonomy. But much depends on the actions of Myanmar's army, which is not under civilian control. Myanmar's military held the country in an iron grip for decades and retains significant political clout, including holding a quarter of parliament's seats. "The real test now lies ahead, in demonstrating that this partial agreement can bring tangible political and security benefits," said independent analyst Richard Horsey, who attended the ceremony.

### Election jitters

The ceremony comes during a week of political jitters in Myanmar. On Tuesday election officials briefly suggested delaying the November polls

the first credible general elections in decades in the formerly military-run nation. Authorities had cited widespread flooding for a proposed postponement, but after angry rejection by Aung San Suu Kyi's opposition party they dropped the idea.

The veteran democracy activist-turned-politician is expected to lead her party to huge gains at the polls, even though she is currently barred from being president by the junta-drafted constitution. She did not attend the ceasefire ceremony in person, but insists any government led by her National League for Democracy is committed to peace.

Myanmar has been torn by civil wars since the end of British colonial rule in 1948. The army used the conflicts to justify its grip on power and has been accused of widespread abuses across ethnic areas. The government has sought to reward groups signing the deal by removing them from lists of unlawful organizations, meaning their members can now travel freely and take part in politics. —AFP



In this May 11, 2015, file photo, an aerial photo taken through a glass window of a military plane shows China's alleged on-going reclamation of Mischief Reef in the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea. —AP

## CHINA WARNS AGAINST US SOUTH CHINA SEA MOVE

### 'FIRMLY OPPOSE' INFRINGEMENT OF SOVEREIGNTY

**BEIJING:** Beijing warned yesterday that it would "firmly oppose" infringement of its sovereignty after indications Washington will soon send warships close to its artificial islands in the South China Sea. Tensions have mounted since China transformed reefs in the area—also claimed by several neighboring countries—into small islands capable of supporting military facilities, a move that the US says threatens freedom of navigation. Senior officials in Washington have signaled that the US military could sail close by the islands in the coming days or weeks to demonstrate that Washington does not recognize a Chinese claim to territorial waters around them. Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said that the country respected freedom of navigation and over flight in the South China Sea, but would "firmly oppose infringement of sovereignty under that pretext".

Beijing insists it has sovereign rights to nearly all of the South China Sea, even waters close to the coasts of other states. The sea is a

strategically vital waterway with shipping lanes through which about a third of all the world's traded oil passes, and the dispute has raised fears of clashes. Hua's comments came after US Defense Secretary Ash Carter warned Beijing following a meeting of American and Australian officials Tuesday that Washington will continue to send its military "wherever international law allows", including the South China Sea. Australia is a key Pacific ally of the US and its foreign minister Julie Bishop said the two countries were "on the same page" on the issue.

An editorial in the Global Times, which is close to China's ruling Communist party, condemned Washington's "ceaseless provocations and coercion". "China mustn't tolerate rampant US violations of China's adjacent waters and the skies over those expanding islands," it said, adding that its military should "be ready to launch countermeasures according to Washington's level of provocation". Coming within 12 nautical miles of the islands could be a "breach of China's bottom line",

the paper said, warning: "If the US encroaches on China's core interests, the Chinese military will stand up and use force to stop it."

### 'Military muscles'

Satellite images of the islands published by the Washington-based Centre for Strategic and International Studies show that China has reclaimed millions of square meters of land in the Spratlys, known as Nansha in Chinese. The imagery also shows China has built a host of facilities, including as many as three runways, at least one of them 3,000 meters (10,000 feet) long.

On Saturday, China said work had finished on two lighthouses in the disputed area and pledged more construction, which it says is intended to serve civilian as well as military purposes. The work has been seen as an attempt by Beijing to assert its territorial claims by establishing physical facts in the water, although international law says they can only arise from naturally occurring geographic features. —AFP

www.kuwaittimes.net

# Lifestyle

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2015

Lebanese born Spanish violinist Ara Malikian plays for the press in Madrid yesterday during a promotional event following his Latin Grammy Awards nomination.— AFP

**Jay Z says song licensing not his responsibility in copyright trial**



President Barack Obama walks onto the stage in the East Room of the White House in Washington at the beginning of the 'In Performance at the White House' series. — AP photos



Three-time American Grammy Award-winning blues musician Keb' Mo' performs in the East Room of the White House in Washington.

## Obama celebrates American music with 'eclectic bunch'

**B**opping his head to the beat and swaying to a blues version of "America the Beautiful," President Barack Obama celebrated what he called one of the country's most precious gifts: "American creativity." Obama and his wife, Michelle, marked the history of American music Wednesday night during the latest installment of the PBS television program "In Performance at the White House." The president also noted the 50th anniversary of the National Endowment for the Arts and the Humanities.

"Creativity, it's always played a central role in the life of our nation," Obama said. "It's our artists who hold up a mirror to our society, reminding us of our common purpose and our collective obligations." Obama said American music is grounded in stories of real people and that lyrics share the tales of hometowns and the hood, love and heartbreak. "In America, we turn life into lyrics," he said.

Obama referenced one of the evening's performers, Buddy Guy, who once said artists are singing about "everyday life, rich people trying to keep money, poor people trying to get it and everyone having trouble with their husband or wife." "Except me," Obama added. The audiences' laughter filled the White House East Room, which had been transformed into a concert venue with an elevated white stage and blue spotlights. Obama called the group of performers helping

him to celebrate American music "an eclectic bunch." The concert was hosted by Carol Burnett and included performances by Guy, Usher, James Taylor, Queen Latifah, Smokey Robinson, Esperanza Spalding, MC Lyte, Audra McDonald, Trombone Shorty, Keb' Mo' and Brian Stokes Mitchell.

### Start dreaming

At a morning workshop at the White House, the first lady advised students training with some of the artists that failure and rejection are part of the steps toward achieving success. "Failure is a part of that whole process," Mrs. Obama said. "You just learn to pick yourself up. And the quicker and more resilient you become, the better you are." The students from middle schools in Manassas and Herndon, Virginia, and Landover, Maryland, learned to rhyme and produce and write songs during the workshop titled "A Celebration of Song." At the conclusion of the lesson, they broke out into five groups to craft and perform original work with their celebrity mentor. They were also treated to an impromptu performance by Spalding, Trombone Shorty and Keb' Mo'. Mrs. Obama encouraged the students to work hard and practice their craft - whether that was writing or mathematics. "It's really important that you all experience this stuff here in this house,"

she said. "You all are just as important as those dignitaries that we invite here."

She added, "Sometimes it takes sitting in this room to make you start dreaming about all that you can be." The National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act was signed by President Lyndon B Johnson in 1965. It created the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities, two federal agencies that encourage scholarship and progress in the arts, culture and humanities. The latest concert also marked the first hip-hop performance in the broadcast series with MC Lyte, a female rap pioneer. "In Performance at the White House" will be broadcast Jan 8 on PBS stations.-AP

## Jay Z says song licensing not his responsibility in copyright trial

**R**apper Jay Z said in court on Wednesday that he had no responsibility for clearing the rights for music used in his recordings, testifying at the trial of a copyright lawsuit over his 1999 hit song, "Big Pimpin'." Jay Z and hip hop producer Timothy "Timbaland" Mosley are among the defendants named in a 2007 complaint by the nephew of late Egyptian songwriter Baligh Hamdy, who alleged that the rapper had used his uncle's song without permission. When asked if he had cleared copyright for Hamdy's "Khosara, Khosara" melody, Jay Z said, "That's not what I do. I make music."

Jay Z, whose real name is Shawn Carter, appeared calm throughout his hour-and-a-half testimony on the second day of the trial at US District court in Los Angeles, saying he had assumed his producer Timbaland had created the key chorus melody in "Big

Pimpin'." "I didn't think it was a sample. There would be no reason for me thinking to clear the song," he said.

The rapper said hundreds of people typically deal with his contracts and licensing. Testimony by Mosley, who goes by "Timbaland," followed Jay Z's, and the hip-hop producer described composing "Big Pimpin'." Timbaland said he created a rhythmic beat before adding the beginning of Hamdy's "Khosara, Khosara" track, which he said he found on a CD of Arabic music labeled "license free." "I'm thinking it's free music, free songs, and I sampled it," Timbaland said during his hour-and-a-half testimony.

He demonstrated the process in court with a keyboard that had been set up by the witness stand, recording a rap vocal and layering several sounds over it to create a brief musical piece. Timbaland said when his legal team alerted him to a copyright claim, he immediately asked how to solve it and was advised to pay \$100,000 for the license. "Legal just told me, 100 grand, and you're clear," Timbaland said. "I thought I was free and clear." The producers paid \$100,000 to EMI Music Arabia to acquire the license. Timbaland said he had never been contacted by Osama Ahmed Fahmy, Hamdy's nephew, who filed the initial complaint, before the lawsuit. On learning of the complaint, he said, "I was like, so who did I pay the 100 grand to?" Testimony from Fahmy, who delivered his deposition by video, will be heard by the court on Wednesday. — Reuters



In this file photo, Jay Z arrives at the 2015 Vanity Fair Oscar Party in Beverly Hills, Calif. — AP

## Placido Domingo to have surgery, misses Met shows

**T**enor Placido Domingo will undergo surgery to remove his gallbladder next week, forcing him to miss performances he was due to conduct at New York's Metropolitan Opera, it said Wednesday. The 74-year-old Spaniard, considered the world's most famous living opera singer, had been scheduled to conduct Puccini's *Tosca*, which opens on Friday. But Domingo—who has had a series of health scares in recent years—was admitted to a hospital on Tuesday after suffering inflammation of his gallbladder and will undergo an operation early next week, the Met said.

"It is expected that this minimally invasive procedure will allow him to resume his activities after a brief hospital stay," the Met said in a statement. Domingo plans to return to the Met to conduct on November 6 and three later performances, it said. The opera house had initially advertised his return date as November 2.—AFP



Spanish tenor Placido Domingo performs on stage during a concert at the Starlite in Marbella in this July 25, 2015, file photo. — AFP



Academy President Cheryl Boone Isaacs as she speaks during the press view at the 'Hollywood Costume' exhibit in Los Angeles. — AP

## Head of Hollywood academy: Diversity debate at top of agenda

The president of Hollywood's movie academy says criticism of the lack of diversity among Oscar nominees has helped spark a vital global discussion about how to make the entertainment industry more inclusive. Cheryl Boone Isaacs said "the whole discussion about diversity is a great discussion, because now it's at the top of everybody's mind, not just the academy's." "It is now a global discussion, and that's really important," she said during a reception at the US ambassador's London residence for new European members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

Wednesday's event - whose guests included actors Cate Blanchett and Rooney Mara, directors Ridley Scott and Tom Hooper and former "Dynasty" star Joan Collins - was part of a push to boost the international profile and reach of the organization, best known for handing out the Oscars. An all-white roster of acting nominees at the 2015 Academy Awards inspired the hashtag #OscarsSoWhite on social media and increased scrutiny of the lack of diversity in the ranks of the organization, whose 7,000 members are largely white and male.

In June the academy announced 322 new members, including actors Benedict Cumberbatch and David Oyelowo, musicians Common and John Legend and actress Gugu Mbatha-Raw. Boone Isaacs, the first African-American woman to head the academy, called it a more diverse and inclusive list than ever before. Academy chief executive Dawn Hudson said Wednesday that the invitation-only academy was urging all its branches to look more widely for potential new members. US ambassador Matthew Barzun praised trans-Atlantic cooperation at the reception, where guests were served canapes, drinks and bourbon-based Cary Grant cocktails amid the chandeliers and ornate Chinese wallpaper of the residence's Garden Room.

### Movie industry

The cocktail choice was apt Barzun recounted how British-born Hollywood star Grant persuaded his wife, Woolworths heiress Barbara Hutton, to sell her London home to the US government for \$1 after World War II. Winfield House, set amid 12 acres (5 hectares) of grounds in Regent's Park, has been the American ambassador's residence since the 1950s. The academy's forays beyond Los Angeles and New York - with the London reception and a Paris gathering later this week - reflect an increasingly globalized movie industry. Hudson said 40 percent of nominees for the most recent Oscars were from Europe - half of those from Britain.

British "Star Trek" and "X-Men" star Patrick Stewart said there remains a lack of roles for older women and black actors, and a "shocking underuse of women directors." But he said he was struck by how international the movie business had become. "I wrapped a movie four days ago in New York and of the four leading actors, two were American, two were English," he told the AP. "But we also had a Brazilian actress, a Portuguese actress, a Canadian and a Spanish female director of photography, which was marvelous." — AP

## 'Bull,' 'Hopefuls,' 'Kill Me' top Rio Festival

Movies from three of Brazil's most talked-up new or on-the-rise talents - Gabriel Mascaro's second feature "Neon Bull," and Ives Rosenfeld's "Hopefuls" and Anita Rocha da Silveira's "Kill Me, Please," both debuts - swept top plaudits at 2015's Premiere Brazil, the centerpiece Brazilian-film-focused section of this year's Rio de Janeiro Intl. Film Festival. Two other first-time directors - Filipe Matzembacher and Marcio Reolon - scooped with "Seashore" both Rio's New Trends best film award and a Special Jury Prize at its Felix Awards. Sold by Memento Films International's Artscope, a leading European art film label, Mascaro's "Neon Bull" swept Premiere Brazil's top best film plaudit, plus screenplay (Mascaro, plus Marcelo Gomes, a director in his own right ("Cinema, Aspirins and Vultures"), Cesar Turim and Daniel Bandeira), cinematography (Diego Garcia) and supporting actress (child actor Aline Santana). Lead-produced like "August Winds," Mascaro's first feature, by Rachel Ellis at Recife-based Desvia Films, "Neon Bull" weighed in at Rio with much in its favor: Co-producers such as Rodrigo Pla and Sandino Saravai Vinay's Montevideo-based Malbicho Cine and Marleen Slot at Netherlands' Viking Film; Mascaro's status as one of the illustrious names to recently emerge on Brazil's regional cinema scene, here Pernambuco; and enthusiastic reviews and a Special Jury Prize in Venice Horizons, where it world premiered, in September.

### High artistic ambition

Turning on a "vaqueiro," a stable hand feeding and caring for bulls at Vaquejadas, a traditional rodeo in North-East Brazil, "Neon Bull" also combine social reflection - the vaqueiro dreams about becoming a fashion designer as modernization kicks in even in Brazil's strongholds of machismo - high artistic ambition, especially in its cinematography, and a pervasive sexuality. Like Autumn Winds, "Neon Bull" "similarly exudes hormones from every pore, sure to seduce many a festival with its helmer's gift for frank sexuality and unforgettable imagery," Peter Debruge wrote in Variety. "Selected at random, any given frame of the film might stand alone powerfully as a Dutch genre painting (think Brueghel or Vermeer), communicating the very texture and smells of each environment - some so oppressive the nose wrinkles at the sight." Not for nothing has Carlos Reygadas tapped DP Garcia to work on his upcoming "Where Life is Born." Underscoring the building diversity of Brazilian new generation cinema - as that of Latin America's at large - "Hopefuls" - which shared director and won actor (Ariclenes Barroso) and supporting actress (Julia Bernat) ex-aequo, is also set in a larger social framework - the flipside of the Brazilian dream of soccer as a get-out-of-poverty card - but is shot in a far more traditionally realist style.

Barroso (seen in 2013 Rio Fest top winner "Tattoo") limns Junior who plays for a small club in a small town in the state of Rio. Rather too acquiescent, he pushes the clock at a day job, isn't talented enough to make the big time, gets his girlfriend pregnant, and his Brazilian Dream fades, as he seethes with jealousy at his best friend, now a rising soccer star. "I wanted to tell a story not about Brazilian soccer players who are successful but the ones who don't make the big-time, the vast majority of players," Rosenfeld told Variety.

### Serial killer

Produced by Rio's Bubble Project and Luis Alberto Gentile's Crisis Productivas, "Hopefuls" won a coveted Brazil-focused First Look prize at Locarno last year, marking Rosenfeld as a talent to watch. Also trackable, Anita Rocha da Silveira's "Kill Me Please" shared best director for a flamboyant feature debut. Lead Valentina Herszage, who looks uncannily like a teen Demi Moore, also nabbed best actress for her turn as a 15-year-old student in Rio de Janeiro's rich Barra de Tijuca, whose exclusive high-school is terrorized by a serial killer. Skewering the Brazilian dream, and half serial killer thriller half coming-of-age drama-comedy, "Kill Me, Please" is produced by Vania Catani's Bananeira Films and co-produced by Argentina's REI Cinema, headed by Benjamin Domenech and Santiago Gallelli, as pan-regional Latin American co-production builds. "I wanted to highlight how developing countries, their new middle classes, deal with these new spaces. Also, I wanted to bring some of my own experiences as a teenager to the film, but making them over the top, fantastical,"

Rocha da Silveira told Variety. Cinematographer Joao Atala, like Rocha and most of the crew, is an alum of Rio's Pontifical Catholic U, colors are increasingly lively. Group scenes sometimes look - comically - like Benetton ads. Championed by LA-based FiGa Films, and one of the first titles on its FiGa/Br line-up, "Seashore," a Wolfe Releasing pick-up for North America, turns on two childhood friends who have drifted apart and, now late teens, embark on a trip to a beach-house outside Porto Alegre. One is gay, the other not: the trip forces them to recognize their distance, the effect of time, caught in the rolling waves outside. Fipresci Best Latin American Award went to "I Promise You Anarchy," sold by Latido Films. Guatemalan-Mexican Julio Hernandez Cordon's most confident title to date, it depicts two young skateboarders' friendship and love in a near surrealistic Mexican City. The Rio de Janeiro Intl Film Festival ran Oct 1-14.

## 2015 RIO International Film Festival winners

### BEST FICTION FEATURE

"Neon Bull," (Gabriel Mascaro)

### BEST FEATURE DOCUMENTARY

"Olmo and The Seagull," (Petra Costa and Lea Glob)

### BEST DIRECTOR - FICTION (ex aequo)

Ives Rosenfeld ("Hopefuls")

Anita Rocha da Silveira ("Kill Me Please")

### BEST DIRECTOR - DOCUMENTARY

Maria Augusta Ramos ("Future June")

### BEST ACTRESS

Valentina Herszage ("Kill Me Please")

### BEST ACTOR

Ariclenes Barroso ("Hopefuls")

### SCREENPLAY

Gabriel Mascaro, ("Neon Bull")

### BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS

(ex aequo)

Alyne Santana ("Neon Bull")

Julia Bernat ("Hopefuls")

### BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR

Caio Horowicz ("California")

### BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY

Diego Garcia ("Neon Bull") Gabriel Mascaro)

### BEST EDITING

Sergio Mekler ("Campo Grande" Sandra Kogut)

### SPECIAL JURY PRIZE

"Oblivious Memory", (Ruy Guerra)

### OTHER MAIN PRIZES:

#### NEW TRENDS JURY PRIZES BEST FEATURE FILM

"Seashore," (Filipe Matzembacher and Marcio Reolon)

#### BEST SHORT

"October Is Over," (Miguel Seabra Lopes)

#### SPECIAL JURY PRIZE

"Jonah" (Lo Politi)

#### PUBLIC AUDIENCE AWARDS BEST FEATURE FILM

"Nise the Heart of Madness," (Roberto Berliner)

#### BEST FEATURE DOCUMENTARY

"Betinho - Hope on the Line," (Victor Lopes)

#### BEST SHORT

"Sheeliton," (Mara)

### FURTHER FESTIVAL AWARDS:

#### FIPRESCI AWARD

#### FIPRESCI BEST LATIN AMERICAN FILM

"I Promise You Anarchy," (Julio Hernandez Cordon) FELIX AWARDS

#### BEST FICTION FILM

"Tangerine," (Sean Baker)

#### BEST DOCUMENTARY

"The New Man," (Aldo Garay)—Reuters

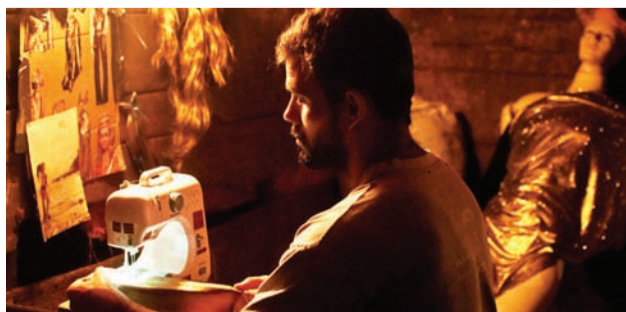


Photo shows a scene from the movie 'Neon Bull'.



Photo shows a scene from the movie 'Kill Me, Please'.



A model displays creations by US designer Todd Snyder during the Tokyo 206 Spring/Summer Tokyo Fashion Week in Tokyo. — AP/AFP photos

# Japan's love for classic Americana sparks fashion boom

A 47-year-old Iowa-raised designer might seem like an unlikely candidate for overnight success in Japan, but the country's long-running love affair with classic American style has turned Todd Snyder into a fashion heavyweight. Japan's fondness for American fashion has seen Snyder open three stores in the country in less than two years, and sparked a creative boom. A new generation of designers are now adapting US staples like denim and plaid to produce collections with a Japanese spin, building a global fan base in the process.

The story of American fashion in Japan began with Kensuke Ishizu, whose 1951 brand VAN revolutionized youth culture in the Asian nation, popularizing styles worn by college students across the East Coast of the US. Thanks to Ishizu, oxford shirts, slim trousers and other preppy staples became the uniform of choice for Japanese men after World War Two as the domestic fashion industry grew rapidly, influenced by American style.

"The Japanese are the ultimate students, they analyze things in so much detail... until they have pretty much mastered whatever they are studying," Nick Wooster, former director of men's fashion at Bergdorf Goodman and Neiman Marcus, told AFP. Tokyo's tiny boutiques are a treasure trove for collectors-including many from overseas-who stockpile vintage American clothing,

from old-school Ivy-League university sweat-shirts to weathered canvas totes. "At this point, the Japanese probably understand American classics better than Americans do," Wooster told AFP.

It's a view borne out by the expansion of Japan's denim industry, with even US designers like Snyder choosing to source the fabric from mills based in the country. Yuji Takahashi, men's and sports wear buyer for Japanese retail giant, Isetan, credits the country's denim manufacturers for their craftsmanship and their openness to design experiments. "Denim manufacturers are so passionate about creating new products and breaking the norm. This really encourages designers... and together, they are able to create new products that could not have been produced anywhere else," Takahashi told AFP. Japanese labels like Visvim and Mihara Yasuhiro create denim and plaid designs featuring hand-stitched patchwork, pleated bibs and delicate, frayed edges. Their efforts at elevating the durable fabric to couture status are paying off, with leading stores like Barney's in New York and Browns in London selling their collections.

### Vintage on the runway

For US designer Snyder, who has made several trips to Japan over the last two decades-mainly to scout American vintage products-the country offers opportunities for inspiration and

expansion. "They care so deeply about making things by hand, it's always moving to meet our manufacturers because you can see the respect they have for the process," Snyder told AFP after his show opened Tokyo Fashion Week on Monday.

In a nod to his audience's sensibilities, Snyder dressed his models in ensembles that paired his designs with vintage clothing ranging from paint-splattered trousers to dirt-stained shorts. "I didn't use vintage at my New York show, I don't think they would appreciate it there," he said. "People here really care about authenticity... it's not just about chasing the next new thing, it's about valuing where things come from and the story behind them," he said. Yasuhiro Mihara, the designer behind his eponymous label, told AFP after his show he had originally studied fine arts before turning to fashion. "I never wanted to create sculptures or paintings (that belonged in a museum)... I knew I did not want to create anything that people could not touch with their own hands," he said. He added that he preferred to work with denim and other durable fabrics because they age with wear, changing in appearance as time passes. "In Japan, we find beauty in things that wither away. Denim fades with wear, but does not lose its appeal, rather, it becomes more beautiful." — AFP

## TOKYO FASHION WEEK



Models display creations from 'Dresscamp' by Japanese designer Toshihikazu Iwaya at the 2016 spring/summer collection show in Tokyo yesterday during Tokyo Fashion Week. — AP/AFP



In this May 5, 2014 file photo, Taylor Swift wears an Oscar de la Renta gown at The Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute benefit gala in New York. — AP photos



In this May 3, 2010 file photo, Oprah Winfrey and designer Oscar de la Renta arrive at the Metropolitan Museum of Art Costume Institute gala in New York.



This October 2015 photo provided by the SCAD FASH museum shows gowns designed by the late Oscar de la Renta on display at the new museum on the Atlanta campus of the Savannah College of Art and Design.



In this May 5, 2014 file photo, Sarah Jessica Parker wears an Oscar de la Renta gown at The Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute benefit gala in New York.



This October 2015 photo provided by the SCAD FASH museum shows a red gown designed by Oscar de la Renta for Beyonce, on display at the museum on the Atlanta campus of the Savannah College of Art and Design.

## New Atlanta fashion museum opens with Oscar de la Renta show

A new museum focusing on international fashion has opened in Atlanta. The first exhibition at SCAD FASH features more than 80 Oscar de la Renta designs and opened to the public this month on the Atlanta campus of the Savannah College of Art and Design. The pieces come from the school's permanent collection and donations from collectors and celebrities who worked with de la Renta before his death in 2014.

De la Renta was a frequent donor to SCAD's collections and the natural choice for the opening, said Laurie Ann Farrell, executive director of museums and exhibitions and curator of the showing. She hopes visitors whether casual observer or devoted student will learn something about design. "Everybody selects their clothes as one way of signifying their identity," Farrell said. "Even if somebody doesn't consider themselves a fashion aficionado, I think they can come in and be inspired by what different designers have done through the years."

### Curved galleries

The pieces on display in Atlanta until Dec. 31 cover decades of work, from a 1965 black cashmere dress with a white satin collar and waist bow to a silk color-block gown designed by creative director Peter Copping for fall 2015 and worn at the Emmy awards by actress Maggie Gyllenhaal. Student-docents hold iPads with information about each garment as they guide visitors through the 10,000 square-foot space, winding through curved galleries and small rooms featuring a source of inspiration for the designer. A white, mirrored room contains romantic wedding gowns and a silk-patterned dress inspired by Marie Antoinette while a nearby platform holds a gathering of black and red flamenco-inspired garments with dramatic ruffles and other flourishes.

De la Renta's technique and influence is the exhibition's focus, but the people once inside the garments add to each item's appeal for visitors. An embroidered silk gown worn by Taylor Swift at the 2014 Met Gala stands next to the entryway. A black and white gown worn by Sarah Jessica Parker at the same event features a large version of de la Renta's signature embroidered in red near the bottom of the skirt's cross-hatched train. A red silk dress covered in delicate ruffles that Beyonce wore in a Vogue magazine photo spread stands alone on a pedestal, surrounded by curved black plastic adding drama for Instagram photos.

### Future exhibitions

In a short hallway holding metallic ensembles, museum-goers bent to examine the intricate beading and embroidery on Hillary Clinton aide Huma Abedin's custom wedding dress for her 2010 marriage. On the other end of the political spectrum, the exhibit includes a white cashmere coat and dress with delicate beading that former first lady Laura Bush wore for her husband's 2005

inauguration. De la Renta received a lifetime achievement award from SCAD in 2001, beginning a relationship with the school. De la Renta donated pieces to SCAD's permanent collection in the years following the recognition.

Immediately outside the museum doors, SCAD Atlanta's fashion students have moved into new classrooms and can closely examine or even take apart items from the school's permanent collection inside a fashion resource library. Future exhibitions still are being planned, but SCAD officials said they want to provide a link between fashion and film. Both are key areas of study for students in Atlanta and at the main Savannah campus. The de la Renta exhibit includes a SCAD alumnae's documentary on the development of a smaller de la Renta exhibit earlier this year at the museum on the Savannah campus.

The museum gallery opens up to a film salon holding cushioned ottomans and sofas facing a 90-inch screen surrounded by backlit bookshelves. SCAD also plans to hold showings and lectures either connected or not to the clothing exhibits. "Designers are artists," Farrell said. "As a visual experience alone, I think people can walk away with a deeper understanding of how a house evolves over time but maintains that classic elegance." — AP



This October 2015 photo provided by the SCAD FASH museum shows a gown designed by Oscar de la Renta for Taylor Swift, on display at the new museum on the Atlanta campus of the Savannah College of Art and Design in Atlanta, Ga.



# ROASTED CAULIFLOWER AND GREENS SOUP WITH CHEESY RYE TOASTS

## Ingredients

1 head cauliflower (about 2 1/2 pounds)  
 3 tablespoons plus 2 teaspoons extra-virgin olive oil, divided  
 Salt  
 1 cup sliced yellow onion  
 2 teaspoons minced garlic  
 1 medium Yukon Gold potato (about 3 to 4 ounces), thinly sliced  
 3 cups low-sodium chicken or vegetable broth  
 2 cups water  
 5 ounces baby greens (such as kale, spinach, arugula, mustard or a mix)  
 1 tablespoon lemon juice  
 Ground black pepper  
 4 slices rye bread  
 1 ounce grated Parmesan cheese  
 Start to finish: 1 hour (35 minutes active)  
 Servings: 4

## Preparation

Heat the oven to 450 F. Cut off and discard the tough bottom of the cauliflower stem. Separate 3 cups of small cauliflower florets (each about 1/2 inch in diameter) and set aside. Cut the rest of the cauliflower into 1-inch pieces, then mound them on a rimmed baking sheet. Drizzle with 1 tablespoon of the olive oil and sprinkle with about 1/2 teaspoon of salt. Toss well to coat, then spread in an even layer. Roast on the oven's middle shelf, stirring once or twice, until it is golden brown at the edges, 20 to 25 minutes. In a large saucepan over medium, heat 1 tablespoon of the remaining oil. Add the onion and cook, stirring occasionally, until softened, about 5 minutes. Add the garlic and cook, stirring, for 1 minute.

Add the potato, the roasted cauliflower, the broth and water. Simmer the mixture until the potato is tender, about 15 minutes. While the soup is simmering, on the rimmed sheet pan, toss the reserved florets with 2 teaspoons of oil and about 1/4 teaspoon of salt. Roast until they are golden brown and tender, about 20 minutes. Transfer the hot soup in small batches to a blender and blend until smooth. Return the soup to the saucepan, stir in the greens and simmer until they are wilted and tender, about 5 minutes. Add the roasted florets and cook for 1 minute. Add the lemon juice, then season with salt and pepper. Adjust the consistency, as desired, with an additional splash or two of water.

Brush the rye bread with the remaining tablespoon of oil and toast on the oven's middle shelf until golden, about 5 minutes. Sprinkle the cheese evenly over the toasts and return to the oven and bake for another 2 minutes. Ladle the soup into serving bowls and serve each portion with a toast. — AP





# BUSY NIGHT CALLS FOR FAST FOOD

By Melissa D'Arabian

**S**chool, kids, work . . . it's always something. Whatever the culprit, we are all busy. And on those crazy-busy days, dinner can sneak up on me, and suddenly I find my whole family ravenous. And the busier and more hectic the day, the more likely we are all craving something satisfying and hearty. And this, my friends, is the perfect storm for making some regrettable food choices. This is when the pizzas get ordered out of desperation, not true desire. And I like to save the once-in-a-while foods like greasy Chinese takeout or drive-thru burgers for just that: once in a while.

In our house, fast food is for cravings, not convenience. When we need a tasty dinner fast (so a trip to the supermarket is out of the question), I turn to a trusty protein source: the egg. Eggs remain one of the least expensive proteins around. Yes, you can do scrambled eggs for dinner (and we do!), but to bump the egg up a notch and get it squarely out of breakfast-for-dinner territory, try these baked eggs in sweet pepper sauce. Fill a ramekin with about 1/2 cup of sauce or fillings (from cooked meat to tomatoes to salsa and black beans), add the egg and bake for about 8 minutes. Serve with some nice bread you keep in the freezer for just such a culinary emergency, and your fast food becomes a feast. The sauce for these baked eggs uses healthy fast foods you can keep in your pantry, such as jarred roasted red peppers and simple marinara sauce (just check the labels to avoid added sugars). You can throw the whole thing together in less time than it took you to read this. Really.

## BAKED EGGS IN SWEET PEPPER SAUCE

### Ingredients

1/2 cup chopped jarred roasted red peppers, drained  
2 tablespoons capers, chopped if large  
1/4 cup chopped Kalamata olives  
1 teaspoon Italian seasoning  
1 1/4 cups jarred marinara sauce  
4 eggs  
Salt and ground black pepper  
baguette, sliced

### Preparation

Heat the oven to 350 F. In a small microwave-safe bowl, mix together the red peppers, capers, olives, Italian seasoning and marinara. Heat in the microwave (cover with a paper towel to avoid splattering) on high until warm, about 30 seconds (depending on oven). Mist four 8-ounce ramekins with cooking spray. Divide the sauce among the ramekins. Use the back of a spoon to make a crater in the sauce at the center of each ramekin. One at a time, crack each egg into a small bowl, then gently transfer it to the crater in each ramekin. Season with salt and pepper, then give a quick mist of cooking spray. Set the ramekins on a rimmed baking sheet and bake until the whites are set, but the yolks are still runny, 8 to 10 minutes. Serve with slices of baguette. Serves 4. — AP

## The Martian

is a movie that shouldn't have been made



From *Red Planet* to *Mission to Mars* to *John Carter*, movies about Mars have consistently flopped at the box office. As Andy Weir, the author of the novel the movie is based on, pointed out in a recent episode of *The Geek's Guide to the Galaxy* podcast, it's been decades since any movie about the red planet has been a hit. These days, Hollywood studios have come to think of films about Earth's nearest neighbor as carrying a box office curse. Indeed, Hollywood is so afraid of this effect on audiences that it cut the words "of Mars" from John Carter's original title, *John Carter of Mars*. The movie bombed anyway.

But *The Martian* is different. For one thing, it's estimated to have made \$55 million at the box office in one of the biggest October opening weekends ever, marking it as a bona fide hit. And while the science-driven survival tale is obviously a movie about Mars, it's also very much a Ridley Scott film - a product of its director and his consistently bleak but ultimately noble vision of human existence.

### Human survival

Throughout his nearly four-decade career as a filmmaker, Scott, now 72, has gravitated toward dark tales of human survival. Scott's breakout film, 1979's *Alien*, was a sci-fi/horror mashup (before such cross-genre experiments were common) that pitted the small, working-class crew of a long-haul space freighter against a not-so-subtly phallic alien that had evolved into a perfect predator. Ultimately, most of the crew dies, and the movie becomes a grueling showdown between the alien and a lone survivor, Lt. Ellen Ripley (Sigourney Weaver). In the end, Ripley kills the alien and reaches safety through a combination of physical perseverance and quick, rational thinking. Sure, it's a creepy monster movie set in a spaceship, but it's also an intensely psychological tale about the will to live against all odds.

It's a tale that Scott has returned to, in various forms, over and over again. His follow-up, the seminal 1982 science fiction film *Blade Runner*, is another grim genre crossover, a futuristic detective film about an investigator, Rick Deckard (Harrison Ford), on the trail of a small band of Replicants - exceedingly

lifelike robots outlawed on Earth. It's essentially a chase film, and like *Alien*, it boasts a handful of surprisingly tense action sequences. But, also like *Alien*, it's also a surprisingly moving existential meditation on what it means to be human. Ultimately, the movie suggests that it matters less whether someone is man or machine, but whether there's a will to survive.

This idea - that the essence of humanity is the fight to live, even for just another hour or minute - is present in nearly all of Scott's films, and essential in many of them. You can see it in movies as diverse as *White Squall*, a sea-survival story about a deadly storm, and *G.I. Jane*, a boot-camp picture about the first woman to join an elite Navy special forces unit. As in *Alien*, both films are structured as a series of escalating tests of physical ability, will, and ingenuity.

In a different way, the same idea is at the heart of Scott's feminist-road-trip crime movie (how's that for genre hopping?) *Thelma & Louise*, which ends with a freeze frame of its protagonists careening off a cliff. Whether they live or die, the ending seems to say, is less important than whether they do so on their own terms. It's still a movie about will and survival - just one that's about survival of the spirit.

### Apt for Adaptation

All of this makes Scott an incredibly apt fit for *The Martian*. Weir's best-selling novel tells the story of Mark Watney, an astronaut left alone on Mars by mistake when a near-future NASA mission goes wrong. The story is driven by Watney's efforts to create the conditions necessary for survival, which mainly means figuring out how to ensure he has enough air, water, and food to last years until a rescue mission arrives. Meanwhile, back on Earth, NASA and the engineers at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory race to put together the rescue mission.

Most chapters in the book revolve around solving some sort of engineering challenge, and the amount of math and technical information in the text is unusual even for a sci-fi novel. Weir's habit of walking readers through the particulars of these challenges in wonky detail is the sort of thing that

could have turned the novel into a slog, but it turns out to be a huge part of the book's appeal. It's essentially an extended Mars mission explainer in novel form.

Like so many of Scott's films, *The Martian* is a survival story about the triumph of both the human spirit and the rational mind, one that's structured as a series of problems to be solved. Weir has said that rather than a series of random, unrelated problems, he imagined the novel as an extended cascade failure, in which each problem led to a solution, which then led to another failure, and so on.

For the most part, Scott's movie version, which relies on a script by Drew Goddard (*The Cabin in the Woods*), keeps the book's structure in place. Goddard's adaptation cuts a few major episodes (including a run-in with a massive Martian sandstorm on Watney's final rover journey) and changes a few beats at the end to make for a more dramatic, conventionally cinematic finale. But overall, the movie is surprisingly faithful to both the events and the language of the book.

While there's not as much math in the film as there is in Weir's novel, Goddard's screenplay leaves much of the technical description intact, especially in the film's first half. It's not quite as nerdy as the book, but it's probably as close as Hollywood will ever get to a Mars mission explainer in movie form.

### A Ridley Scott film

It's still obvious *The Martian* is a Ridley Scott film. Scott's guiding hand, however, is still easy to detect. Weir's book is surprisingly lighthearted for a story about a man marooned on an unlivable planet for more than a year; Watney comes across as a funny smartass who stays essentially upbeat through the entire ordeal. Even when he's staring death in the face, he tends to do it with a wink and a joke.

Scott's film version gives Watney's story a decidedly darker edge. Scott was making grim-and-gritty movies before grim-and-gritty movies were a thing, and his *Martian* is, unsurprisingly, far bleaker and more emotionally raw than Weir's novel (though relatively lighthearted compared with most space disaster movies).



On screen, when Watney wakes up alone, injured, and without any means of communicating with Earth, it's an incredibly harrowing moment of human weakness. In both the book and the movie, Watney says basically the same thing when that happens: "I'm pretty much fucked." In the book (it's the opening line), it comes off almost as gallows humor; in the movie, the same line is shot through with a deep sense of despair that's rarely, if ever, on display in the novel.

Part of the reason the movie is so much more intense is that it's, by nature, a much more visual experience. Weir's prose emphasizes technical explanation much more than visual description; in an interview with Adam Savage, Weir said that when the book was published commercially, his editor had to ask him to insert basic location descriptors for several scenes, which tended to rush into the engineering challenge at hand.

Scott, on the other hand, is one of modern cinema's great visualists; he was a painter as a young man, and has long been known for his perfectionist's eye as a director - and in particular for his emphasis on the intricate physical details of a

movie's setting. In Paul M. Sammon's book *Future Noir: The Making of Blade Runner* (one of the greatest books ever written about the making of a movie), Scott defends *Alien* from critics who saw it as little more than elevated schlock horror by saying that the movie's "environment was a statement. And, I think, a great piece of artwork," and similarly says that *Blade Runner's* quasi-apocalyptic urban production design was its "statement." For Scott, essentially, a movie's design - its look and sense of place - is often its reason for being.

Scott's chilly but beautiful visual sensibility is a big part of what makes the movie version of *The Martian* feel so much bleaker than its novel counterpart. Along with cinematographer Dariusz Wolski, the director emphasizes Watney's loneliness with gorgeously rendered vistas of the Martian desert, a rocky and yet stunning place where tornadoes swirl gracefully, and dangerously, in the background. Watney is often framed as a tiny creature struggling to make his way across the planet's surface in shots that emphasize the planet's utter indifference to his plight.

The essential difference is that Weir is an optimist - and Scott is definitely not. Indeed, Scott recently said that he thinks humanity is probably doomed in the near future. That's not entirely surprising from the director of some of the darkest movies ever made; it's not an accident that his previous film, *The Counselor*, was a collaboration with Cormac McCarthy, another storyteller whose work evinces a deep pessimism about human nature. But it does point to a tension in his work, which is often bleak in tone but tends to end in individual triumph.

Ultimately, Scott is both a nihilist and a humanist, someone who has little hope in humanity but a surprising amount of faith in the abilities of individual humans to survive. The tension between Scott's broad pessimism and his narrow optimism is a big part of what makes his best movies - and *The Martian* is one of them - so great. ([www.thevox.com](http://www.thevox.com))

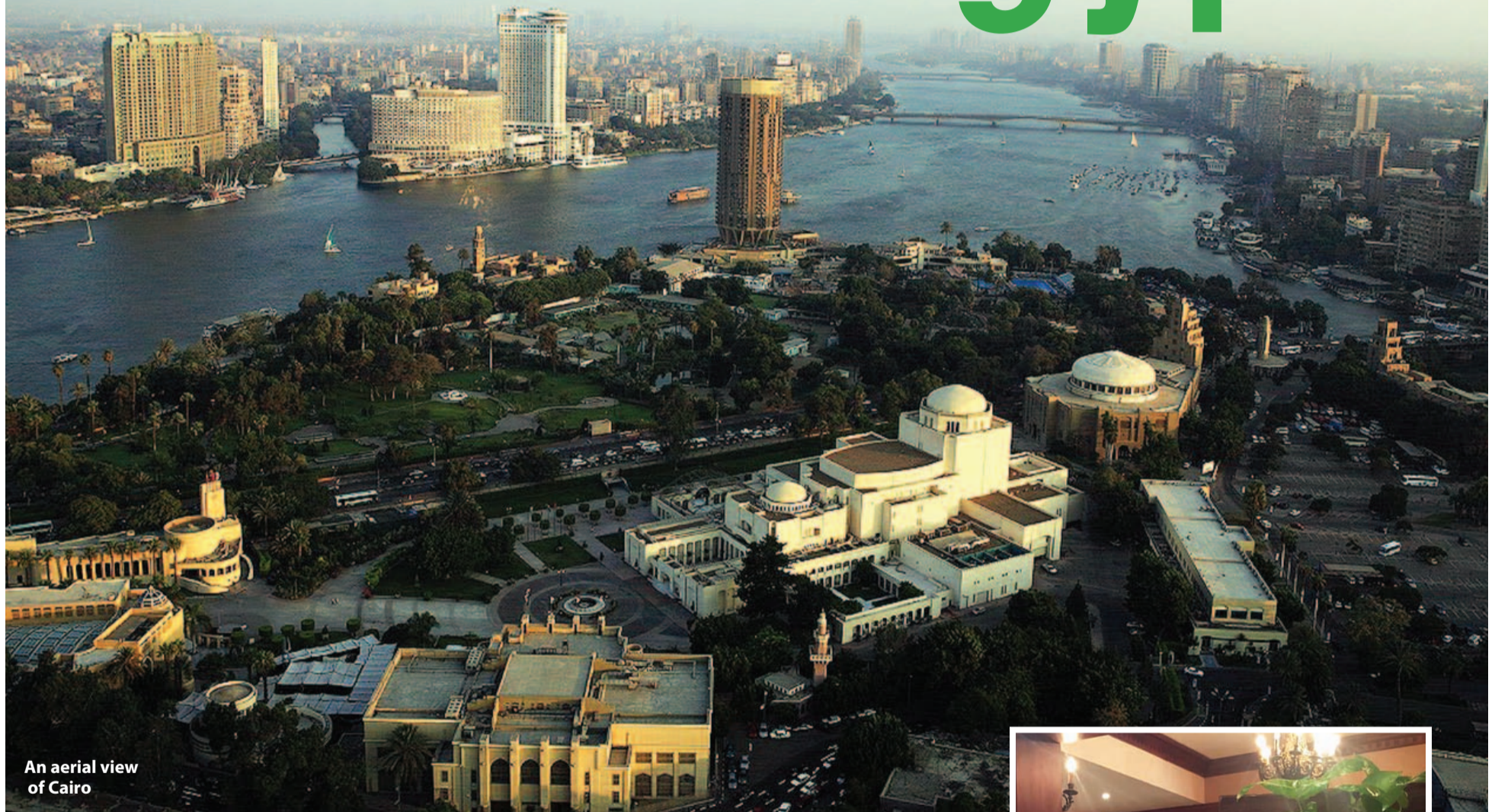




*Friday Times*

Travel

# Kuwait Times takes a tour of **Egypt**



An aerial view  
of Cairo

By Faten Omar

**T**he number of Kuwaiti tourists coming to Egypt made a record increase during the first seven months of this year with a rate of 41.4% compared with the same period last year and grew in the month of July 2015 also compared to the same period last year, representing a growth of 77.9%. In addition, the number of tourists who stayed in hotels in July and during the seven months of this year compared with the same period last year, represented a growth of 140.2% and 13.1%, respectively. Moreover, Kuwait was ranked eighth place in terms of nights spent in Egypt during the first six months of 2015.



Hisham Zazou



An aerial view  
of Cairo

This came during a meeting with Dr Hisham Zazou, Egyptian Minister of Tourism, with the Arab delegation of journalists from Saudi Arabia, UAE, and Kuwait. The meeting was attended by Sami Mahmoud, head of Tourism Promotion Authority, within the framework of media delegation visit organized by the Tourism Promotion Authority in Cairo and Alexandria. The visit aimed to promote Egyptian tourism in Kuwait and Gulf markets.

He pointed out that the Egyptian tourism sector in 2015, began with great optimism because of the positive results achieved during the first half of the year, where tourism increased by great strides in all major Gulf countries. It is a strong message that the Arabs are coming, noting that the Eid Al-Adha has seen occupancy rates reached 100%.

Zazou said "the new campaign of the Ministry for the years 2015 - 2018, will be implemented in 27 tourist markets, we put the Arab markets, especially the Gulf region in our top priority, where Egypt will continue to open its arms to all Arabs who have their historical relationship embodied in the geographical, cultural and social ties that brought them together."

#### Historic Cairo

Kuwait Times was part of the Kuwaiti media delegation that went to Egypt, with Salim Abdel-Kawy Abdel-Gayed, the tourist guide who was a living encyclopedia of Pharaonic civilization in Egypt.

The delegation visited Cairo the capital of Egypt, the home to the best Pharaonic, Coptic and Islamic sites in the country. In Cairo, you never know what incredible, half-forgotten monument you might stumble across while wandering around. Good for short breaks and long stays; you'll get to see the Giza Pyramids, thousands of ancient artifacts in the Egyptian Museum of Antiquities and much more.

Moreover, Cairo is for everyone, there are plenty of mid range and budget accommodations to choose from. There are more than 75 four and five-star hotels in Cairo, which all offer stunning views over amazing landmarks such as the majestic Nile, the Pyramids, beautiful parks and gardens, and upscale clubs and compounds. The Great Sphinx of Giza - one of the world's greatest mysteries is also the largest monolithic statue and the oldest known monumental sculpture in the world. It is truly a wonder to behold.

No Egypt tour is complete without a visit to the Egyptian Museum in Cairo. With over 120,000 artifacts, the museum houses an unbelievable exhibit depicting ancient Egypt's glorious reign. Mummies, sarcophagi, pottery, jewelry and of course King Tutankhamen's treasures are such of the historic monuments found here. The boy-king's death-mask - discovered in its tomb - is made of solid gold and it has been described as the most beautiful object ever made. After visiting these historical places, the tour continued with a boat trip along the Nile, with an amazing show of Egyptian Folkloric style belly dancing, Tanoura (skirt), and Saidi dance.

#### Unique Alexandria

After that the media delegation visited Alexandria. Immersed with rich history and cultural heritage, coupled with

modern beauty and a cosmopolitan city life, tourists can travel through years of history just by walking down a few streets. This unique experience cannot be found anywhere else in Egypt.

Since it was founded by Alexander the Great in 331 BC, Alexandria transformed into one of the greatest centers of learning in Ancient Greece. It was also considered a beacon of culture, symbolized by Pharos, the legendary lighthouse, one of the Seven Wonders of the World. As one of the longest-lasting wonders, the lighthouse survived until the 12th century.

When immigrants began flocking in from the Eastern Mediterranean, Alexandria quickly changed into the cosmopolitan city it is known today. Alexandria's coastline, scattered with bays and harbors, played a significant role in Egypt's commercial and maritime expansion. The unique blend of ancient Mediterranean and modernity has granted the city of Alexandria its famous nickname: the "Pearl of the Mediterranean".

The top things to do in Alexandria, nestling a short distance from the seafront is the one of the most famous touristic sites in Egypt and a must-see for all visitors, Bibliotheca Alexandrina is a re-designed library and cultural center that was inspired by the legendary Library of Alexandria. It is the largest reading space in the world even if it does not house the largest number of volumes in a single space, though one might argue that privilege now belongs to cyberspace, the new library symbolizes the renaissance of Alexandria as a Mediterranean megalopolis; it was approved in 1987 and opened in 2002. Upon your visit, you'll be able to explore a bunch of museums such as The Manuscript Museum, where you'll find a wide collection of ancient scrolls and texts; The Antiquities Museum, full of



#### The great pyramids of Giza





ancient antiquities that were discovered underwater; a rotating Egyptian folk art collection; and a Science Museum and Planetarium, full of children's activities that is sure to spark their interest in science.

The Fort Qaitbey stands where the seventh Wonder of the World, the great Pharos Lighthouse, once stood. The Fort can be found on the west end of the corniche, where it was built in the 15th century. Visitors to the fort can climb up to the rooftop and enjoy the spectacular view of the Mediterranean.

Take in the modern art museum, then aim to Villa Ambron where Durrell lived and wrote during World War 2. His masterpiece 'The Alexandria Quartet' can be used as a kind of guidebook; you can also use the real guidebook written almost a hundred years ago by EM Forster, the writer who gave us 'A Passage to India' and 'Howard's End'.

Located close to the center of the city, the Alexandria National Museum nicely sums up the history of Alexandria in the three floors of the now renovated Italianate style Al-Saad Bassili Pasha Palace. On your trip to this aged city wander through the beautiful palace and see the artifacts from the four main ages of Egypt: Ancient, Greco-Roman, Coptic, and Islamic, there is also an array of more modern items such as royal jewels and an interesting collection of antique coins. Learn about the interesting history of Alexandria as you explore the different chambers which are color coordinated to the period of their displays, and don't forget to get a camera permit at the door as there are some wonderful photo opportunities.

There is also the Graeco-Roman Museum, also known as the MOYXEION, which narrates over 2000 years of Graeco Roman history in Egypt. The Museum showcases an ensemble of historical artifacts and works of art displaying a great collection that date back to ancient Alexandria. Divided into 27 exhibits, the museum has something to pique the interest of people from different age groups and backgrounds. Don't miss the chance to take your family on a magical journey back in time.

You can also see the beauty of The Roman Amphitheatre of Kom el-Dikka, which literally means a "pile of rubble," was a slum until 1959 when a team of Poles excavated the site in search of the tomb of Alexander the Great. With 800 marble seats, graffiti of chariot team supporters, and two forecourts with mosaic flooring, the discovery was not a disappointment.



WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

AT THE CARNIVAL WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

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

- |           |                |               |                |
|-----------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| ADMISSION | COTTON CANDY   | FUNNEL CAKE   | POPCORN        |
| BALLOONS  | FAIRGROUND     | HOT DOGS      | PRIZES         |
| CAROUSEL  | FERRIS WHEEL   | JUGGLER       | RING TOSS      |
| CHILDREN  | FORTUNE TELLER | MIDWAY        | ROLLER COASTER |
| CLOWN     | FUN HOUSE      | ORGAN GRINDER | TICKET BOOTH   |

Yesterday's Solution

SOLUTION TO NATURAL DISASTERS PUZZLE

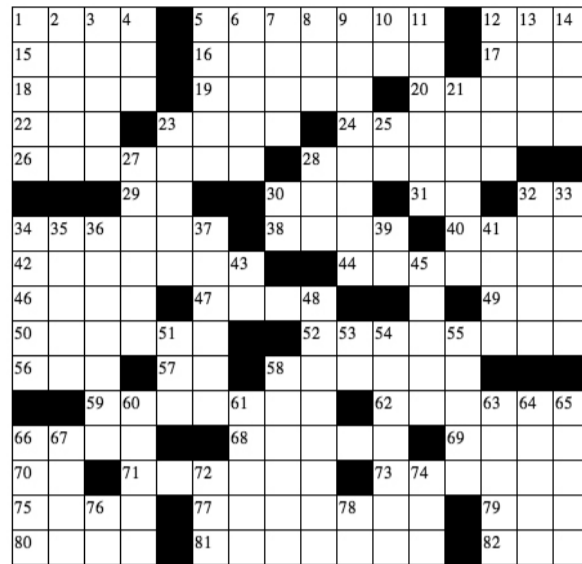
I K R B X H Q A B E G V D Q F D A Z Y  
 D U W B P W Q Q L A I V G U C L A A E  
 T O R N A D O I I T X G Q T S U O N M  
 W Y R Q R C M M Z Y R H B Q H L A O G  
 I O G O G A C Y Z P U U A F A C E T D  
 L Z Q U N P Y W A H X U E S I W V O L  
 D R O U G H T D R O F H S R L X A Z W  
 F I S A A W P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

Daily SuDoku

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

medium

CROSSWORD 1050



ACROSS

- Using speech rather than writing.
- A material that sorbs another substance.
- Make amends for.
- Brick that is laid sideways at the top of a wall.
- Providing enjoyment.
- Of or relating to a member of the Buddhist people inhabiting the Mekong river in Laos and Thailand.
- (Greek mythology) The Muse of history.
- Filled with a great quantity.
- An anti-inflammatory drug that does not contain steroids.
- A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.
- Having an elongated seating area.
- Any of various aromatic herbs of the genus *Monarda*.
- A white soft metallic element that tarnishes readily.
- Being one hundred more than three hundred.
- Loud confused noise from many sources.
- Baby bed with high sides.
- An opening that permits escape or release.
- Sea catfishes.
- A streamlined enclosure for an aircraft engine.
- Originally a stronghold captured by David (the 2nd king of the Israelites).
- Predatory black-and-white toothed whale with large dorsal fin.
- One of the most common of the five major classes of immunoglobulins.
- Place in a grave or tomb.
- Converted into a gas or vapor.
- A field covered with grass or herbage and suitable for grazing by livestock.
- (astronomy) The angular distance of a celestial point measured westward along the celestial equator from the zenith crossing.
- A state of difficulty that needs to be resolved.
- United States writer of poems and plays about racial conflict (born in 1934).
- (Greek mythology) Goddess of the earth and mother of Cronus and the Titans in ancient mythology.
- (Jungian psychology) The inner self (not the external persona) that is in touch with the unconscious.
- Advanced in years.
- A radioactive element of the actinide series.
- Characterized by intense emotion.

- West Indian tree having racemes of fragrant white flowers and yielding a durable timber and resinous juice.
- Fertility goddess in ancient Greek mythology.
- A large group of islands in the south Pacific including Melanesia and Micronesia and Polynesia (and sometimes Australasia and the Malay Archipelago).
- An adult male person (as opposed to a woman).
- Any of various edible seeds of plants of the family Leguminosae.
- Informal terms for clothing.
- A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.

DOWN

- English scholastic philosopher and assumed author of Occam's Razor (1285-1349).
- Norse chieftan who became the first duke of Normandy (860-931).
- Relating to or having the characteristics of bees.
- A zodiacal constellation in northern hemisphere between Cancer and Virgo.
- Food mixtures either arranged on a plate or tossed and served with a moist dressing.
- A member of the Siouan people formerly living in the Missouri river valley in NE Nebraska.
- European freshwater fish resembling the roach.
- A fatal disease of cattle that affects the central nervous system.
- Physicist born in Germany who formulated the special theory of relativity and the general theory of relativity.
- A state in the western United States.
- Small often spiny insectivorous mammal of Madagascar.
- Having winglike extensions.
- The Tibeto-Burman language spoken in the Dali region of Yunnan.
- The 10th letter of the Hebrew alphabet.
- The intended recipient of a message.
- Intentional deception resulting in injury to another person.
- The fifth day of the week.
- A person with albinism.
- Relating to or characteristic of or occurring in the air.
- The district occupied entirely by the city of Washington.
- Water accumulated in the bilge of a ship.
- The function or position properly or customarily occupied or served by another.
- Liquid excretory product.
- Organisms sharing a specified genotype or the genotype (or peculiarities) so shared.
- African tree having an exceedingly thick trunk and fruit that resembles a gourd and has an edible pulp called monkey bread.
- A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.
- Being two more than forty.
- A trivalent metallic element of the rare earth group.
- Tropical American trees with palmately compound leaves and showy bell-shaped flowers.
- An Old World reptile family of Sauria.
- A unit of conductance equal to the reciprocal of an ohm.
- An associate degree in nursing.
- Slightly sour to the taste.
- Wild and menacing.
- One who denies.
- A switch made from the stems of the rattan palms.
- Wood of a larch tree.
- Small terrestrial lizard of warm regions of the Old World.
- Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
- A city in southern Turkey on the Seyhan River.
- A dull persistent (usually moderately intense) pain.
- Decay usually accompanied by an offensive odor.
- An associate degree in applied science.
- (Akkadian) God of wisdom.
- A silvery soft waxy metallic element of the alkali metal group.

Yesterday's Solution

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

hard

Yesterday's Solution

A	A	S		B	A	C	K	B	A	N	D		M	B	A	
M	A	C		A	G	E	N	E	S	I	A		O	A	K	
O	R	A	D			L	E	D	U	M		S	A	B	A	
K	E	B	A	B		L	E	E	R		P	C		A	B	
			R			D	A	C	C	A		T	A	I	R	A
S	C	A	D			I	R	A	K		T	O	M	B		
C	A	B	A	L	A		P	E		I	M	P	A	R	T	
A	K	A	N		T	B		D	A	N	A	I	D	A	E	
R	I	D		A	R	E	A		L	E	I		A	P	R	
A	L	A	R	M	I	N	G		C	A	N	O	N	I	C	
B	E	N	U	M	B		O	C	A		M		D	E		
			D	O	E		N	A		B	A	A	L			
A	C	E	R	B		C	I		B	E	C	H	A	R	M	
P	A	L	A	I	C		S	U	L	A		A	T	A	R	
I	I	I		U	L	C	E	R	A	T	E		H	I	N	
A	N	A		M	I	L	D	N	E	S	S		I	D	A	

## BBC lifestyle

00:40 Masterchef: The Professionals  
 01:05 The Roux Legacy  
 01:40 Come Dine With Me  
 02:05 Vacation Vacation Vacation  
 02:25 Homes Under The Hammer  
 03:15 Beat My Build  
 04:05 The Roux Legacy  
 04:40 Bargain Hunt  
 05:20 Homes Under The Hammer  
 06:10 Beat My Build  
 07:00 Masterchef: The Professionals  
 07:25 Come Dine With Me  
 07:50 Building Dream Homes  
 08:20 Building Dream Homes  
 08:50 Michela's Classic Italian  
 09:15 Bargain Hunt  
 09:55 The Roux Legacy  
 10:30 Homes Under The Hammer  
 11:20 Beat My Build  
 12:10 Masterchef: The Professionals  
 12:35 Come Dine With Me  
 13:00 Building Dream Homes  
 13:30 Building Dream Homes  
 14:00 Michela's Classic Italian  
 14:25 The Roux Legacy  
 15:00 Bargain Hunt  
 15:45 Homes Under The Hammer  
 16:35 Beat My Build  
 17:20 The Roux Legacy  
 17:55 Building Dream Homes  
 18:25 Building Dream Homes  
 18:55 Rachel Khoo's Kitchen Notebook: Cosmo Cook  
 19:20 Bargain Hunt  
 20:00 Masterchef: The Professionals  
 20:55 The Roux Legacy  
 21:30 Come Dine With Me  
 21:50 Homes Under The Hammer  
 22:45 Building Dream Homes

## Discovery CHANNEL HD

00:20 Fast N' Loud  
 01:10 Treasure Quest: Snake Island  
 02:00 Fast N' Loud: Demolition Theater  
 02:50 Saint Hoods  
 03:40 Container Wars  
 04:05 Highway To Sell  
 05:00 How It's Made: Dream Cars  
 05:30 How Do They Do It?  
 06:00 Mythbusters  
 06:50 Dynamo: Magician Impossible  
 07:40 Superhuman Science  
 08:05 Superhuman Science  
 08:30 Head Games  
 09:20 Marooned With Ed Stafford  
 10:10 Kings Of The Wild  
 11:00 Treasure Quest: Snake Island  
 11:50 Dual Survival  
 12:40 Car Chasers  
 13:30 Fast N' Loud  
 14:20 Patrick Dempsey: Racing Le Mans  
 15:10 For The Love Of Cars  
 20:10 Idris Elba: No Limits  
 21:00 Fast N' Loud  
 21:50 Wheeler Dealers  
 22:40 Street Outlaws  
 23:30 Chris Ryan's Elite Police

## E!

00:00 WAGs  
 00:55 The Grace Helbig Show  
 01:25 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
 02:20 E! News  
 03:15 Giuliana & Bill  
 04:10 Beyond Candid With Giuliana  
 05:05 E! News  
 06:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
 06:55 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
 07:50 Style Star  
 08:20 E! News  
 09:15 Giuliana & Bill  
 10:15 Giuliana & Bill  
 11:10 The Grace Helbig Show  
 11:35 The Grace Helbig Show  
 12:05 E! News  
 13:05 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills  
 14:05 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
 15:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
 16:00 Stewarts And Hamiltons  
 17:00 Stewarts And Hamiltons  
 18:00 E! News  
 19:00 Hollywood Cycle  
 20:00 WAGs

21:00 Fashion Bloggers  
 21:30 Fashion Bloggers  
 22:00 E! News  
 23:00 House Of DVF

## itv CHOICE

00:10 The Chase  
 01:05 May The Best House Win  
 02:00 Emmerdale  
 02:25 Eggheads  
 02:55 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs  
 03:25 Lewis  
 04:20 Agatha Christie's Partners In Crime  
 05:15 Murdoch Mysteries  
 06:10 Who's Doing The Dishes?  
 07:05 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs  
 07:30 Lewis  
 08:25 Agatha Christie's Partners In Crime  
 09:20 Who's Doing The Dishes?  
 10:15 I'm A Celebrity Get Me Out Of Here  
 11:10 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs  
 11:35 May The Best House Win  
 12:30 Murdoch Mysteries  
 13:25 Emmerdale  
 13:50 Emmerdale  
 14:20 Coronation Street  
 14:45 The Chase  
 15:35 Who's Doing The Dishes?  
 16:30 Tricked  
 17:25 Keep It In The Family  
 18:20 Take On The Twisters  
 19:10 Coronation Street  
 19:35 Who's Doing The Dishes?  
 20:30 Tricked  
 21:25 Keep It In The Family  
 22:20 I'm A Celebrity Get Me Out Of Here  
 23:15 Tricked

## NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL HD

00:10 Wild Russia  
 01:00 China From Above  
 02:00 Wild Russia  
 02:55 9/10: The Final Hours  
 04:45 Science Of Stupid  
 05:40 Hard Time  
 06:35 Locked Up Abroad  
 07:30 World's Most Extreme  
 08:25 Perilous Journeys  
 09:20 Science Of Stupid  
 10:15 The Happenings  
 11:10 Paranatural  
 12:05 9/11 Firehouse

13:00 The Miracle Of The 9/11 Surfer  
 14:00 World's Most Extreme  
 15:00 Locked Up Abroad  
 16:00 The Happenings  
 17:00 Paranatural  
 18:00 Taboo USA  
 19:00 Locked Up Abroad  
 20:00 The Happenings  
 20:50 Paranatural  
 21:40 Taboo USA  
 22:30 Locked Up Abroad  
 23:20 Hard Time

## 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 Cristela  
 04:00 Mulaney  
 04:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon  
 06:30 Til Death  
 07:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers  
 08:00 Mulaney  
 10:30 Til Death  
 11:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon  
 13:30 Til Death  
 14:00 Cristela  
 15:30 About A Boy  
 16:00 The Nightly Show With Larry Wilmore  
 17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers  
 18:00 Baby Daddy  
 18:30 Cristela  
 19:00 Melissa & Joey  
 19:30 Melissa & Joey  
 20:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon  
 21:00 About A Boy  
 21:30 The Nightly Show With Larry Wilmore  
 22:00 Big Time In Hollywood FI  
 22:30 Big Time In Hollywood FI  
 23:00 Family Guy  
 23:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers

## OSN FIRST HD

00:00 The Americans  
 01:00 Blindspot  
 02:00 Empire  
 03:00 Mistresses  
 04:00 Covert Affairs  
 05:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show  
 06:00 Red Band Society  
 07:00 Glee  
 08:00 Chicago Fire  
 09:00 Covert Affairs

10:00 Red Band Society  
 11:00 Glee  
 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  
 17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show  
 18:00 Chicago Fire  
 19:00 C.S.I. Cyber  
 20:00 Blindspot  
 21:00 Grey's Anatomy  
 22:00 Survivor: Second Chance  
 23:00 Devious Maids

## OSN FIRST MORE

00:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show  
 01:00 Good Morning America  
 03:00 Salem  
 04:00 Grimm  
 05:00 Good Morning America  
 07:00 Emmerdale  
 08:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show  
 09:00 Suits  
 10:00 Emmerdale  
 11:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show  
 12:00 Switched At Birth  
 13:00 Supernatural  
 14:00 Live Good Morning America  
 16:00 Suits  
 17:00 Switched At Birth  
 18:00 Supernatural  
 19:00 Suits  
 20:00 Switched At Birth  
 21:00 Supernatural  
 22:00 Salem

## OSN MOVIES ACTION

00:00 Psycho  
 02:00 Blade: Trinity  
 04:00 The Perfect Storm  
 06:30 The Package  
 08:15 Assassin's Bullet  
 10:15 Getaway  
 12:00 Mercenaries  
 14:00 Marvel's Next Avengers: Heroes Of Tomorrow  
 16:00 The Package  
 18:00 Clockstoppers  
 20:00 Getaway  
 22:00 I, Frankenstein

## OSN MOVIES ACTION

00:00 Blade: Trinity-18  
 02:00 The Perfect Storm-PG15

04:30 The Package-PG15  
 06:15 Assassin's Bullet-PG15  
 08:15 Getaway-PG15  
 10:00 Mercenaries-PG15  
 12:00 Marvel's Next Avengers: Heroes Of Tomorrow-PG  
 14:00 The Package-PG15  
 16:00 Clockstoppers-FAM  
 18:00 Getaway-PG15  
 20:00 I, Frankenstein-PG15  
 22:00 John Wick-18

## OSN MOVIES COMEDY

00:00 We're The Millers  
 02:00 The Little Rascals Save The Day  
 04:00 Problem Child 2  
 06:00 Napoleon Dynamite  
 08:00 Roommates  
 10:00 The Little Rascals Save The Day  
 12:00 Problem Child 2  
 14:00 Soccer Dog: European Cup  
 16:00 Roommates  
 18:00 Vamps  
 20:00 She Wants Me  
 22:00 The Love Guru

## OSN MOVIES DRAMA

01:00 United Passions-PG15  
 03:00 What Maisie Knew-PG15  
 05:00 Wrath-PG15  
 07:00 See Girl Run-PG15  
 09:00 Song For Marion-PG15  
 11:00 Wrath-PG15  
 13:00 Sunshine On Leith-PG15  
 15:00 Stand Off-PG15  
 17:00 Song For Marion-PG15  
 19:00 A Walk Among The Tombstones-PG15  
 21:00 Snitch-PG15  
 23:00 American Hustle-18

## OSN MOVIES FESTIVAL

02:30 For Greater Glory  
 05:00 One Chance  
 07:00 Belle  
 09:00 Rushmore  
 11:00 One Chance  
 13:00 Diana  
 15:00 The Way We Were  
 17:00 Rushmore  
 19:00 White Bird In A Blizzard  
 21:00 Donnie Brasco  
 23:30 Killer Joe

## OSN MOVIES HD

01:30 Sabotage-PG15  
 03:30 The Single Moms Club-PG15  
 05:30 Odd Thomas-PG15  
 07:15 Rio 2-FAM  
 09:00 Grudge Match-PG15  
 11:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles-PG15  
 12:45 Tinker Bell And The Legend Of The NeverBeast-FAM  
 14:15 Divergent-PG15  
 16:45 Grudge Match-PG15  
 18:45 X-Men: Days Of Future Past-PG15  
 21:00 The Hobbit: The Battle Of The Five Armies-PG  
 23:30 Fury-PG15

## OSN MOVIES HD KIDS

01:00 Memory Loss  
 02:45 Egon And Donci  
 04:30 Marvel's The Invincible Iron Man  
 06:00 Dixie And The Zombie Rebellion  
 08:00 Justin And The Knights Of The Valour  
 10:00 Marco Macaco  
 11:30 From Up On Poppy Hill  
 13:15 Egon And Donci  
 14:30 Hammer Boy  
 16:00 Beethoven's Treasure Tail  
 18:00 Marco Macaco  
 20:00 Zarafa  
 22:00 Hammer Boy  
 23:30 Beethoven's Treasure Tail

## OSN MOVIES HD PREMIERE

00:00 Deliverance Creek-PG15  
 02:00 Heaven Is For Real-PG  
 04:00 Tales Of The Night-PG  
 05:30 Mud-PG15  
 08:00 Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit  
 10:00 Mr. Peabody & Sherman-FAM  
 11:45 Salinger-PG15  
 14:00 Streetdance: All Stars-PG15  
 16:00 Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit  
 18:00 The Hunger Games: Catching Fire-PG15  
 20:30 Think Like A Man Too-PG15  
 22:30 A Million Ways To Die In The West-18

## STAR MOVIES

01:15 Manic  
 03:00 The Horse Whisperer  
 05:45 Spy Kids 4  
 07:15 Staten Island  
 09:00 Ironclad  
 11:00 John Rabe: Part 1  
 12:30 John Rabe: Part 2  
 14:00 The Help  
 16:30 Surrogates  
 18:00 Ladder 49  
 20:00 Real Steel  
 22:15 The Longshots

## STAR WORLD

00:00 Grey's Anatomy  
 01:00 MasterChef Australia  
 02:00 The Listener  
 03:00 The Listener  
 04:00 Castle  
 05:00 Happy Endings  
 05:30 Happy Endings  
 06:00 The Simpsons  
 06:30 The Simpsons  
 07:00 Lost  
 08:00 Grey's Anatomy  
 09:00 MasterChef Australia  
 10:00 The Listener  
 11:00 The Listener  
 12:00 Castle  
 13:00 Happy Endings  
 13:30 Happy Endings  
 14:00 The Simpsons  
 14:30 The Simpsons  
 15:00 Lost  
 16:00 MasterChef Australia  
 17:00 Cougar Town  
 17:30 Scrubs  
 18:00 Low Winter Sun  
 19:00 The Bridge



I, FRANKENSTEIN ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2015

- 20:00 72 Hours
- 21:00 Cougar Town
- 21:30 Scrubs
- 22:00 MasterChef Australia
- 23:00 MasterChef Australia



- 00:00 Alaska Off-Road Warriors
- 01:00 Ice Road Truckers
- 02:00 Counting Cars
- 02:30 Counting Cars
- 03:00 Alaska Off-Road Warriors
- 04:00 Ultimate Wheels
- 05:00 American Pickers
- 06:00 Ax Men
- 07:00 Swamp People
- 08:00 Mountain Men
- 09:00 Barry'd Treasure
- 09:30 Barry'd Treasure
- 10:00 American Restoration
- 10:30 American Restoration
- 11:00 Counting Cars
- 11:30 Counting Cars
- 12:00 American Pickers
- 13:00 Storage Wars
- 13:30 Storage Wars
- 14:00 Pawn Stars
- 14:30 Pawn Stars
- 15:00 Shipping Wars
- 15:30 Shipping Wars
- 16:00 Ice Road Truckers
- 17:00 Counting Cars
- 17:30 Counting Cars
- 18:00 American Pickers
- 19:00 Storage Wars
- 19:30 Storage Wars
- 20:00 Search For The Lost Giants
- 21:00 Pawn Stars
- 21:30 Pawn Stars
- 22:00 Duck Dynasty
- 22:30 Duck Dynasty
- 23:00 Storage Wars Texas
- 23:30 Pawn Stars



- 03:55 Monkey Shines: An Experiment In Fear
- 05:45 The Crocodile Hunter: Collision Course
- 07:15 The Magnificent Seven
- 09:20 Apache
- 10:50 If It's Tuesday, This Must Be Belgium
- 12:30 Music Of The Heart
- 14:35 Captain Jack
- 16:15 True Heart
- 17:45 Apache
- 19:15 Robinson Crusoe
- 20:45 Big Screen
- 21:00 Wreckers
- 22:25 The Monkey Hustle
- 23:55 Eve Of Destruction
- 01:35 Wreckers



- 03:25 Gator Boys
- 04:15 The Lion Man
- 04:38 The Lion Man
- 05:02 Treehouse Masters
- 05:49 Wildest Islands
- 06:36 Call Of The Wildman
- 07:00 Call Of The Wildman
- 07:25 Dogs 101
- 08:15 The Lion Man
- 08:40 The Lion Man
- 09:10 Treehouse Masters
- 10:05 Tanked
- 11:00 Dogs 101
- 11:55 Bondi Vet
- 12:50 Man-Eating Super Snake
- 13:45 The Lion Man
- 14:10 The Lion Man
- 14:40 Treehouse Masters
- 15:35 Tanked
- 16:30 Wildest Islands
- 17:25 Killer Hornets From Hell
- 18:20 The Lion Man
- 18:45 The Lion Man
- 19:15 Treehouse Masters
- 20:10 Tanked
- 21:05 Queens Of The Savannah
- 22:00 River Monsters (Best Of Series 1-5)
- 22:55 Gator Boys
- 23:50 The Lion Man
- 00:15 The Lion Man
- 00:45 Call Of The Wildman
- 01:10 Call Of The Wildman
- 01:40 River Monsters (Best Of Series 1-5)
- 02:35 Tanked



### BLADE-TRINITY OSN MOVIES ACTION HD



- 03:05 Last Tango In Halifax
- 04:00 Watson & Oliver
- 04:30 Rev.
- 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 Gigglebiz
- 06:10 The Green Balloon Club
- 06:35 Nina And The Neurons: In The Lab
- 06:50 Nina And The Neurons: In The Lab
- 07:05 The Weakest Link
- 07:50 Moone Boy
- 08:15 Moone Boy
- 08:40 Eastenders
- 09:10 Doctors
- 09:40 Moone Boy
- 10:05 Call The Midwife
- 10:55 Silk
- 11:50 The Weakest Link
- 12:40 Moone Boy
- 13:05 Moone Boy
- 13:30 Call The Midwife
- 14:20 Silk
- 15:15 Moone Boy
- 15:40 Moone Boy
- 16:05 Doctors
- 16:35 Eastenders
- 17:05 The Weakest Link
- 17:50 Moone Boy
- 18:15 Moone Boy
- 18:40 Doctors
- 19:10 Casualty
- 20:00 Silent Witness
- 21:40 Alan Carr: Chatty Man
- 22:25 Getting On
- 22:55 Watson & Oliver
- 23:25 The Weakest Link
- 00:10 Doctors
- 00:40 Casualty
- 01:30 Silent Witness



- 03:20 Grojband
- 03:42 Grojband
- 04:05 Total Drama: All Stars
- 04:27 Total Drama: All Stars
- 04:50 Teen Titans Go!
- 05:00 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
- 07:10 Adventure Time
- 07:20 Adventure Time
- 07:35 Clarence
- 07:46 Clarence
- 08:00 Teen Titans Go!
- 08:20 Ninjago: Masters Of Spinjitzu
- 08:45 New Ben 10 Omniverse
- 09:10 Ben 10: Omniverse

- 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
- 12:51 Regular Show
- 13:02 Regular Show
- 13:13 Regular Show
- 13:25 Adventure Time
- 13:35 Adventure Time
- 13:50 Adventure Time
- 14:10 The Amazing World Of Gumball
- 15:00 New Ben 10 Omniverse
- 15:20 Ben 10: Omniverse
- 15:45 Ninjago: Masters Of Spinjitzu
- 16:10 Matt Hatter Chronicles
- 16:30 Teen Titans Go!
- 17:20 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 New Ben 10 Omniverse
- 21:15 Ben 10: Omniverse
- 21:40 Adventure Time
- 22:25 Johnny Test
- 23:10 Regular Show
- 23:55 Total Drama: All Stars
- 00:20 Total Drama: Pahkitew Island
- 00:40 Grojband
- 01:05 Grojband
- 01:25 Transformers: Robots In Disguise



- 03:00 Hate In America
- 03:45 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
- 04:10 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
- 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 Dr G: Medical Examiner
- 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 Did I Marry?
- 21:35 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
- 22:00 Deadly Women
- 22:50 Blood Relatives
- 23:40 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
- 00:05 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
- 00:30 The Haunted
- 01:20 Ghost Lab
- 02:10 Deadly Women



- 03:06 How It's Made
- 03:29 Space Pioneer
- 04:16 Race To Escape
- 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 X-Machines
- 09:38 Food Factory
- 10:00 Food Factory
- 10:23 Curiosity: How Does Life Begin?
- 11:08 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
- 11:53 Space Pioneer
- 12:38 Bang Goes The Theory
- 13:01 Bang Goes The Theory
- 13:23 X-Machines
- 14:10 How It's Made
- 14:34 How It's Made
- 14:57 Curiosity: How Does Life Begin?
- 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 Deadly Dilemmas
- 19:15 Deadly Dilemmas
- 19:40 Food Factory
- 20:02 Food Factory
- 20:25 How It's Made
- 20:50 How It's Made
- 21:15 How Do They Do It?
- 21:37 How Do They Do It?
- 22:00 Deadly Dilemmas
- 22:22 Deadly Dilemmas
- 22:45 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
- 23:35 Space Pioneer
- 00:20 Mythbusters
- 01:08 Deadly Dilemmas
- 01:31 Deadly Dilemmas
- 01:55 Food Factory
- 02:18 Food Factory
- 02:42 How It's Made



- 03:10 Henry Hugglemonster
- 03:20 Calimero
- 03:35 Zou
- 03:45 Loopdidoo
- 04:00 Art Attack
- 04:25 Henry Hugglemonster
- 04:35 Calimero
- 04:50 Zou
- 05:00 Loopdidoo
- 05:15 Art Attack
- 05:35 Henry Hugglemonster
- 05:50 Calimero
- 06:00 Zou
- 06:20 Loopdidoo
- 06:35 Art Attack
- 07:00 Calimero
- 07:10 Zou
- 07:25 Limon And Oli
- 07:35 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 07:50 Sofia The First
- 08:20 Doc McStuffins
- 08:45 Loopdidoo
- 09:00 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
- 09:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 10:00 Sofia The First
- 10:30 Doc McStuffins
- 10:55 Miles From Tomorrow
- 11:25 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 11:55 Loopdidoo
- 12:10 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 12:35 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
- 13:00 Sofia The First
- 13:30 Henry Hugglemonster
- 14:00 Doc McStuffins
- 14:30 Zou
- 14:45 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 15:15 Sofia The First
- 15:45 Doc McStuffins
- 16:10 Aladdin
- 16:40 Adventures Of The Gummi Bears
- 17:10 Chip n Dale Rescue Rangers
- 17:40 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 17:55 Cars Toons
- 18:00 Miles From Tomorrow
- 18:30 Sofia The First
- 18:55 Doc McStuffins
- 19:15 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 19:45 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
- 20:05 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 20:35 Sofia The First
- 21:00 Aladdin
- 21:30 Adventures Of The Gummi Bears
- 22:00 Chip n Dale Rescue Rangers
- 22:30 Lilo & Stitch
- 23:00 Nina Needs To Go
- 23:05 Henry Hugglemonster
- 23:20 Calimero
- 23:35 Zou
- 23:50 Loopdidoo
- 00:05 Art Attack

- 00:30 Henry Hugglemonster
- 00:45 Calimero
- 01:00 Zou
- 01:15 Loopdidoo
- 01:30 Art Attack
- 01:55 Henry Hugglemonster
- 02:05 Calimero
- 02:20 Zou
- 02:30 Loopdidoo
- 02:45 Art Attack



- 06:00 The 7D
- 06:10 Booster
- 06:35 Phineas And Ferb
- 07:00 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero
- 07:25 Supa Strikas
- 07:50 Supa Strikas
- 08:15 K.C Undercover
- 08:40 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
- 09:10 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
- 09:35 Kirby Buckets
- 10:00 Kickin' It
- 10:30 Phineas And Ferb
- 10:55 Rocket Monkeys
- 11:20 Booster
- 11:45 Super Matrak
- 12:10 Super Matrak
- 12:40 Mighty Med
- 13:05 Ultimate Spider-Man: Web Warriors
- 13:30 Supa Strikas
- 14:00 Kickin' It
- 14:25 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
- 14:50 Phineas And Ferb
- 15:15 Rocket Monkeys
- 15:40 Booster
- 16:10 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
- 16:35 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero
- 17:00 Mighty Med
- 17:25 K.C Undercover
- 17:55 Supa Strikas
- 18:20 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
- 18:45 Kirby Buckets
- 19:10 Phineas And Ferb
- 19:40 Mighty Med
- 20:05 K.C Undercover
- 20:30 Supa Strikas
- 20:55 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
- 21:25 Kirby Buckets
- 21:50 Kickin' It
- 22:15 Mighty Med
- 23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am KSA



- 03:05 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
- 03:30 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
- 03:55 Get Stuffed
- 04:20 Cradle Of Mandopop
- 05:10 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Sea
- 06:00 World's Best Chefs
- 06:25 Food School
- 06:50 Rustic Adventure Argentina
- 07:15 Rustic Adventure Argentina
- 07:40 Dog Whisperer
- 08:30 Tripping Out
- 08:55 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
- 09:20 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
- 09:45 Get Stuffed
- 10:10 Cradle Of Mandopop
- 11:00 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Sea
- 11:50 World's Best Chefs
- 12:15 Food School
- 12:40 Rustic Adventure Argentina
- 13:05 Rustic Adventure Argentina
- 13:35 Dog Whisperer
- 14:30 Tripping Out
- 14:55 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
- 15:25 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
- 15:50 Get Stuffed
- 16:20 Poh & Co.
- 16:45 Poh & Co.
- 17:15 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
- 18:10 World's Best Chefs
- 18:35 Food School
- 19:05 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
- 19:30 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
- 20:00 Get Stuffed
- 20:25 Poh & Co.
- 20:50 Poh & Co.
- 21:15 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
- 22:05 World's Best Chefs
- 22:30 Food School
- 22:55 Rustic Adventure Argentina



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

The more facts you have at your disposal today, the more you realize that you don't really know what someone else is feeling. Although you may be inclined to jump to premature conclusions now, the longer you can sit with your uncertainty, the better your chances for creating a meaningful connection. Instead of pushing for resolution on a relationship issue, surrender your need for control. The mysteries of love are enchanting when you're willing to open your heart and let Cupid play his part.



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

You are driven by a strong desire for perfection today, but satisfaction remains elusive. Romantic Venus opposes nebulous Neptune, tricking you into combining your dreams with reality. Nevertheless, you won't float off into the clouds while the Moon joins forces with pragmatic Saturn. Listening to your heart helps you turn a daydream into something real. Be willing to take a risk and let go of what you assume to be true; what you see now is not what you get, so trust your sixth sense over your sight.



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

You have big dreams about what you want to do today but your actual preferences are restrained by practical considerations. You might feel as if making a personal sacrifice will prevent you from manifesting your dreams. But instead of being disappointed if reality falls short of your expectations, look for undiscovered opportunities that accompany the unexpected changes. There are more options than you can imagine if you remain open to the abundance of the universe.



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

Your daydreams are so distracting today that you might easily overlook pertinent information required to make an informed decision. Successful strategies to combat your fuzzy thinking include asking questions and remembering to read every word before signing on the dotted line. If you're not careful, you could be swayed by someone's charming presentation now. You may be sorely disappointed if you just assume that everything will work out for the best. Gathering all the facts before making your move is your safest bet.



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

Your love life is a conundrum today because flirty Venus is playing with your heart while nebulous Neptune clouds your judgment. Someone may enchant you now as your imagination turns a frog into a prince or princess in your dreams. It's all rainbows and unicorns until you wake up and have to manage everything the way it is in reality rather than how you envisioned it in your fantasies. Follow your heart but don't get lost along the way.



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

You might be in for a rather frustrating day if you believe that you must maintain tight control in a relationship. But once you have your first confrontation with a friend or partner, your illusions will dissipate quickly like clouds after a storm. Asking someone else to lead for a while lessens the pressure and allows you to enjoy yourself without having to micromanage every detail. Accepting that others have just as much to bring to the table as you makes all the difference in the world.



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

You prefer seeking the elusive perfection of beauty than dealing with mundane reality. Although fulfilling your responsibilities can be challenging today, you can't leave your chores undone for another day. Your ruling planet Venus brings you a lovely image to play with now, but it's slightly out of focus as she duels with mystical Neptune. Thankfully, once your work is finished you can drift off into dreamland without any interruptions or guilt.



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

A solution to a stressful dilemma may not be forthcoming today, but part of the problem is that you won't receive useful answers until you can formulate clear questions. Take some quiet time away from your current obligations to untangle your thoughts. Once you've established a logical starting point, the rest of the process will be much easier. Patience is a virtue, especially when it comes to matters of the heart.



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

Even if you're dealing with the same confusing issues as yesterday, they might not appear to bother you as much today. However, just beneath your life-is-wonderful veneer, stresses are still at work. Don't waste precious energy trying to make your life look better than it actually is. Once others see that you have problems just like them, they'll be more inclined to interact with you on a personal level. Expressing the truth reveals your vulnerability and paves a path for authentic relationships.



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

You might not know where to begin today if someone questions your integrity. Defending your position is challenging when the validity of your assumptions is uncertain and you don't have any specific evidence to back them up. Unfortunately, the more you argue your point, the greater the gulf grows between you and others. Forget about talking your way through this predicament now; let your actions speak for themselves.



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

Just when you thought everything was perfect, a close friend brings a missing fact to your attention today, reminding you that you are not seeing things in a clear light. Although you might slip into a downward spiral if you temporarily lose your center, you can pull yourself out of a nose dive as quickly as it began with a little positive self-affirmation. Readjust your thinking and widen your perspective to integrate the new information into your overall strategy. There's no reason to contract out of fear; spread your wings and fly.



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

Keeping your impulses in check is nearly impossible today, especially if someone is tempting you to climb out on a limb and express your feelings. But your partner or a friend could lay down some rules now that won't easily let you off the hook. Instead of striking out because you're afraid of rejection, face your fears before you experience a relationship crisis. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

**COUNTRY CODES**

Afghanistan	0093	Lithuania	00370
Albania	00355	Luxembourg	00352
Algeria	00213	Macau	00853
Andorra	00376	Macedonia	00389
Angola	00244	Madagascar	00261
Anguilla	001264	Majorca	0034
Antiga	001268	Malawi	00265
Argentina	0054	Malaysia	0060
Armenia	00374	Maldives	00960
Australia	0061	Mali	00223
Austria	0043	Malta	00356
Bahamas	001242	Marshall Islands	00692
Bahrain	00973	Martinique	00596
Bangladesh	00880	Mauritania	00222
Barbados	001246	Mauritius	00230
Belarus	00375	Mayotte	00269
Belgium	0032	Mexico	0052
Belize	00501	Micronesia	00691
Benin	00229	Moldova	00373
Bermuda	001441	Monaco	00377
Bhutan	00975	Mongolia	00976
Bolivia	00591	Montserrat	001664
Bosnia	00387	Morocco	00212
Botswana	00267	Mozambique	00258
Brazil	0055	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Brunei	00673	Namibia	00264
Bulgaria	00359	Nepal	00977
Burkina	00226	Netherlands	0031
Burundi	00257	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Cambodia	00855	New Caledonia	00687
Cameroon	00237	New Zealand	0064
Canada	001	Nicaragua	00505
Cape Verde	00238	Niger	00227
Cayman Islands	001345	Nigeria	00234
Central African	00236	Niue	00683
Chad	00235	Norfolk Island	00672
Chile	0056	N. Ireland (UK)	0044
China	0086	North Korea	00850
Colombia	0057	Norway	0047
Comoros	00269	Oman	00968
Congo	00242	Pakistan	0092
Cook Islands	00682	Palau	00680
Costa Rica	00506	Panama	00507
Croatia	00385	Papua New Guinea	00675
Cuba	0053	Paraguay	00595
Cyprus	00357	Peru	0051
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Philippines	0063
Czech Republic	00420	Poland	0048
Denmark	0045	Portugal	00351
Diego Garcia	00246	Puerto Rico	001787
Djibouti	00253	Qatar	00974
Dominica	001767	Romania	0040
Dominican Republic	001809	Russian Federation	007
Ecuador	00593	Rwanda	00250
Egypt	0020	Saint Helena	00290
El Salvador	00503	Saint Kitts	001869
England (UK)	0044	Saint Lucia	001758
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Saint Pierre	00508
Eritrea	00291	Saint Vincent	001784
Estonia	00372	Samoa US	00684
Ethiopia	00251	Samoa West	00685
Falkland Islands	00500	San Marino	00378
Faroe Islands	00298	Sao Tome	00239
Fiji	00679	Saudi Arabia	00966
Finland	00358	Scotland (UK)	0044
France	0033	Senegal	00221
French Guiana	00594	Seychelles	00284
French Polynesia	00689	Sierra Leone	00232
Gabon	00241	Singapore	0065
Gambia	00220	Slovakia	00421
Georgia	00995	Slovenia	00386
Germany	0049	Solomon Islands	00677
Ghana	00233	Somalia	00252
Gibraltar	00350	South Africa	0027
Greece	0030	South Korea	0082
Greenland	00299	Spain	0034
Grenada	001473	Sri Lanka	0094
Guadeloupe	00590	Sudan	00249
Guam	001671	Suriname	00597
Guatemala	00502	Swaziland	00268
Guinea	00224	Sweden	0046
Guyana	00592	Switzerland	0041
Haiti	00509	Syria	00963
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Serbia	00381
Honduras	00504	Taiwan	00886
Hong Kong	00852	Tanzania	00255
Hungary	0036	Thailand	0066
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Toga	00228
Iceland	00354	Tonga	00676
India	0091	Tokelau	00690
Indian Ocean	00873	Trinidad	001868
Indonesia	0062	Tunisia	00216
Iran	0098	Turkey	0090
Iraq	00964	Tuvalu	00688
Ireland	00353	Uganda	00256
Italy	0039	Ukraine	00380
Ivory Coast	00225	United Arab Emirates	00976
Jamaica	001876	United Kingdom	0044
Japan	0081	Uruguay	00598
Jordan	00962	USA	001
Kazakhstan	007	Uzbekistan	00998
Kenya	00254	Vanuatu	00678
Kiribati	00686	Venezuela	00582
Kuwait	00965	Vietnam	0084
Kyrgyzstan	00996	Virgin Islands UK	001284
Laos	00856	Virgin Islands US	001340
Latvia	00371	Wales (UK)	0044
Lebanon	00961	Yemen	00967
Liberia	00231	Yugoslavia	00381
Libya	00218	Zambia	00260
		Zimbabwe	00263

# DOES FUNGUS CAUSE ALZHEIMER'S? ASK EXPERTS

**PARIS:** Traces of fungus have been discovered in the brains of Alzheimer's sufferers, researchers said yesterday, relaunching the question: might the disease be caused by an infectious microbe? There is no conclusive evidence, but if the answer turns out to be "yes", it means Alzheimer's Disease (AD) may be targeted with antifungal treatment, a Spanish team reported in the journal *Scientific Reports*. "The possibility that AD is a fungal disease, or that fungal infection is a risk factor for the disease, opens new perspectives for effective therapy for these patients," they wrote.

The five-member team had found cells and other material from "several fungal species" in the brain tissue and blood vessels of all 11 deceased Alzheimer's patients analyzed, but not in ten Alzheimer's-free controls. The findings are published just a month after scientists warned in the sister journal *Nature* of a risk of accidental surgical transmission of Alzheimer's "seeds" from one person to another. Alzheimer's Disease is the most common form of dementia, which the World Health Organisation (WHO) says affects nearly 50 million people worldwide-some 7.7 million new cases per year.

### 'Speculation'

Old age is the major risk factor, and there is no therapy to stop or reverse Alzheimer's symptoms, which include memory loss and disorientation, as well as anxiety and aggressive behavior. Some researchers have suggested AD may be an infectious disease or, at least, that infection with certain microbes may boost Alzheimer's risk. Genetic material from viruses and bacteria had previously been found in the brains of Alzheimer's patients, and viruses which cause herpes and pneumonia have been suggested as potential AD "agents", according to the study authors.

The main suspect in AD to date has been brain "plaques" caused by a build-up of sticky proteins, but trials with drugs targeting these have yielded disappointing results. The new study adds another possible cause to the list of hypotheses. Traces of several fungal species were found, said the team, which "might explain the diversity observed in the evolution and severity of clinical symptoms in each AD patient." A fungal cause would fit well with the characteristics of AD, the researchers added, including the slow progression of the disease and inflammation, which is an immune response to infectious agents such as fungi.

The researchers did point out, however, that fungal infection may be the result, not the cause, of AD. Alzheimer's sufferers may have a weaker immune response, or changes in diet or hygiene, that could leave them more exposed. "It is evident that clinical trials will be necessary to establish a causal effect of fungal infection of AD," wrote the team. "There are at present a number of highly effective antifungal compounds with little toxicity. A combined effort from the pharmaceutical industry and clinicians is needed to design clinical trials to test the possibility that AD is caused by fungal infection." Outside experts agreed that further study must be done to confirm or disprove the fungus theory. As they stand, the findings are "very speculative", French neurodegenerative disease expert Sylvain Lehmann told AFP.

"We cannot conclude from this work that such (fungal) infections cause or increase the risk of the disease," added Laura Phipps of Alzheimer's Research UK. Last month, a study said people injected with hormones extracted from cadaver brains in a long-abandoned medical procedure may have received "seeds" of Alzheimer's-raising the spectre of it being a transmissible disease. —AP



## PROPER HAND WASHING ESSENTIAL TO CUT HIGH CHILD DEATH RATE

**LONDON:** Failing to wash hands with soap - one of the cheapest and most effective health interventions - costs the lives of children and undermines efforts to meet a new set of development goals, the United Nations children's agency (UNICEF) said yesterday. More than 800 children die every day from diarrhea caused by inadequate access to water or poor hygiene, the United Nations estimates. In the majority of countries in sub-Saharan Africa, the region with the highest child mortality rates, only about half the population wash their hands and even health clinics often lack hand-washing facilities, UNICEF said.

"Along with drinking water and access to toilets, hygiene - particularly hand washing with soap - is an essential ... (part) of (achieving) the goal on water and sanitation," Sanjay Wijesekera, head of UNICEF's water, sanitation and hygiene programs, said in a statement. Some 42 percent of healthcare facilities in Africa have no water source

within 500 meters, UNICEF said in a statement marking Global Handwashing Day. "From birth - when unwashed hands of birth attendants can transmit dangerous pathogens - right through babyhood, school and beyond, hand washing is crucial for a child's health. It is one of the cheapest, simplest, most effective health interventions we have," Wijesekera said.

Diseases transmitted by unwashed hands are particularly dangerous to babies in the first month of life, UNICEF said. World leaders adopted 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the United Nations in September as a way of focusing on the world's most troubling development problems, including access to water and sanitation. UNICEF said that improvements in hygiene should supplement action to provide better access to water and sanitation, otherwise children would go on dying from easily preventable diseases. —Reuters

CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times  
THE LEADING INDEPENDENT DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem  
فهد علي المخيزيم

Consultant Pediatrician استشاري أطفال  
M.B. Bch. FRCPC. FAAP. PEM

Al-Jabriya - Block 1A - St. 1 - Mazaya Building - 15th Floor - Clinic B - Tel.: 22269369 - Fax: 22269368



## KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (15/10/2015 TO 21/10/2015)

<b>SHARQIA-1</b>		BRUCE LEE - THE FIGHTER	6:30 PM	MOMENTUM	6:00 PM
JUNE	11:45 AM	BRUCE LEE - THE FIGHTER	9:30 PM	AHWAK	8:15 PM
PAN	1:30 PM	BRUCE LEE - THE FIGHTER	10:00 PM	MOMENTUM	10:45 PM
JUNE	3:45 PM	THE MARTIAN	9:30 PM	MOMENTUM	1:00 AM
PAN	5:45 PM	MOMENTUM	1:00 AM	12:05 AM	
JUNE	8:15 PM	THE MARTIAN	12:30 AM		
JUNE	10:15 PM				
THE MARTIAN	12:15 AM				
		<b>FANAR-4</b>		<b>360°-1</b>	
<b>SHARQIA-2</b>		MOMENTUM	12:15 PM	THE MARTIAN	12:15 PM
MOMENTUM	11:30 AM	MOMENTUM	2:15 PM	THE MARTIAN	3:15 PM
MOMENTUM	1:30 PM	MOMENTUM	4:30 PM	THE MARTIAN	6:15 PM
HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA 2	3:30 PM	MOMENTUM	6:30 PM	THE MARTIAN	9:15 PM
THU+FRI+SAT		MOMENTUM	8:30 PM		
MOMENTUM	3:30 PM	MOMENTUM	10:30 PM	<b>360°-2</b>	
NO THU+FRI+SAT		MOMENTUM	12:30 AM	AMERICAN ULTRA	11:30 AM
AHWAK	5:30 PM			AMERICAN ULTRA	1:30 PM
VIP-36		<b>FANAR-5</b>		THE WEDDING PULLAV	3:45 PM
MOMENTUM	8:00 PM	AMERICAN ULTRA	12:15 PM	BRUCE LEE - THE FIGHTER	3:45 PM
AHWAK	10:00 PM	THE WALK	2:30 PM	BLACK MASS	6:45 PM
MOMENTUM	12:30 AM	AMERICAN ULTRA	5:00 PM	BRUCE LEE - THE FIGHTER	6:45 PM
		JAZBAA	7:00 PM	BRUCE LEE - THE FIGHTER	9:45 PM
<b>SHARQIA-3</b>		AMERICAN ULTRA	9:45 PM	THE WEDDING PULLAV	9:45 PM
AMERICAN ULTRA	11:30 AM	AMERICAN ULTRA	12:05 AM	AMERICAN ULTRA	12:45 AM
AMERICAN ULTRA	1:45 PM				
THE MARTIAN	3:45 PM	<b>MARINA-1</b>		<b>360°-3</b>	
BRUCE LEE - THE FIGHTER	3:45 PM	THE MARTIAN	12:00 PM	HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2	1:15 PM
THE MARTIAN	6:45 PM	JUNE	3:00 PM	HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2	3:15 PM
BRUCE LEE - THE FIGHTER	6:45 PM	THE MARTIAN	5:00 PM	HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2	5:15 PM
BRUCE LEE - THE FIGHTER	10:00 PM	JUNE	8:00 PM	HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2	7:15 PM
AMERICAN ULTRA	1:00 AM	JUNE	10:00 PM	AHWAK	9:15 PM
AMERICAN ULTRA	9:45 PM	THE MARTIAN	12:05 AM	BLACK MASS	11:45 PM
AMERICAN ULTRA	11:45 PM				
		<b>MARINA-2</b>		<b>AL-KOUT.1</b>	
<b>MUHALAB-1</b>		AMERICAN ULTRA	11:30 AM	MOMENTUM	12:30 PM
JUNE	11:30 AM	AMERICAN ULTRA	1:30 PM	MOMENTUM	2:30 PM
AHWAK	1:30 PM	AHWAK	3:30 PM	MOMENTUM	4:30 PM
HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2	4:00 PM	AMERICAN ULTRA	5:45 PM	MOMENTUM	6:30 PM
JUNE	6:00 PM	AHWAK	7:45 PM	MOMENTUM	8:30 PM
JUNE	8:00 PM	AHWAK	10:15 PM	MOMENTUM	10:30 PM
AHWAK	10:00 PM	AMERICAN ULTRA	12:45 AM	MOMENTUM	12:30 AM
JUNE	12:30 AM				
		<b>MARINA-3</b>		<b>AL-KOUT.2</b>	
<b>MUHALAB-2</b>		MOMENTUM	12:30 PM	AMERICAN ULTRA	11:45 AM
AMERICAN ULTRA	12:00 PM	MOMENTUM	2:30 PM	THE MARTIAN	1:45 PM
AMERICAN ULTRA	2:00 PM	HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2	4:30 PM	AMERICAN ULTRA	4:45 PM
THE WEDDING PULLAV	4:00 PM	PAN	6:30 PM	THE MARTIAN	6:45 PM
BRUCE LEE - THE FIGHTER	4:00 PM	MOMENTUM	9:00 PM	AMERICAN ULTRA	9:45 PM
AHWAK	7:00 PM	MOMENTUM	11:00 PM	THE MARTIAN	11:45 PM
BRUCE LEE - THE FIGHTER	7:00 PM	MOMENTUM	1:00 AM		
BRUCE LEE - THE FIGHTER	10:00 PM				
AMERICAN ULTRA	1:00 AM	<b>AVENUES-1</b>		<b>AL-KOUT.3</b>	
AMERICAN ULTRA	10:00 PM	MOMENTUM	11:30 AM	AHWAK	11:30 AM
AMERICAN ULTRA	12:15 AM	BLACK MASS	1:30 PM	PAN	2:00 PM
		BLACK MASS	4:00 PM	PAN	4:30 PM
<b>MUHALAB-3</b>		BRUCE LEE - THE FIGHTER	4:00 PM	AHWAK	7:00 PM
MOMENTUM	11:45 AM	BLACK MASS	7:00 PM	AHWAK	9:30 PM
THE MARTIAN	1:45 PM	BRUCE LEE - THE FIGHTER	7:00 PM	AHWAK	12:05 AM
BRUCE LEE - THE FIGHTER	1:30 PM	BRUCE LEE - THE FIGHTER	10:00 PM		
MOMENTUM	4:45 PM	BRUCE LEE - THE FIGHTER	10:00 PM	<b>AL-KOUT.4</b>	
MOMENTUM	6:45 PM	THE MARTIAN	10:00 PM	JUNE	12:00 PM
MOMENTUM	8:45 PM	BLACK MASS	1:00 AM	HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2	2:00 PM
MOMENTUM	10:45 PM			JUNE	4:00 PM
MOMENTUM	12:45 AM	<b>AVENUES-2</b>		HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2	6:00 PM
		HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2	12:15 PM	JUNEJUNE	10:00 PM
<b>FANAR-1</b>		HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2	2:15 PM	JUNE	12:15 AM
HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2	1:00 PM	HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2	4:15 PM		
JUNE	1:00 PM	HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2	6:15 PM	<b>BAIRAQ-1</b>	
JUNE	3:00 PM	THE WALK	8:15 PM	MOMENTUM	12:00 PM
HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2	5:00 PM	THE WALK	11:15 PM	HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA 2	2:00 PM
JUNE	7:00 PM			MOMENTUM	2:00 PM
JUNE	9:00 PM	<b>AVENUES-3</b>		MOMENTUM	4:00 PM
JUNE	11:00 PM	AHWAK	11:30 AM	HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA 2	6:00 PM
JUNE	1:00 AM	THE MARTIAN	2:00 PM	MOMENTUM	8:00 PM
		THE MARTIAN	5:00 PM	MOMENTUM	10:00 PM
		THE MARTIAN	8:00 PM	MOMENTUM	12:05 AM
<b>FANAR-2</b>		<b>AVENUES-4</b>		<b>BAIRAQ-2</b>	
PAN	11:45 AM	THE MARTIAN	12:15 PM	AHWAK	1:15 PM
AHWAK	2:15 PM	HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2	12:30 PM	JUNE	1:45 PM
PAN	4:45 PM	THE MARTIAN	3:15 PM	JUNE	3:45 PM
AHWAK	7:15 PM	AHWAK	3:15 PM	AHWAK	5:45 PM
AHWAK	9:45 PM	JAZBAA	6:15 PM	JUNE	8:15 PM
AHWAK	12:15 AM	JAZBAA	6:15 PM	AHWAK	10:15 PM
		THE MARTIAN	9:15 PM	JUNE	12:45 AM
		THE MARTIAN	12:15 AM		
<b>FANAR-3</b>		<b>AVENUES-5</b>		<b>BAIRAQ-3</b>	
THE MARTIAN	12:30 PM	MOMENTUM	1:30 PM	THE MARTIAN	12:45 PM
HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2	1:30 PM	MOMENTUM	3:45 PM	PAN	1:30 PM
BRUCE LEE - THE FIGHTER	3:30 PM			THE MARTIAN	3:45 PM
THE MARTIAN	3:30 PM			PAN	6:45 PM
THE MARTIAN	6:30 PM				

### Urgent Job Vacancies

#### Aamal Holding Company

- Waiter/ Waitress / order takers
- Bartenders & Barista
- Tanoor Baker
- Commis I, II, III
- Demi Chef De Partie
- Chef De Partie
- Bakery Chef
- Drivers (Heavy & Light duty license)
- Production Crew
- Butcher / Head Butcher
- Sales Representative (related to food only)
- Storekeeper

Qualified individuals, with good Communication Skills English & Arabic and Minimum 2 yrs. Experience

Venue : Aamal Holding Company, Mezzanine Floor, Aliaa Center Building, Behind Muthanna Complex, Kuwait City.

Date : 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> October 2015

Time : 9 AM to 1 PM

Walk In with your :

- Updated CV
- Passport copy with resident page
- Civil ID copy
- Work Permit copy
- Health Permit ( If Applicable)
- Driver's License ( If Applicable)

Those who are not able to walk In Please Forward your CV's to : [recruitment@aamalholding.com](mailto:recruitment@aamalholding.com)

#### CHANGE OF NAME

**I, Mohammad Imran** (P.No: M7063192) r/o Peeli Haveli Chowk Kamptee 441002 Dist. Nagpur (MS) India, would like to correct my son's name on the passport bearing No. L8616706 from "Yousuf" to "Yousuf Mohammad Imran". Hereafter in all his dealings and documents, he will be known by the name "Yousuf Mohammad Imran". **(C 5054)**

**I, Satish Kancharam** holder of Indian Passport No. J3955960 r/o H. No: 5-136, Tondamgattu, Kalingagudem Giddapuram Akiyidu, West Godavari - 534235, hereby change my name to Satish Kancharani. **(C 5055)** **14-10-2015**

#### SITUATION WANTED

**Required** maid for house, knows-well washing & ironing, Filipino or Srilanka or Nepali or Ethiopia, for work in small flat, preferred not married, salary KD 120/- . Tel: 99827598 **(C 5053)** **14-10-2015**

**Porf.** Qualified & well Exp. Sr. Finance Exec., seeks Sr. position job, Co. having Sr. level vacancy, may pls. Contact Mob.# 50519450 or e-mail: [smart\\_finance@yahoo.com](mailto:smart_finance@yahoo.com) **(C 5052)** **12-10-2015**

## EMERGENCY

# 112

### Prayer timings

<b>Fajr:</b>	<b>04:30</b>
<b>Shorook</b>	<b>05:49</b>
<b>Duhr:</b>	<b>11:34</b>
<b>Asr:</b>	<b>14:51</b>
<b>Maghrib:</b>	<b>17:18</b>
<b>Isha:</b>	<b>18:35</b>



# Friday Times BUSINESS

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2015

## GOLDMAN SACHS EARNINGS FALL 38%, MISS FORECASTS

PAGE 39

Page 41



Tesla cars can now almost drive themselves



TOKYO: Customers walk near a FamilyMart convenience store in Tokyo yesterday. Japan's convenience store chain FamilyMart will merge with Uny Group Holdings next year to become Japan's third largest retail group. — AFP

## ME BANKS FACING RARE CURRENCY DROUGHT

### GULF SWFS DRAWING ON BANK FUNDS • INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS MAY BE SHELVED

**LONDON:** Acutely tighter liquidity conditions in Gulf banking systems are casting doubt on how easily the region's lenders will be able to support their sovereigns' growing funding needs as depressed commodity prices take their toll. The fortunes of Gulf sovereigns and banks are inextricably linked, with many lenders state owned.

And with oil prices struggling to rise much above \$50 a barrel, governments are having to shore up their finances by borrowing in the capital markets and investing less money in their banking systems.

At the same time, these banks are under pressure to buy the sovereign debt that is being issued.

"A lot of sovereigns historically have never needed to fund themselves and now need to do so," said a senior capital markets banker in London. "Those that are doing so domestically are mopping up local liquidity." Oman is the latest Gulf sovereign tapping its domestic market to make up some of the funding gap left by low oil prices, opening subscriptions for its debut issue of Islamic bonds. The rial-denominated sukuk will be open until October 22.

Saudi Arabia has already raised SAR55bn

(US\$14.66bn) since July through its first bond deals in eight years, with more issuance likely this year and next. Standard & Poor's reckons Saudi banks have enough cash to absorb up to US\$100bn of bonds.

But cracks are beginning to appear across the region. "Governments are issuing more debt than banks expect and they cannot absorb all of it," said a London-based analyst.

The trouble is that banks have fewer funds. "We are seeing certain signs of weakness in the deposit liquidity of banks," said Timucin Engin, a director in S&P's financial services division.

Government deposits fell by 14 percent in the UAE and 3 percent in Saudi Arabia in the first half of 2015, according to S&P.

Another bank analyst estimates that up to 30 percent of deposits in some Gulf banks have historically been government-linked.

To make matters worse, it is getting more expensive for Gulf banks to fund themselves. The three-month interbank rate in Saudi Arabia and the UAE - the region's two largest markets - has risen by around 10bp in the last three months, according to

Standard & Poor's. Meanwhile if banks were thinking of heading to the capital markets, they will likely have to pay a new issue premium of 25bp to 50bp, according to a syndicate banker.

Strains in the sovereign-bank relationship were seen in Qatar when a bond auction in September stunned the market. Qatar blindsided banks by selling QR15bn (US\$4bn) of bills, way above the QR4bn that was expected. "No bank expected the full amount to be asked for," said the bank analyst. "It has spooked the market, everyone was incredibly surprised."

Qatar's next auction in October only raised QR2bn - half of its target. Analysts reckon this was partly down to banks putting in more conservative orders, but also tighter liquidity.

#### NO CRISIS, YET

While a full-scale credit crunch is still some way off - bond bankers in the Middle East say that the problem is nowhere near as pronounced as during the heart of the 2008 global financial crisis - the acute disappearance of local currency buffers is causing plenty of worry among market participants.

One means of easing the situation would be for governments to borrow less and cut spending. "But how easy will it be for Saudi Arabia to cut spending?" asked the London analyst, especially as the government pumped money into the economy in response to the Arab Spring uprisings of late 2010 and 2011 to prevent civil disturbance in the Kingdom.

The Gulf Research Centre, a think-tank, put total Saudi spending on welfare from the outbreak of the Arab Spring to April 2013 at US\$93bn. Sustained spending is still important for social stability in the country, according to the London analyst.

Moody's estimates that Saudi's budgetary breakeven oil price is around US\$100 a barrel. Other Gulf states including Oman and Bahrain have even higher breakeven levels, according to Deutsche Bank. So curbing projects may not be far off. While there may not be an immediate slowdown on important infrastructure developments in the Gulf, "those projects which are under the 'wish-list' bucket might see a re-prioritisation if we see a prolonged low oil price environment," said Suha Urgan, associate director, financial services, at S&P. — Reuters



**SYDNEY:** Two workman lay bricks as tourists pass by in Sydney's Circular Quay yesterday as Australia's unemployment rate remained stable at 6.2 percent in September, with some analysts suggesting it may have peaked as the economy moves away from a dependence on mining. —AFP

## GHANA IN BID TO AVERT NIGERIA THREAT TO CUT OFF GAS SUPPLY

### LOSS OF NIGERIA SUPPLY COULD RAISE GAS COSTS

**ACCRA:** A Ghanaian government delegation is holding emergency talks in Nigeria to avert a drastic gas supply cut threat, a government spokesman said, thus avoiding a potential political crisis.

The Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation said it will cut gas supply by 70 percent to Ghana's main power generation company by today due to unpaid debts of \$181 million. Ghana already suffers power shortages and Nigerian gas meets about 25 percent of its needs.

"They are already in Nigeria. They left Ghana last night. We are praying that they are able to negotiate ... so that it doesn't come to a cut in supply," a spokesman for the power ministry told Joy FM radio yesterday. Power cuts have raised the cost of doing business and angered voters at a sensitive time for President John Mahama's government

ahead of what is expected to be a tough re-election battle next year.

Mahama has vowed to end the power cuts by the start of next year and the minister for power has said he would resign if the problem has not been fixed by then. The government's room for manoeuvre is limited, however, under the terms of an aid program with the International Monetary Fund it is following to restore balance to its economy. Ghana was for years one of Africa's economic stars but falling global commodity prices have blunted the value of its gold, cocoa and oil exports. Its fiscal problems include inflation of up to 17.4 percent in September, a currency that has fallen sharply in the last two years and a debt-to-GDP ratio of around 70 percent with what economists say are high debt service costs.

The Nigerian threat is a sign of budget-

ary stress and the strain of energy sector reform in Ghana, experts said. "It is extremely embarrassing for the government. It touches on credibility ... Every investor will be looking at that and saying, 'Is this a country to do business in?'" Ben Boakye of the Africa Centre for Energy Policy think tank told Reuters.

Nigerian gas flows to Ghana through the West African Gas Pipeline Company's pipe that runs via Benin and Togo. VRA buys the gas to fire power plants mainly in the east of the country.

Hydro supplies around 50 percent of Ghana's power with the rest from its own gas and other sources. The power crisis stems from a fall in supply from Ghana's dams, government underpayment to the Electricity Company of Ghana, residents' illegal consumption and tariffs too low for VRA to recoup its costs. —Reuters

## OIL SLIPS UNDER \$49 ON INVENTORY RISE

**LONDON:** Oil fell under \$49 per barrel yesterday as selling continued after a jump in US stockpiles shown in industry data the day before. Brent eased 20 cents to \$48.95 a barrel by 1131 GMT. On Wednesday it hit a low of \$48.71, the weakest since Oct 5.

US crude fell 54 cents to \$46.10 a barrel after settling down 2 cents at \$46.64. Both benchmarks are down around 7 percent so far this week. Data from industry group the American Petroleum Institute showed US crude stocks rose by 9.4 million barrels in the week to Oct. 9 to 465.96 million, versus analyst forecasts for a 2.8 million barrels build.

Investors are awaiting inventory data from the US government's Energy Information Administration at 1500 GMT. A poll of nine analysts predicted a crude stock build of 2.9 million barrels on average in the week ended Oct. 9. Some analysts pointed to further weakness in the months ahead with a possi-

ble eventual interest rate rise in the United States pushing the dollar higher, which makes oil more expensive for holders of other currencies.

"So here is the set up: In December the Fed will hike rates and OPEC will not cut output. In Q1 of 2016, global oil inventories rise further and oil prices will drop," Bjarne Schieldrop chief commodity analyst at SEB in Oslo told the Reuters Global Oil forum.

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries meets in December. The producer group is expected to hold to its policy of maintaining market share, highlighted by Saudi Arabia's push into Russia's regional market.

The world's big oil exporters pumped more than half a billion barrels more crude than needed in the first nine months of this year, industry data gathered by Reuters and major energy market forecasters show. —Reuters

## AUSTRALIA'S JOBLESS RATE STEADY AT 6.2%

**SYDNEY:** Australia's unemployment rate remained stable at 6.2 percent in September, data showed yesterday, with some analysts suggesting it may have peaked as the economy moves away from a dependence on mining. The Australian Bureau of Statistics figures showed that in rounded terms, some 5,100 jobs were lost from the economy, with full-time positions falling by about 13,900 and part-time roles increasing by around 8,900.

The seasonally adjusted reading was better than analysts' expectations of an increase to 6.3 percent, although the market was disappointed with the decline in the number of jobs. In unrounded percentage terms, the data was more positive, with unemployment dipping slightly from 6.22 percent in August to 6.16 percent in September.

The Australian dollar slipped by a third of a US cent to 73.06 US cents. "It's moving in the right direction," JP Morgan economist Tom Kennedy told AFP, adding that the latest unemployment figures reinforced positive readings from forward-looking labor force surveys.

"We've probably seen the worst of it in terms of the rise in the jobless rate." The participation rate—which measures the proportion of adults in work or looking for work—eased from 65.0 percent to 64.9 percent. The unemployment rate has fluctuated between 6.0-6.4 percent, a decade high, over the past year as Australia emerges from an unprecedented mining investment boom that has helped the economy avoid a recession for 24 years.

The central bank has slashed interest rates to a record-low of 2.0 percent to boost economic activity outside the resources sector, but such industries have so far been slow to fill the gap left by the fall in mining investment.

Despite this, the unemployment rate has yet to hit the 6.5 percent peak that the Reserve Bank of Australia forecast amid the transition to non-resources driven growth.

"Two percent year-on-year employment growth is not bad," Deutsche Bank's Phil O'Donoghoe told AFP, adding that he expected the cash rate to remain unchanged for some months amid "reasonably robust" jobs growth. The figures came as new consumer and business confidence indicators recorded modest rises after multi-millionaire former banker and businessman Malcolm Turnbull became prime minister when he ousted Tony Abbott in a party coup last month.

Turnbull has vowed to speak honestly about the economy and the headwinds facing it amid a slump in commodity prices and slowing growth in China, Australia's largest trading partner. Economist Justin Fabo of ANZ, which is forecasting the central bank to cut rates by 50 basis points in early 2016, said he expected the rate of jobs growth to slow on continued softness in the domestic and global economies. —AFP

## EGYPT'S CB WEAKENS POUND TO 7.83 VS DOLLAR

**CAIRO:** Egypt's central bank allowed the Egyptian pound to weaken to 7.83 per dollar from 7.73, the first official depreciation since July and which economists say is needed to ease a foreign currency crisis and support dwindling FX reserves. The Egyptian central bank sold \$39.6 million at its yesterday dollar auction at a cut-off price of 7.8301 pounds per dollar.

The pound also weakened on the parallel market. Two traders at currency exchange bureaus said the pound was changing hands at 8.22/25 to the dollar, weaker than the 8.15/18 quoted on Tuesday.

The central bank had kept the pound at 7.5301 for five months until July, when it was allowed to slide to 7.6301. On July 5, the bank let it slip a further 0.10 pounds. Egypt has been faced with a foreign currency shortage exacerbated by what many economists consider to be an overvalued pound, the maintenance of which has cost the country billions in currency reserves since the 2011 uprising.

Foreign currency reserves, which stood at about \$36 billion before the uprising, were \$16.335 billion at the end of September despite billions of dollars in Gulf Arab aid since mid-2013.

Egypt has sought to tame a once-thriving currency black market with measures such as a cap on dollar-denominated bank deposits. While the measures have largely succeeded in drying up the black market for dollars, they have also starved manufacturers of foreign currency they need to import raw materials and machinery, stifling economic output. —Reuters

## SOUTH KOREA CUTS OUTLOOK, HOLDS RATE AT RECORD LOW

**SEOUL:** South Korea's central bank yesterday cut its economic growth forecast for the fourth time this year and left interest rates at a record low, as a lengthening export slump overshadowed a pick-up in domestic activity. "The local economy is expected to continue its recovery phase, centred around domestic consumption," Bank of Korea (BOK) governor Lee Ju-Yeol told reporters.

"However, uncertainties surrounding the path to recovery remain high," Lee said.

The BOK shaved its economic growth forecast for this year to 2.7 percent, from the 2.8 percent it had predicted back in July. It is the fourth reduction since the start of the year, when it had estimated 3.9 percent growth. The bank also left its key interest rate unchanged at 1.5 percent—a decision that had been widely expected following a cut of 25 basis points in June.

Bank policymakers have slashed borrowing costs three times in the past year, citing the weak global economic outlook and sagging exports, which account for about half of South Korea's gross domestic product.

Shipments have shrunk every month, and a slowdown in China—the country's biggest trading partner—is expected to take a further chunk out of Asia's fourth-largest economy. The low global oil price has kept inflation hovering below one percent. "We will closely monitor factors at home and abroad including...the growth of household debt and the monetary policy of the US Fed," the bank said.

Household debt in South Korea amounted to more than 615 trillion won (\$543 billion) as of September, with housing loans increasing at a record pace this year. Concerns are growing that a hike in interest rates could lead to massive mortgage default. — AFP

## INDONESIA BIDS TO PROTECT WORKERS WITH NEW STIMULUS

**JAKARTA:** Indonesia yesterday unveiled new measures designed to protect workers from exploitation and provide certainty for business as Southeast Asia's biggest economy tries to reverse a sharp slowdown. It is the fourth time fresh stimulus policies have been revealed in just over a month, as the government seeks to shore up its weak currency and spur the economy, which is growing at its slowest pace in six years.

In the latest instalment, Chief Economics Minister Darmin Nasution announced new rules for determining minimum wage rises, something business has long blamed for denting investor confidence. As well as sharp variations from year to year, salaries also vary wildly across the country, as wage rises are negotiated from province to province.

Nasution said the new formula would ensure wage rises continue annually but with more predictability for those employing workers.

"The state will ensure laborers don't fall into a cheap wage trap, but businesses will get certainty," he told reporters. The government will also offer cheap housing and small loans to laborers, including those returning from abroad who may have lost their job and wish to open a business, he added. The three previous batches of stimulus measures included measures to cut energy prices, slash red tape and attract foreign investment.

There has been some relief recently with the rupiah clawing back some value, after plunging about 20 percent against the US dollar this year. — AFP

# INDIAN CB MAY CUT RATES AGAIN IN NEXT 18 MONTHS

## ECONOMISTS LOWER GDP GROWTH ESTIMATES

**BENGALURU:** The Reserve Bank of India is forecast to cut its main lending rate just once more over the next 18 months, despite weak inflation and a slowing economy, according to a Reuters poll. Weakening inflation and concern that a China-led global slowdown was weighing on Asia's third-largest economy pushed India's central bank to cut the repo rate to a 4 1/2-year low of 6.75 percent last month, taking many by surprise.

But the RBI is unlikely to move again anytime soon, according to the poll of over 25 economists taken in the past week, and the next cut of 25 basis points won't come until the April-June 2016 quarter.

September's cut reflected the RBI's "comfort with the path of inflation in the next 12-15 months, while recognizing the need to support the economy in an increasingly challenging global backdrop," wrote economists at Deutsche Bank. In his state-

ment after the policy meeting, Governor Raghuram Rajan said the Bank chose to front-load policy easing due to widespread concerns about growth worldwide and in India.

However, economists predict growth this fiscal year and next will be slower than estimated three months ago, just 7.5 percent and 7.8 percent respectively, although faster than China's, where growth will be 6.5 percent in 2016.

A July poll predicted a 7.6 percent expansion this year and 8.2 percent next, but those forecasts came before official data showed economic growth slowed to 7 percent in the quarter ending in June. New Delhi is targeting 8 percent over the next two years.

"For India to meet its true potential, reforms will need to be bolder. Until then, GDP growth is likely to recover more gradually," Pranjul Bhandari, chief India economist

at HSBC, wrote in a note. Despite the slowdown, India's economy remains a favorable destination for global investors, although reforms in taxation, land acquisition and labor markets are pending in parliament and political opposition has so far stalled them from coming into force.

Oil prices have slumped over 50 percent since June 2014 and inflation has cooled sharply in India, falling to 4.41 percent in September from double-digit rates just two years ago.

Inflation is likely to accelerate, the poll showed, limiting the RBI's scope to ease policy as aggressively as it did in 2015, when it cut the repo rate four times.

Economists expect inflation to average 4.9 percent to 5.5 percent in each quarter until the end of next year, much lower than the RBI's January 2016 target of 6 percent. It is also likely to meet Rajan's 5 percent by March 2017 goal. — Reuters

# GOLDMAN SACHS EARNINGS FALL 38%, MISS FORECASTS

## 'CHANCE OF OIL FALLING BELOW \$20 IS UNDER 50%'

**NEW YORK:** Goldman Sachs posted as a 38 percent drop in earnings in the third quarter yesterday, missing analysts estimates, as the Wall Street bank was hurt by recent market turbulence and lower commodity prices. Goldman said it had net income of \$1.33 billion after payments to preferred shareholders, or \$2.90 a share, down from \$2.14 billion, or \$4.57 a share, in the same period a year ago. Net revenue at the investment bank dropped by 18 percent to \$6.86 billion from \$8.39 billion a year earlier.

"We experienced lower levels of activity and declining asset prices during the quarter, reflecting renewed concerns about global economic growth," CEO Lloyd Blankfein said in a prepared statement.

It was widely expected that Goldman would report a drop in profit for the third quarter given the recent market turbulence and sell-off in commodity prices. Goldman does not have a consumer banking business, and makes its money providing financial advice to companies and high net worth individuals, as well as a significant stock, bonds, and commodities trading operation.

Net revenue in Goldman's fixed income, currency and commodities business was \$1.46 billion this quarter, down a third from a year earlier. Goldman's lending and investing business, the firm's own investments, also took a hit this quarter, posting revenue of \$670 million, down 60 percent from a year ago. The firm said its investments "were negatively impacted by a significant decrease in global equity prices." One positive note in Goldman's results was its investment banking division, which saw a 6 percent increase in net revenue from a year ago. The amount of money Goldman made in advising companies through mergers and acquisitions, one of the firm's highest profile businesses, was \$809 million in the quarter, up 36 percent.

Not surprisingly, the firm's employee com-



**NEW YORK:** A screen at a trading post on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange is juxtaposed with the Goldman Sachs booth. The Goldman Sachs Group Inc reported quarterly financial results yesterday. — AP

ensation levels shrank, a reflection that Goldman employees are largely paid in bonuses and for performance. The amount of money Goldman set aside for compensation was \$2.35 billion in the quarter, down 16 percent from a year ago.

The results did not meet Wall Street expectations. The average estimate of eight analysts surveyed by Zacks Investment Research was for earnings of \$2.94 per share. Revenue also did not meet analysts' expectations of \$7.29 billion. Goldman's stock fell \$2.31, or 1.3 percent, to \$177.20 in pre-market trading.

### Prediction

Goldman Sachs head of commodities research and commodities bear Jeff Currie said yesterday that he does not see the price of oil breaking above \$50 a barrel in the next year,

but the chances of it dropping to \$20 are below 50 percent. Persistent oversupply, along with slowing demand from China and other emerging-markets as well as a stronger dollar, will create enough of a headwind to keep the price of oil below \$50 a barrel through the coming 12 months. Goldman is forecasting growth in oil demand of 1.62 million barrels a day this year and 1.28 million bpd next year, creating a surplus of some 400,000 bpd that will have to clear before the price can recover much beyond current levels.

"A substantially oversupplied market makes it that much more difficult in terms of trying to complete the adjustment process going forward, but also reinforces our view that of a chance that we trade down to \$20, that's where we reach storage capacity constraints," Currie said at a news briefing. — Agencies



**ATHENS:** Protesters from the communist-affiliated PAME (All Workers Militant Front) workers union block the entrance to the Labour Ministry in Athens yesterday. —AFP

# CHINA'S BILLIONAIRES OVERTAKE US: SURVEY

## TURNING POINT FOR THE SUPER-WEALTHY

**SHANGHAI:** The number of billionaires in China has overtaken that of the United States for the first time, an annual survey said yesterday, calling it a "turning point" for the super-wealthy.

Communist-ruled China now has 596 billionaires, up a "staggering" 242 over the last year, Shanghai-based luxury magazine publisher Hurun Report said, surpassing the 537 Americans.

"The world used to look to American entrepreneurs... for inspiration. This year, 2015, is a turning point," Hurun Report chairman Rupert Hoogewerf told AFP.

"This is the first year we've seen they've been eclipsed. They are being overtaken by Chinese, and not just a little bit." The number of Chinese billionaires would increase to 715 if those from Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan were included, the survey said.

"In 2015, the entrepreneurs are Chinese, they are not American. We have

American ones, but the king is Chinese," Hoogewerf said.

Real estate and entertainment magnate Wang Jianlin dethroned founder of e-commerce giant Alibaba Jack Ma as the country's richest person, Hurun's annual wealth ranking showed.

Wang, who founded conglomerate Wanda, saw his fortune jump more than 50 percent to \$34.4 billion, helped by a surge in the stock price of a listed unit. Wang is known outside China for a string of overseas acquisitions including the organizer of Ironman extreme endurance contests, Swiss sports marketing group Infront, and a stake in Spanish football club Atletico Madrid. He burst into the spotlight in 2012 by buying US cinema chain AMC Entertainment for \$2.6 billion. Wang took the top spot back from Ma, executive chairman of Alibaba, because of a collapse in the Internet company's New York-quoted shares, which were the

world's biggest initial public offering when it listed last year. Ma's wealth still stands at \$22.7 billion.

Beverage tycoon Zong Qinghou of Wahaha remained in third place with just over \$21 billion while Pony Ma, founder of Internet giant Tencent which operates popular messaging app WeChat, took fourth place with a little under \$19 billion.

Lei Jun of smartphone maker Xiaomi, which is seeking to challenge Apple, jumped five places to fifth by doubling his wealth to more than \$14 billion. Yan Hao of road builder China Pacific Construction was sixth while the founder of search engine giant Baidu, Robin Li, dropped to seventh amid worries over his company's huge spending to expand its business. "Despite the slowdown in the economy, China's richest have defied gravity, recording their best year ever," Hoogewerf said in a statement. —AFP

# CHINA BANK LENDING UP IN SEPTEMBER

**BEIJING:** China's bank lending increased in September from a month ago, the central bank said yesterday, after authorities stepped up efforts to boost slowing growth in the world's second-largest economy. Chinese lenders extended 1.05 trillion yuan (\$165.4 billion) in new loans last month, the People's Bank of China (PBoC) said in a statement, up from 809.6 billion yuan in August.

Total social financing—an alternative measure of credit in the real economy—reached 1.30 trillion yuan in September, it said separately, higher than 1.08 trillion yuan in August and exceeding the median estimate of 1.2 trillion yuan in a Bloomberg News survey of economists. "Credit data beat market expectations," Nomura economists said in a research note. The figures "offer tentative signs that growth momentum may have stabilized, but at a relatively weak level in September, possibly helped by the significant monetary policy easing rolled out so far," they said.

China is a key driver of global growth but concerns over its prospects have roiled world markets in recent months. The econo-

my expanded 7.3 percent last year, the lowest since 1990, and expansion weakened to 7.0 percent in each of the first two quarters this year. The central bank in late August cut interest rates for the fifth time since November and last month again slashed bank reserve ratios.

It has continued to inject liquidity into the market through unconventional operations, such as expanding a program last week that allows banks to borrow using loans they themselves have made as collateral. "The amount of aggregate social financing is expected to increase in Q4 on the back of PBoC's direct monetary policy easing and unconventional liquidity injection," ANZ analysts said in a report.

They expected bank reserve ratios to be further reduced by 50 basis points in the final three months this year. China's foreign exchange reserves—the biggest in the world—stood at \$3.51 trillion at the end of September, down from \$3.56 trillion a month ago, according to the central bank. —AFP

# GERMANY ORDERS SCANDAL-HIT VW TO RECALL 2.4M VEHICLES

**FRANKFURT:** The German authorities tightened the screws on Volkswagen yesterday, saying they would order it to recall 2.4 million vehicles across the country that are fitted with pollution-cheating software.

As the embattled auto giant continues to struggle to resolve its deepest-ever crisis, the authorities appear to be losing patience. "We are going to issue the order" to recall 2.4 million vehicles, a spokesman for the KBA or federal transport authority said. And to make sure that order is carried out, the KBA would oversee the operation, he added. VW, the world's biggest carmaker in terms of sales, was plunged into a crisis of global proportions last month, when it was forced to admit that it had fitted 11 million diesel cars worldwide with devices aimed at cheating pollution tests.

The revelations rocked the automobile sector around the world and cost VW's chief executive Martin Winterkorn his job.

In addition to the costs of recalling so many vehicles, the once-respected automaker now faces billions of euros (dollars) in potential fines and legal costs, not to mention the still incalculable fallout in terms of lost sales and customer trust.

The company has set aside 6.5 billion euros in the third quarter, but its new chief executive Matthias Mueller said that would likely only meet repair costs.

Last week, VW put forward a plan to begin recalling the vehicles from January 2016. Neither the KBA nor the German transport ministry had commented so far on VW's roadmap to solve the scandal.

But Transport Minister Alexander Dobrindt told journalists in Berlin that given the scale of the recall action in Germany, it was right that the KBA oversee it. "The dimensions mean that monitoring and oversight are necessary," Dobrindt said.

Previously, the number of cars in Germany that had been equipped with the pollution-cheating software had been put at 2.8 million. The slightly reduced number of 2.4 million reflected the fact that some of those vehicles were no longer on the road, Dobrindt explained. The KBA had given VW until the end of October to come up with the technical solution for the two-litre diesel engines, where a simple software change would suffice, the minister continued. For the 1.2-litre and 1.6-litre engines, the carmaker had until the end of November to present its solutions.

### 'Constructive cooperation'

According to the mass-circulation daily Bild, the German authorities were running out of patience with VW and felt the carmaker's own proposals for a voluntary recall were not enough. But minister Dobrindt told reporters that VW was cooperating "constructively," while the auto giant for its part was not immediately available to comment. Ties between politicians and the auto industry are traditionally very close in Germany and politicians have been reluctant to attack VW openly since the scandal broke, as it is seen as a flagship of German industry and is a major employer. The regional state of Lower Saxony where VW is headquartered holds a stake in the group. —AFP



**A Volkswagen logo on the engine of a diesel car. The German authorities tightened the screws on Volkswagen yesterday, saying they would order it to recall 2.4 million vehicles across the country that are fitted with pollution-cheating software. —AFP**



## TESLA CARS CAN NOW ALMOST DRIVE THEMSELVES 'KEEP YOUR HANDS ON THE WHEEL JUST IN CASE'

**SAN FRANCISCO:** High-end electric vehicle maker Tesla is taking a major step toward self-driving cars by installing new autopilot software yesterday in North America to automatically change lanes, manage speed and even hit the brakes.

Self-driving capabilities—previously limited to cars tested by technology titans such as Google—hit the streets “overnight” with the latest Tesla Version 7.0 software, the company said Wednesday.

The feature, unveiled Wednesday, is

case,” Tesla founder and chief executive Elon Musk told reporters.

“In the long term, people will not need hands on the wheel, and eventually there won’t be (steering) wheels or pedals.” Autopilot allows Model S to steer within a lane, change lanes by tapping a turn signal and manage speed using “traffic-aware” cruise control.

The car can also scan for available parking spaces, alert drivers when one is spotted and then parallel park on command.

few years away.”

“Tesla Autopilot functions like the systems that airplane pilots use when conditions are clear,” it explained. “The driver is still responsible for, and ultimately in control of, the car.”

The autosteer capability is still in beta form, Musk stressed, adding that the system would be updating itself systematically across the whole network of connected cars.

Tesla sold about 11,580 Model S cars during the third quarter. Model X SUVs, which the group put on the market several weeks ago in a limited release, are also due to get the software.

But vehicle owners will have to pay an extra \$2,500 for the autopilot software, either at the time of purchase or later.

### Driver still in charge

Alongside the connected car, autonomous driving is one of the new buzzwords in the automobile sector. Most automakers are rushing to invest in driverless technology, seen as the future in the industry.

What makes Tesla stand out, however, is the fact that the cars are electric. The company boasts “supercar acceleration” that allows vehicles to go from zero to 60 miles per hour in 2.8 seconds. Among the best developed autopilot prototypes is Alphabet’s Google Car, already on the road in several US states.

The Google car uses the same technology as its fleet of Lexus SUVs, which has logged about a million miles (1.6 million kilometers). Mercedes presented a futuristic car with a traffic-jam assist that allows the car to steer, brake and accelerate on its own at slow speeds.

Earlier this month, Toyota presented

a car that can drive itself along a highway. The car, a modified Lexus GS, uses sophisticated sensors to navigate roads, merge lanes and overtake other vehicles.

The company hopes to make other cars with similar features available within five years, in time for Tokyo’s hosting of the Olympics. But South Korea’s Hyundai has warned about the complex legal challenges of self-driving cars. While fully autopilot systems without



**HAWTHORNE:** A Tesla Model S all-electric sedan is seen at the car’s unveiling in Hawthorne, California. Tesla added autopilot that can even parallel park to thousands of its Model S cars already on the road with a software update sent out over the air yesterday. —AFP

being added to thousands of Tesla’s Model S cars already on the road. By June 30, Tesla had already sold nearly 80,000 of the four-door sedans.

The so-called Version 7.0 software is due to hit the European and Asian markets next week after obtaining the required authorization.

“We’re being especially cautious at this early stage so we are advising drivers to keep their hands on the wheel just in

A year ago, the California-based company began equipping Model S cars with radar, cameras, ultrasonic sensors and other hardware to begin incrementally introducing self-driving capabilities.

But the new software has its limits. It still can’t recognize the color of traffic lights, though it can alert drivers to parking spots. On its website, Tesla acknowledged that “truly driverless cars are still a



**PALO ALTO:** An American flag is reflected in the grill of a Tesla Model S P85D at Tesla headquarters in Palo Alto, California, during the visit of Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. —AFP

any human involvement could be ready by 2025, such technology would also bring with it “huge, huge challenges for our legal systems,” European operations chief Thomas Schmid cautioned.

“Who is responsible for what? I’m not convinced until now that is a process which can be done in the next 10-15 years.” Indeed, existent law does not yet allow for completely autonomous, driverless cars on the roads. And consumers will also have to adapt. —AFP

## SPAIN’S REPSOL TO SELL 6.2BN EUROS IN ASSETS

**MADRID:** Spanish oil giant Repsol said yesterday it plans to sell 6.2 billion (\$7.1 billion) in assets and slash investment in exploration and production over the next five years to help it preserve dividends and pay back debt. The announcement was part of Repsol’s new five year strategic plan, which aims to reorganize the global player in the wake of a slump in oil prices and its \$8.3 billion takeover of Canadian rival Talisman.

The deal, completed in May, boosted Repsol’s production but swelled its borrowing. Analysts have warned that without a debt reduction plan ratings agencies could downgrade the firm’s credit rating.

“The flexibility, strength, and adaptability of its asset portfolio will allow Repsol to undertake divestments of 6.2 billion in non-strategic assets and cut spending by 38 percent without altering its company profile,” Repsol said in a statement.

The company said the plan also includes an efficiency program which will involve squeezing supplier costs and deferring expenditures on new projects that will generate 2.1 billion euros a year of savings.

Repsol said that under the new strategic

plan it will “be able to generate cash flow to finance its investment needs, maintain dividends, and pay off debt” even with crude prices remaining at \$50 per barrel.

Like its rivals, Repsol has been hurt by a slump in oil prices to just \$50 a barrel from last year’s peak of more than 115 dollars sparked by weaker Chinese demand, higher US supply and a decision by the OPEC cartel not to reduce its output. Repsol had already announced earlier this month that it planned to cut 1,500 positions, or six percent of its workforce, over the next three years as part of its effort to boost its refining margin.

In September it sold part of its piped-gas business to Gas Natural Distribution and Redexis Gas for 651.5 million euros, and its 10 percent stake in oil pipeline operator Compania Logistica de Hidrocarburos for 325 million euros.

Repsol said Wednesday its net profit would slump 22 percent to between 1.25 billion and 1.5 billion euros this year due to lower oil prices. Shares in Repsol fell 1.32 percent to 12 euros in late morning trade. The IBEX-35 index of most traded Spanish shares was up 0.61 percent. —AFP

## ITALY TO GET CASH BOOST WITH PM RENZI’S GIVEAWAY BUDGET

**ROME:** Buoyed by a major breakthrough in his wide-ranging reform program, Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi yesterday unveils an expansionary 2016 budget designed as a shot in the arm for a still-sickly economy.

The youthful premier has already revealed much of the content of a package he says will contain up to 27 billion euros worth of tax cuts and new investment to foster growth, despite concerns in Brussels that the giveaway will slow the rate at which Italy is reducing its 2.2 trillion euro debt mountain.

Renzi revealed this week that he is to lift a cap on cash payments from 1,000 euros (\$1,140) to 3,000 euros. That move has been sanctioned despite fears it will encourage the growth of Italy’s huge black economy and weaken the fight against tax evasion, money laundering and fraud.

The new budget will be approved by the cabinet and simultaneously sent to Brussels, where the European Commission will assess its compatibility with the EU’s Stability Pact debt and deficit rules, potentially demanding revisions before it becomes law.

With that possibility in mind, Renzi got his retaliation in first-highlighting the significance of this week’s vote by the Italian Senate to abolish most of its powers in a reform that should lead to Italy having much more stable and effective government.

“Every day that we add another piece to

the complicated mosaic of reforms, Italy gains additional credibility,” he told parliament on Wednesday. “Italy was always being called up for not implementing what it promised to do; now, day after day, reform is becoming a reality,” said the centre-left leader, a long-standing critic of EU rules he often refers to as the “Stupidity Pact” because of their emphasis on fiscal austerity.

Renzi has already won admirers across the EU for the progress he has made in shaking up Italy’s labor market with a Jobs Act that is now seemingly having an impact in terms of falling unemployment.

He has pleaded for maximum leeway from Brussels on the interpretation of the deficit rules, maintaining the priority has to be growth for an economy which has barely grown this century.

The Senate reform, he told parliament, “gives us more authority and credibility at the European table, including the right to say that European policies of the last few years have not produced results.”

French bank Societe Generale said in a note to investors that Italy’s budget was likely to be broadly acceptable to Brussels. “It is unlikely, however, to obtain all the flexibility it is asking for,” the bank said, but added: “the deviation from the objective should not be significant enough for the Commission to ask for corrective measures.” —AFP

## BRIDGE 'NOT A SPORT' SAYS BRITAIN'S HIGH COURT

**LONDON:** Bridge players discovered yesterday that they have lost a battle at Britain's High Court to have their pastime recognised as a sport.

The English Bridge Union (EBU) took legal action after funding body Sport England ruled that bridge was not a sport because it does not involve "physical activity".

But judge Ian Dove ruled against the union, beginning his written ruling on the case with the words: "Bridge is a card game." Dove said he had only been asked to consider whether Sport England had "erred in law" when refusing to classify bridge as a sport and concluded that its decision was in line with legislation.

Lawyers acting for the EBU had argued that chess is recognised as a sport by the

International Olympic Committee and that both chess and bridge have been invited to apply for inclusion at the 2020 Tokyo Games.

Alex Peebles, from law firm Irwin Mitchell, said the EBU was reviewing "potential options for a possible appeal".

Ian Payn, EBU vice-chairman, added: "This very old-fashioned definition of sport means that Sport England is unlikely ever to recognise bridge as a sport. "Unfortunately ... Dove has found for Sport England. His decision affects participants in many sports other than bridge.

We are very disappointed." Bridge, also known as contract bridge, is a "trick-taking" game involving four players in two competing partnerships and is one of the world's most popular card games. —AFP



**WEST HAMPSTEAD:** File photo of a competitor playing bridge at the Acol Bridge Club in West Hampstead, London. —AP

## SUNG HYUN PARK SHOOTS 10-UNDER 62 IN S KOREA

**INCHEON:** South Korea's Sung Hyun Park shot a course-record 10-under 62 yesterday to take a four-stroke lead in the LPGA KEB Hana Bank Championship.

The 22-year-old Park birdied three of the last four holes after making six birdies in a seven-hole stretch in the middle of the round on Sky 72's Ocean Course. Making her first LPGA Tour

Michelle, there were some holes where they shot farther than I did, so we were kind of going back and forth there. ... Michelle and Lexi are taller and bigger than I am and they are much more powerful than I am, but I notice that maybe my swing speed is a bit faster than them."

"I think today, I was especially lucky,

two weeks ago for her third victory of the season. She won the Korea Women's Open in June. "It was awesome to watch, that's for sure," Thompson said. "She shot 10 under, and I swear it seemed like she birdied every hole. It was amazing to watch. I've never seen her play before and she's a great player. Amazing putter and great ball-striker and she hits it long."

### Bogey-free round

Thompson had a 68, and Wie shot 71. US Solheim Cup hero Gerina Piller and England's Charley Hull were tied for second at 66. Piller had six birdies in a bogey-free round that started on No. 10.

"I just made some putts," Piller said. "The greens are rolling pretty quick and they are pretty pure. I missed the green on the first hole and I had about a 10-footer (for par), so I think that just kind of kick-started the whole day."

Hull birdied five of the first seven holes in a bogey-free round. "Just patience at the moment," Hull said. China's Shanshan Feng was five strokes back at 66 along with South Koreans Chella Choi, Hyo Joo Kim, Eun-Hee Ji and Han Sol Ji. Kim and Choi won their first LPGA Tour titles this season. Kim took the Founders Cup in Phoenix, and Choi the Marathon Classic in Ohio.

"This tournament is my favorite tournament the whole year, because my hometown and my whole family came out here," Choi said. "I'm so excited and I'm really proud of my country."

Top-ranked Inbee Park had a 69. The South Korean star won two of the five majors this year and is tied with second-ranked Lydia Ko for the tour victory lead with four. Ko also shot 69. She tied for second last week in the LPGA Malaysia after winning her previous two starts in Canada and France, where the 18-year-old South Korean-born New Zealander became the youngest major champion.

American Jessica Korda, the Malaysia winner, opened with a 71. US Solheim Cup captain Juli Inkter, the oldest player in the field at 55, also had a 71. —AP



**SEOUL:** Park Sung-Hyun of South Korea tees off at the 2nd hole during the first round of the LPGA KEB Hana Bank Championship at the Sky72 Golf Club in Incheon, west of Seoul, yesterday. —AFP

start, Park played alongside Michelle Wie and Lexi Thompson and often drove past the long-hitting US stars.

"I thought it was not an easy course, but my tee shots, my iron shots, my putting, everything just went really well," Park said through a translator.

"I have to say that with Lexi and

but looking ahead to the next three days, I know that double or triple bogeys are a possibility," Park said "So, it's really anybody's game at this point. I'm going to try to not focus on winning too much and really try to do my best."

Ranked 54th in the world, Park won the Korea LPGA's Se Ri Pak Invitational

## MCILROY STARTS A NEW SEASON

**NAPA:** Rory McIlroy is starting a new season on the PGA Tour before finishing his other season on the European Tour. Such is the world of a golfer who travels all over it. A recent study conducted by one of McIlroy's sponsors revealed that over the last 12 months, he has spent 350 hours in the air, 287 nights in a hotel and was in 118 airports. And that's just the travel.

He also walked 932 miles on golf courses. "That's the sort of travel that you have to do to be a worldwide player," McIlroy said Wednesday. "It's crazy numbers. I definitely see a day where those numbers are going to drop. No way I could sustain that for the rest of my career. Whenever that day is I'm not sure, but for now, that's the life I live.

"I'm enjoying it, so I'll do it for a while." McIlroy is the star attraction at the Frys.com Open, which started yesterday at Silverado to kick off a new season on the PGA Tour. And to think it has been all of 17 days since Jordan Spieth ended the previous season as the FedEx Cup champion.

McIlroy is at Silverado because he was among eight players who took part in an exhibition in Turkey three years ago that was held the same week as this PGA Tour event. They agreed to play the Frys.com Open once over the next three years.

Justin Rose, Charl Schwartzel and Webb Simpson also are at Silverado, and Tiger Woods was supposed to join them until he recently had a second back surgery. The other three - Lee Westwood, Matt Kuchar and Hunter Mahan - played last year. Mahan is the only one who returned. It only adds to McIlroy's busy end of the year no matter the tour or the season. After a week off, he is headed to Turkey, Shanghai and Dubai to finish off the Race to Dubai that he currently leads on the European Tour.

"I feel like I'm in the middle of a nice little run to the end of the year," McIlroy said. "I guess for a lot of guys, even the guys that played a full PGA Tour schedule last season and then played the Presidents Cup and they're coming here, it's a lot of golf. But as I said, I haven't played as much as those guys, so I'm happy to be playing and happy to play quite a bit until the end of the year." In some respects, McIlroy started another "new" season in August. He injured his ankle playing football the first weekend in July and wound up missing two months, including his British Open title defense at St. Andrew, before returning at the PGA Championship. He has tried to pace himself since then to make sure the ankle is fully healed. "I guess coming back at the PGA for me was a start of a new season, anyway, so it's been like two mini-seasons a little bit," he said. This is the third straight year of the tour's wraparound season - October to September - and the Frys.com Open has managed to attract a stronger field each year. It helps having McIlroy and Rose at Silverado, though the field includes players who were not part of the Turkey deal. Hideki Matsuyama, Chris Kirk and Steven Bowditch came straight over from the Presidents Cup.

Bowditch described his offseason as a "10-hour flight from Korea." Kirk could barely make it from the practice range to the tee box without players stopping to congratulate him for his 15-foot birdie putt that was the most significant in another US victory in the Presidents. It felt as if he had just won a tournament. —AP



Group photo of graduates with officials

## KSSC REFEREES COURSE CONCLUDES

By Abdellatif Sharaa

**KUWAIT:** Secretary General of Kuwait and Arab Shooting Federations Obaid Mnahi Al-Osaimi lauded the responsible and courageous stand of the Kuwaiti delegation that met the international Olympic committee in Lausanne, Switzerland headed by Information Minister, State Minister for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah by reject-

ing all threats to suspend Kuwaiti sports activities and emphasized Kuwait sovereignty, and confirmed compliance with laws issued by authorities as they do not contradict the Olympic charter and international laws.

Al-Osaimi said Kuwait Shooting Sport Club supports and respects Kuwaiti laws issued by concerned authorities in the name of HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah which aim at enhancing Kuwait

sports and its athletes in all fields.

Al-Osaimi was speaking during the closing ceremony of the referees' course that precedes the launch of the new season of KSSC with the annual championship of HH Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah as well as the 13th Gulf Championship in which all GCC countries plan to participate.

He said that such courses are very important to ensure the success of any

championship, adding that the Asian Championship will be held after the above mentioned championships making some delegations to decide holding training camps at Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Olympic Shooting Complex to prepare well for the tournament to ensure winning the quota places and qualify for the Rio de Janeiro, Brazil 2016 Olympics. He added that 1,200 shooters and officials will represent 35 countries in this very important tournament.

## PISTORIUS TO BE RELEASED ON PAROLE

**PRETORIA:** Oscar Pistorius will be released on parole next week after serving one year of a five-year term for killing his girlfriend, officials said yesterday, with the Paralympian star likely to be put under strict house arrest.



Oscar Pistorius

Lawyers for Pistorius had argued he should have been allowed out in August after serving a sixth of his sentence for killing model and law graduate Reeva Steenkamp on Valentine's Day 2013.

But he remained behind bars after Justice Minister Michael Masutha made a last-minute intervention and the case was referred for review. Steenkamp's parents say Pistorius killed their daughter on purpose and have contested any parole.

"They are not surprised at all-it was expected," Tania Koen, a lawyer acting on behalf of Steenkamp family, told AFP after speaking to June and Barry Steenkamp yesterday. "But it doesn't change anything in their lives. Their daughter is still not coming back.

"Whether Pistorius is incarcerated or released on parole, their daughter is still gone." After meeting last week, the parole board said it wanted to consult with Steenkamp's family over Pistorius's possible release. An official statement from the department of correctional services said the parole board "approved the placement of offender Oscar Pistorius under correctional supervision" from Tuesday. "The parole board considered all submissions, including the offender's profile report, the directives of the Parole Review Board and the submission of the victim's family." It gave no details about Pistorius parole conditions except that they included "continued psychotherapy" and firearms restrictions. Legal experts said the decision entailed house arrest, with severe restrictions on his movement. He may have to wear a tracking tag and report regularly to a local police station.

### State to appeal

Pistorius's family had accused officials of bowing to "political and media hype" in denying him parole. "I do think correctional services have probably considered how unfairly he has been treated. He should have been released on August 21," Brian Webber, a lawyer representing Pistorius, told AFP last week. In a trial that made headlines around the world, Pistorius, now 28, was jailed last year for killing Steenkamp. —AFP

## BLUE JAYS WIN WILD CONTEST, FACE ROYALS

**TORONTO:** Jose Bautista smashed a three run homer in the seventh as Toronto beat the Texas Rangers 6-3, advancing the Blue Jays to the AL Championship Series where they will face the Kansas City Royals. Toronto eliminated the Rangers three games to two in the divisional series to reach Major League Baseball's playoff semi-finals for the first time since they won the 1993 World Series title.

"Unbelievable feeling. Unbelievable energy from the fans," said Blue Jays catcher Russell Martin, a Canadian. "This is awesome. Words can't describe the feelings inside me."

In the night contest, Johnny Cueto made his presence known by holding the Houston Astros to two hits over eight innings as the Royals beat the Houston Astros 7-2 to win their series in five games.

Trailing 3-2 in the seventh, the Blue Jays equalized when Josh Donaldson grounded into a bases loaded fielder's choice to score the tying run. That set the stage for 34-year-old Dominican outfielder Bautista's decisive blast.

"For intensity and emotion, it was the most emotionally charged game I have ever played," Bautista said. "There was so much stuff going on. It was just the whole game, a do or die game. It was just the moment. I felt it. I did it. I'm just glad I was able to hit the heck out of the ball." Rangers leadoff batter Delino DeShields opened with a double, took third base on a Choo Shin-Soo ground out and scored when Prince Fielder grounded into a fielder's choice.

South Korean standout Choo smashed his second career playoff homer in the third inning to put the Rangers ahead 2-0. But the Blue Jays answered when Ben Revere scored from second on a Bautista double in the third inning and Edwin Encarnacion blasted a solo homer to equalize in the sixth.

In the seventh, Texas second baseman Rougned Odor singled, advanced to third on two ground outs and scored on one of the



**TORONTO:** Toronto Blue Jays Jose Bautista connects on a three-run homer as Texas rangers Chris Gimenez looks on during the seventh inning in Game 5 of baseball's American League Division Series, Wednesday in Toronto. —AP

most bizarre plays of this or any season.

Toronto catcher Martin was throwing the ball back to pitcher Aaron Sanchez when it struck Choo's bat as he stood in the batter's box. The ball dribbled onto the field and Odor, realizing the ball was in play, raced home as the stunned Toronto fielders and fans looked on, umpires ruling he scored the go-ahead run for the Rangers.

### Bottles tossed on field

As supporters tossed bottles onto the field, the Blue Jays protested the call and the game but the decision stood, television replays showing the routine toss back to the mound deflected off Choo's bat, an error on Martin. "I just caught the ball and threw it back very casually," Martin admitted. "It hit his bat and they scored. I don't know the rule. I had never had that happen before. You can either feel sorry for yourself or try and do something about it. We did something about it, capitalized on a couple

mistakes and that's what won us the game."

Texas brought the tying run to the plate in the eighth but Toronto relief pitcher Roberto Osuna struck out Josh Hamilton and Elvis Andrus to end the inning. He also struck out pinch hitters Mike Napoli and Will Venable in the ninth for the final two outs of the game.

Elsewhere, Cueto, who was acquired in a July 26 trade with the Cincinnati Reds, retired the final 19 batters he faced after third baseman Luis Valbuena hit a two-run homer in the second inning. It was the only miscue of Cueto's night. "Games like this is where you see the real Johnny Cueto come out," he said. "I told my team I was going to show up today and get the job done. You can count on me to show up in games like this."

The right-hander walked none and struck out eight, his high in 15 starts with the Royals, including two starts in the AL Division Series. While Cueto was brought in to be the staff ace, he was disappointing until Wednesday. —AFP

## LAMAR'S SPIRAL LEAVES EX-NBA STAR FIGHTING FOR HIS LIFE

**LAS VEGAS:** Lamar Odom didn't last long at the glittering intersection of championship success and Hollywood celebrity. Cut loose by his beloved Los Angeles Lakers, followed everywhere by reality television crews, the humble kid from the New York City borough of Queens who married into the Kardashian clan saw his life spiral out of control, and so did everyone else.

Khloe Kardashian tried to hide his addictions, then told the world she couldn't save him. The two-time NBA champion landed on Skid Row, a regular tabloid target. Then he seemed to drop out altogether before he was found unresponsive in a brothel and hospitalized, bringing his estranged wife, his former teammates and the world's attention back to his side Wednesday.

Hospital authorities would not comment on the condition of the 35-year-old former NBA forward, but the Rev. Jesse Jackson was among his visitors Wednesday. Jackson said Odom was on life support and improving.

"Apparently from what the doctor said, he was much better off today than yesterday. He at least has some responsiveness now," Jackson said. "He's got tubes in him now, but we felt inspired by his presence." Odom, who was embraced by teammates and television fans alike for his Everyman approach to fame, was found face-down and alone Tuesday after spending four days at the Love Ranch, a legal Nevada brothel.

Odom started "throwing up all kinds of stuff" after a 911 operator told them to turn him on his side, Love Ranch owner Dennis Hof told The Associated Press in a phone interview. Odom had "spent time socializing with some of my girls," but wasn't seen taking any illegal drugs, Hof said.

In a recording of a 911 emergency dispatch call, Hof's spokesman Richard Hunter said Odom was breathing but in a "deep sleep" and had fluid coming from his nose and mouth. "He sounds like he's snoring a little bit. But he is breathing consistently," Hunter said.

### Search warrant

It was Odom's first visit to the Love Ranch, and he told employees he did cocaine before he arrived Saturday, Hunter said. Odom also took up to 10 tabs of an over-the-

counter sexual performance enhancer over the course of his stay, Nye County Sheriff Sharon Wehrly said at a news conference. Sheriff's Detective Michael Eisenloffel described the enhancers as supplements and said Odom bought them at the brothel.

With a search warrant, authorities took a blood sample from Odom early Wednesday to determine what was in his system. The results could take weeks, Eisenloffel said.

Odom spent most of his 14-year NBA career in Los Angeles with the Lakers and Clippers, becoming a fan favorite before he sought even more fame with the Kardashians. His one-month courtship of Khloe before their huge 2009 wedding was taped for the E! network, and Odom appeared on nearly two dozen episodes of "Keeping Up with the Kardashians" as well as other family spinoffs, including his own "Khloe & Lamar" show in 2011 and 2012.

Khloe Kardashian called him "Lam-Lam" and worried openly about him on the show. Even after they split in 2013, cameras recorded her calling him and checking on his welfare. People always seemed to root for Odom, whose prematurely weathered face wore the impact of his personal tragedies in a friendly way. And news of his hospitalization brought an outpouring of dismay and encouragement from his friends and family.

Kobe Bryant joined Kardashian and some of Odom's childhood friends at his bedside after a Tuesday night Lakers game in Las Vegas. "I'm obviously hoping that he can pull through this, and that in some fortunate way this becomes the beginning of a different ending," said Derek Fisher, the New York Knicks coach and Odom's longtime teammate with the Lakers.

Even his once-estranged father, Joe Odom, was at the hospital, according to his grandmother, Florence Odom. Authorities were called to the Crystal, Nevada, brothel at about 3:15 p.m. Tuesday. Odom was too tall for an available helicopter, so he was driven by ambulance to Sunrise Hospital & Medical Center in Las Vegas.

In a statement, Hof, the brothel owner, said: "He largely kept to himself, and at no time did he engage in any drug use in the presence of anyone in the house. He did drink alcohol from our bar, and was taking some herbal sexual



**LOS ANGELES:** File photo, Los Angeles Lakers' Lamar Odom and his wife, Khloe Kardashian, pose with his trophy as the winner of the 2010-2011 NBA Sixth Man Award, as the basketball league's top reserve, at a news conference in Los Angeles.—AP

enhancement capsules."

Hunter added Love Ranch workers are trained to "stop the party" if drugs are seen, and Odom was aware of the brothel's strict anti-drug policy. Odom was staying in its "best VIP suite" on an open-ended reservation, and was accompanied by two women, Hunter said. He spent an amount beyond five figures, which would have been negotiated privately between the women and Odom, he said. The prostitutes are independent contractors who get 50 percent of the price.—AP



**ANAHEIM:** Mike Smith No 41 of the Arizona Coyotes prepares to block a shot as Martin Hanzal No 11 of the Arizona Coyotes, Oliver Ekman-Larsson No 23 of the Anaheim Ducks skate during a game at Honda Center on Wednesday in Anaheim, California.—AFP

## NEUVIRTH STOPS 30 SHOTS IN 3-0 WIN OVER CHICAGO

**PHILADELPHIA:** Michal Neuvirth stopped 30 shots in his second straight shutout, leading the Philadelphia Flyers to a 3-0 win over the Chicago Blackhawks on Wednesday night. Sam Gagner, Claude Giroux and Matt Read scored to lead the Flyers to their 12th straight regular-season home victory over Chicago. The Flyers have not lost to the Blackhawks in Philly during the regular season since Nov. 9, 1996. The Blackhawks beat the Flyers in the 2010 Stanley Cup Final and clinched with a Game 6 win in Philly. Filling in for Steve Mason, Neuvirth was sensational in his ninth career shutout. Mason missed a second straight game because of unspecified family reasons and there was no word when he would return.

### COYOTES 4, DUCKS 0

Anthony Duclair scored the game's first two goals en route to his first career hat trick and Mike Smith made 37 saves for his 28th career shutout to lead Arizona. Rookie Max Domi had a goal and an assist and Martin Hanzal had three assists for the Coyotes, who are off to a 3-0 start for the first time since 2003-04. Last season they lost 50 games for the only time since the franchise relocated from Winnipeg to Arizona for the 1996-97 campaign. Duclair, who had only one goal in 20 previous NHL games, completed his hat trick on a short wrist shot at 10:57 of the second period. The 20-year-old left wing was acquired last March in a multiplayer trade that sent defenseman Keith Yandle to the New York Rangers.

### BRUINS 6, AVALANCHE 2

Jimmy Hayes had a goal and three assists, Jonas Gustavsson stopped 20 shots and Boston avoided its worst start in more than 50 years. The Bruins raced out to a 5-0 lead by the second period and cruised from there to end a three-game slide. Kevan Miller and Hayes scored 2:22 apart in the first period, with Tyler Randell, Chris Kelly and Ryan Spooner scoring in the second. Spooner's goal with 4:28 remaining in the second ended a rough evening for Semyon Varlamov, who stopped 14 of 19 shots before being relieved by Reto Berra. David Krejci added an empty-net goal with 1:29 left. Gabriel Landeskog had a power-play goal and John Mitchell added another for Colorado.

### SENATORS 7, BLUE JACKETS 3

Bobby Ryan and Mika Zibanejad each had a goal and two assists, Erik Karlsson added a career-high four assists, and Ottawa improved to 3-0-0 on the road for the first time since the start of the 2007-08 season. Kyle Turris had a goal and an assist, and Marc Methot, Milan Michalek, Jean-Gabriel Pageau and Mike Hoffman also scored for the Senators. Mark Stone had two assists and Craig Anderson made 37 saves. Brandon Saad, Boone Jenner and Brandon Dubinsky scored for Columbus and Ryan Johansen had two assists. The Blue Jackets have dropped their first four games in regulation for the first time in the franchise's 15-year history. Former Vezina Trophy winner Sergei Bobrovsky came in with a 4.65 goals-against-average and was shaky from the start, finishing with just 21 saves.—AP

## COMEBACK KING SHOAIB INSPIRED BY SANIA TITLE SWEEPS

**ABU DHABI:** Pakistan batsman Shoaib Malik said his sparkling double hundred against England was inspired by seeing his Indian wife Sania Mirza sweep to a series of tennis titles in 2015. Malik hit a career-best 245 to cap a remarkable return to Test cricket after five years on the sidelines and four days after Mirza clinched the China Open in Beijing alongside Martina Hingis.

Since returning to the limited overs squad in May, Malik has been averaging 100 in ODIs, rousing performances which earned him a Test recall. Now he is happily competing for bragging rights with his wife who this year has collected Grand Slam doubles titles with Hingis at Wimbledon and the US Open.

She has also won four crowns at Indian Wells, Miami, Charleston, Guangzhou, Wuhan and Beijing. "A double hundred does not come every day," Malik told AFP.

"Naturally when Sania wins in tennis, it motivates me a lot and inspires me to do well in cricket.

"It's healthy that both husband and wife play sports. On my double hundred, she was ecstatic much like the same way I celebrate her wins," said Malik. From 5-1 Malik lifted Pakistan to 523-8 in their first innings on Wednesday, adding 168 for the second wicket with Mohammad Hafeez (98) and 248 for the fifth with Asad Shafiq (107).

Malik's 647-minute vigil ended only after he suffered cramps. He was then on a drip after the match due to dehydration. "It was really tough but since it was my comeback innings I negotiated everything with a smile," said Malik.

### Career nosedived

Malik's last Test was against England, a

few months after his high-profile 2010 marriage to Mirza in the Indian city of Hyderabad Deccan. But Malik's career nosedived and he not only lost his place in the Test team but did not get regular chances in limited over matches. The inspiration came from Mirza who rose to world number one in doubles in April this year, close to the couple's fifth wedding anniversary. In May, Malik was included in the one-day side after a gap of two years and he grabbed his chance with both hands, scoring a century against Zimbabwe in Lahore his first three-figure score for six years. That prompted Mirza to tweet, "so happy for you .. Belief does wonders." In July, Sania and Hingis then won their first Grand Slam title together at Wimbledon.

"I feel so proud of her," said Malik. "I have uploaded the software on my mobile

to keep updated on her matches and she always says that cricket is her favourite sport."

Malik only returned to the Test side after regular number three Azhar Ali was ruled out of the game in Abu Dhabi with a foot injury. The 33-year-old went into bat as early as the third over of the match on Tuesday but his resolve, confidence and motivation helped him to play a memorable knock, the third highest by a Pakistan batsman in a Test. "It was tough," said Malik. "The fact that Ali has done so well in the recent past added to the pressure but it was an opportunity for me to show my worth and I am proud that I have scored a double century.

"But cricket is not an individual sport like tennis, so I will only be happy and satisfied if we win this Test match." — AFP

## VENUS WILLIAMS EASES THROUGH TO HK QUARTERS

**HONG KONG:** Seven-time Grand Slam winner Venus Williams eased through to the quarter-finals of the Hong Kong Open yesterday dazzling China's Wang Yafan. Wang, 21, struggled to get into the match and Williams strode to a 6-0, 6-2 victory.

"I had only seen Williams before on TV," said Wang through a translator. "I was nervous of playing someone so well-known and that meant I didn't play very well." Williams, 35, encouraged the young player, saying she had been "spirited" in the second set.

"She's young, she's in the top 150 which is already a good result." Williams will face French eighth seed Alize Cornet in her quarter-final. The American has had a resurgent season and is fighting for a place in the eight-player WTA Finals in Singapore later this month, with Hong Kong her last chance to get the points she needs.

She is currently 11th in the Road to Singapore rankings. "I'm definitely much happier with this kind of result... I'm in the next round," said Williams of the match against Wang. Williams had to battle to a three-set victory over unseeded Yuliya Beygelzimer in her first-round match earlier this week. Cornet beat Kazakhstan's Yaroslava Shvedova in three sets in her second-round match yesterday.

Caroline Garcia of France breezed into the quarters after a 6-0, 6-2 win against Anastasiya Komardina. She will meet the winner of the final second-round match being played between world number 10 Angelique Kerber of Germany and Japan's Kurumi Nara.

The other quarter-finals see former world number one Jelena Jankovic meet Russia's sixth seed Daria Gavrilova and Britain's Heather Watson play fifth seed Australian Samantha Stosur. — AFP



**HONG KONG:** Yafan Wang of China returns the ball to US tennis player Venus Williams during the second round of the WTA Hong Kong Open in Hong Kong yesterday. — AFP



**SHANGHAI:** Novak Djokovic of Serbia hits a return against Feliciano Lopez of Spain in their men's singles third round match at the Shanghai Masters tennis tournament in Shanghai yesterday. — AFP

## MAGICAL DJOKOVIC CASTS SPELL OVER SHANGHAI

**SHANGHAI:** World number one Novak Djokovic sped into the Shanghai Masters quarter-finals with a 6-2, 6-3 win over Feliciano Lopez in just 71 minutes as he continued his magical run in China yesterday. As Andy Murray and Jo-Wilfried Tsonga toiled, the unstoppable Serb dominated Spain's Lopez as he brought up his 14th win in a row including a winning streak of 16 straight sets.

Rafael Nadal's recent resurgence, meanwhile, gathered pace when he beat Milos Raonic 6-3, 7-6 (7/6) to set up a quarter-final with Kevin Anderson, who ousted Japanese heartthrob Kei Nishikori 7-6 (12/10), 7-6 (7/3). A magical backhand lob to break Lopez for 3-1 in the second set underlined the superiority of Djokovic, who claimed his sixth China Open title last week and has lost only five out of 75 matches this year. "There is no secret. I guess it depends how do you feel on a given day, depends how well your opponent is playing, how well you're playing. It's a combination of things," said the two-time Shanghai champion. "You can't just expect to win all the time very comfortably, but I've been doing so for the last week-and-a-half. Obviously it's giving

me more confidence. Any time I come back to the court, I feel good and I start off well."

Djokovic's current unbeaten run stretches back to the Cincinnati Masters final in August and with his win in Beijing, he became the first man to top \$15 million (13.1 million euros) in prize money in a single year. He said there was still room for improvement despite putting together what he calls his best season yet, after winning three out of four Grand Slam finals to reach a career total of 10.

"I think it's a combination of... maintaining the high level, the performance, the tennis I have right now, and also working on certain parts of the game that I think can be improved," he said. "I was brought up that way and thought to always look for some room for improvement. I still believe there are shots in my game that can be better. I think that's one of the things that keeps me going. "It motivates me to play more."

### Giant-killer felled

Earlier Andy Murray squeezed past John Isner and Jo-Wilfried Tsonga was also pushed all the way before ending the giant-killing run

of Spanish qualifier Albert Ramos-Vinolas.

Murray lost the first set on a tiebreak and he snapped at the umpire as his frustrations rose in the second set, before he finally broke the big-serving Isner and levelled the match at a set each.

The world number two broke again for 4-3 in the decider and he left the American number one on his backside as he fended off break points in his next service game, before going on to take it 6-7 (4/7), 6-4, 6-4. "Obviously it's tough to maintain your patience and not get a bit frustrated when you do get the chances and, you know, he serves an ace," Murray said.

"There were like 13 break points. I would imagine he served an ace on at least half of those. He served very well when he was behind." Seventieth-ranked Ramos-Vinolas came through qualifying before he stunned defending champion Roger Federer in the second round-but Tsonga proved a match too far.

However, the 27-year-old Spaniard gave the mercurial Frenchman a massive scare when he took the first set before going down fighting 6-7 (5/7), 7-5, 6-4 in two hours and 45 minutes. — AFP

# INDIA'S SEAMER ZAHEER KHAN CALLS IT A DAY

**NEW DELHI:** India's finest left-arm seamer Zaheer Khan announced his retirement from international cricket yesterday, saying he was not fit enough to deal with the rigours of the modern game.

"With immediate effect, I bid adieu to my career in international cricket," Khan said in a statement, adding he will sign off from every format after the next edition of the Indian Premier League in April-May next year.

Khan, who turned 37 earlier this month, was India's go-to new ball bowler at home and abroad despite being plagued by injuries throughout his career, which began in 2000. "The toughest call in a cricketer's career is when one has to walk away from the game itself," Khan said.

"You almost want to push that few, extra miles but then the body, after nearly two decades, decides not to respond. "As I was training for the upcoming season, it dawned on me that my shoulder may not last the rigours of bowling nearly 18 overs a day, and that's when I knew it was time."

Khan played the last of his 92 Tests in

February 2014 against New Zealand in Wellington before a tendon injury in his bowling arm forced him out of the national side. He finished with 311 Test wickets, making him the second most successful seamer in India after legendary all-rounder Kapil Dev's haul of 434 wickets.

Khan, who claimed 282 wickets in 200 one-dayers, was also part of World Cup squads in 2003, 2007 and 2011. His 21 wickets made him the tournament's joint leading wicket-taker with Shahid Afridi of Pakistan when India won the World Cup under Mahendra Singh Dhoni in Mumbai four years ago.

"My greatest cricketering moment was lifting the World Cup as part of team India and creating history," Khan said. "Cricket has been my only life over the past two decades and is in fact the only thing I know well. I walk away with fantastic memories, life defining experiences and great friendships."

Khan also played in 17 Twenty20 internationals and represented Mumbai, Bangalore and Delhi teams in various seasons of the IPL.

Khan's 610 international wickets across all formats are surpassed in India by only Anil Kumble (956), Harbhajan Singh (706) and Dev (687).

### 'Coolest pace bowler'

But injuries and the emergence of younger seamers like Mohammad Shami and Umesh Yadav kept Khan out of India's limited-overs squads since 2012. Khan's 75 against Bangladesh in 2004 was then the highest score by a number 11 batsman before the record was broken by Tino Best of the West Indies and Ashton Agar of Australia.

Batting legend Sachin Tendulkar, with whom Khan shared the Indian dressing room since 2000, paid tribute to the retiring bowler. "One of the coolest pace bowlers I know," Tendulkar tweeted of Khan.

"He was a bowler who could 'out think' batsmen most of the times. Always up for a challenge. "I am sure he will do well as he begins a new chapter in his life." Shashank Manohar, president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), said Khan served



Zaheer Khan

Indian cricket with "remarkable passion and commitment". BCCI secretary Anurag Thakur described Zaheer as "one of the finest fast bowlers in the history of Indian cricket" who was "an outstanding role model on and off the field". — AFP



**ABU DHABI:** England captain Alastair Cook, right, hits a ball as Pakistan's Shan Masood protects himself during the third day of first test match between England and Pakistan at Zayed Cricket Stadium in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, yesterday. — AP

# UNBEATEN COOK SETS ENGLAND 500 TARGET AGAINST PAKISTAN

**ABU DHABI:** England are aiming to score at least 500 in their first innings, a tired captain Alastair Cook said after his unbeaten 168 helped the tourists reduce Pakistan's lead in the third day of the first test yesterday. Pakistan, playing in the United Arab Emirates, are unbeaten in seven series in their adopted home, a run that includes a 3-0 whitewash against England in 2012.

The tourists looked set for more misery after Pakistan declared on 523-8 on Wednesday, but

Cook then batted all day as he made a record-extending 28th England test century to help his side reach 290-3 by the close. "It has been tough physically and I'm pleased to have got through that last hour and a half when I was a little bit tired," Cook told Sky Sports. "We have got to get ourselves up to 500."

Cook's latest ton moved him ahead of team mate Joe Root as test cricket's top scorer in 2015, with Root (3) now at the crease after Mark Wood's (4) cheap dismissal. Cook struck his

maiden test century in Nagpur, India, in 2006 and is arguably the world's best batsman on subcontinent pitches. "I do feel as if I can score aggressively when I need to and defend well," added Cook. "When you've got men around the bat you can't just run down and whack the ball over the top." Ian Bell, who shared a 165-run second wicket partnership with Cook, paid tribute to his captain's stamina. "He has shown in this part of the world he can do that for days. He's ready to go again tomorrow," Bell told reporters. "He's led from the front, his shot selection against the spin was world class."

Bell and Cook are two of four survivors from England's last series against Pakistan and both seem keen to make amends for that woeful showing. Bell's knock of 63 was more than he made in six innings combined the last time they played in the UAE, the 33-year-old digging in to repel Pakistan's attack as he scored just one run from the first 33 balls he faced before becoming more expansive. "It's difficult to start (in the) subcontinent, your first 40-50 balls are generally tough and if you can get through that it will get a little bit easier," added Bell. "I'm happy with what I did today, but gutted I'm not there tomorrow to cash in and go bigger." — Reuters

# WEST INDIES STRUGGLE AT 66-2 IN SRI LANKA TEST

**GALLE:** Rangana Herath dismissed both the West Indies' openers to leave the visitors struggling at 66-2 at stumps yesterday on the second day of the first Test in Galle, still trailing Sri Lanka by 418 runs.

The veteran spinner had Kraigg Brathwaite trapped leg before wicket for 19 in his second over before then sending Shai Hope packing for 23, putting the brakes on what had been a brisk fightback from the West Indies. The visitors' hopes of saving the match now lie in the hands of two of their most experienced batsmen, Darren Bravo and Marlon Samuels, who were unbeaten at the close with 15 and seven respectively. West Indies still face a massive task to avoid the follow-on after Sri Lanka posted a formidable total of 484 in their first innings, despite the loss of their last five wickets for just 36 runs.

The cornerstones of Sri Lanka's innings were centuries by Dimuth Karunaratne who made 186 and Dinesh Chandimal who scored 151. Their 238-run partnership for the third wicket set a new record for any wicket in Tests between Sri Lanka and the West Indies.

Leg spinner Devendra Bishoo took three lower order wickets to finish with figures of 4 for 143 in 40.3 overs while Jerome Taylor was the pick of the West Indies' fast bowlers, taking 2 for 65. — AFP

## SCOREBOARD

**GALLE, Sri Lanka:** Scores at close on the second day of the first cricket Test between Sri Lanka and West Indies played at the Galle International Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Sri Lanka 1st innings	
Dimuth Karunaratne c and b Samuels	186
Kaushal Silva c Ramdin b Roach	17
Lahiru Thirimanne c (sub) Chandrika b Bishoo	16
Dinesh Chandimal c Blackwood b Taylor	151
Angelo Mathews c and b Holder	48
Milinda Siriwardana c Ramdin b Taylor	1
Kusal Janith Perera b Gabriel	23
Dharmika Prasad c Holder b Bishoo	13
Rangana Herath lbw Bishoo	0
Tharindu Kaushal not out	9
Nuwan Pradeep c Gabriel b Bishoo	0
Extras: 20 (b4, lb5 w5 nb6)	
Total: (all out; 152.3 overs)	484

Fall of wicket: 1-56 (Silva), 2-101 (Thirimanne), 3-339 (Karunaratne), 4-425 (Chandimal), 5-427 (Siriwardana), 6-448 (Mathews), 7-467 (Prasad), 8-467 (Herath), 9-475 (Perera), 10-484 (Pradeep)  
Bowling: Taylor 20-4-65-2, Roach 19-3-57-1, Holder 21-4-36-1, Gabriel 20-2-76-1, Samuels 27-4-84-1, Bishoo 40.3-2-143-4, Brathwaite 5-0-14-0

West Indies 1st innings	
Kraigg Brathwaite lbw Herath	19
Shai Hope b Herath	23
Darren Bravo not out	15
Marlon Samuels not out	7
Extras (nb2)	2
Total: (2 wickets: 21 overs)	66
Fall of wicket: 1-33 (Brathwaite) 2-49 (Hope)	
Bowling: Prasad 4-3-4-0, Pradeep 5-0-29-0, Herath 8-2-14-2, Kaushal 4-1-19-0	

## SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the third day in the first Test between Pakistan and England yesterday in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates:

<b>Pakistan 1st innings</b> 523 for 8 decl (S. Malik 245, A. Shafiq 107, M. Hafeez 98; B. Stokes 4-57)	
<b>England 1st innings (Overnight: 56-0)</b>	285 M. Wood
A. Cook not out	168
M. Ali c S. Ahmed b I. Khan	35
I. Bell c Hafeez b Riaz	63
M. Wood b Riaz	4
J. Root not out	3
Extras (b-2 lb-3 nb-9 w-3)	17
Total (for 3 wickets, 110 overs)	290
Fall of wickets: 1-116 M. Ali, 2-281 I. Bell, 3-	
	To bat: J. Bairstow, B. Stokes, J. Buttler, A. Rashid, S. Broad, J. Anderson
	Bowling
	R. Ali 16 - 1 - 43 - 0
	I. Khan 15 - 3 - 39 - 1
	Z. Babar 38 - 15 - 67 - 0
	W. Riaz 19 - 1 - 79 - 2(nb-9 w-3)
	A. Shafiq 7 - 0 - 19 - 0
	S. Malik 15 - 2 - 38 - 0

## BARCA'S SUAREZ FORESEES COMPETITIVE TITLE RACE

**BARCELONA:** Barcelona striker Luis Suarez believes a cluster of teams will be vying for this season's La Liga crown with surprise early leaders Villarreal offering proof of a more competitive title race than in previous years.

A few seasons ago, the Spanish league was criticised for essentially playing out as an annual two-horse race between the star-player laden Barcelona and Real Madrid.

Atletico Madrid were first to muscle their way into the title fight and after seven games, the El Clasico rivals have dropped more points than expected and are in a three-way tie for second

place on 15 points, one point off the pace. Diego Simeone's Atletico, league champions in 2014, are also in the hunt on 13 points. Barca, winners of the treble last season, will be aiming to bounce back after losing two of their last three La Liga matches, including a 4-1 thrashing at Celta Vigo, with a home win over Rayo Vallecano tomorrow.

"The league is more competitive than other years and I think it will be exciting and very even all the way. Our rivals along with us have dropped points," Suarez told reporters.

"It is going to be a championship where no one knows what the results

are going to be. The fact that we have five teams in the Champions League, I think for the first time, shows the situation," the Uruguayan marksman added.

"We know how strong the other sides are and we need to keep believing in ourselves. We are aware that we have made mistakes, which are for a reason, but it is the same team that won three titles." Real have drawn their last two league matches and face Levante at home tomorrow with Cristiano Ronaldo needing one more goal to become the club's all-time leading scorer.

The Portuguese striker has 323

goals from 309 games and is level with Raul, who took 741 matches to reach the total.

Meanwhile, coach Rafa Benitez has rejected criticism of adopting a defensive tactical approach which intensified after a draw against local rivals Atletico in their last outing before the international break.

"Defensive and ordered are not the same thing," he told reporters.

"Madrid has an attacking mentality but if you are ordered then you concede fewer goals. We are not conceding many and we are scoring a lot but still we need to be more efficient." — Reuters



**AL-AIN:** Zamalek's players celebrate after scoring during the Egypt super cup football match between Al-Ahly SC and Zamalek Egyptian football clubs, yesterday at Sheikh Hazza Bin Zayed stadium in Al-Ain, UAE. — AFP

## NEPAL SKIPPER HELD IN WORLD CUP FIXING PROBE

**KATHMANDU:** The captain of Nepal's football team was among five current and former internationals who have been arrested over allegations of match-fixing, including during qualifiers for the last World Cup, police said yesterday.

Skipper Sagar Thapa was detained in Kathmandu on Wednesday as part of a coordinated series of arrests in the capital which also saw four current or former team-mates on the national side taken into custody. Detectives said the arrests came after investigations found significant sums of money had been deposited in the players' bank accounts from suspected match-fixers based in Southeast Asia.

"We've recorded banking transactions... between them and international match-fixers, including in Malaysia and Singapore," Sarbendra Khanal, chief of the Metropolitan Police Crime Division in Kathmandu, told AFP. "Our investigations will continue and we are discussing what charges they will face." Khanal said that several matches played in 2011 as part of Nepal's unsuccessful bid to qualify for the 2014 World Cup in Brazil were under the scanner, including a match against Jordan that they lost 9-0.

"We suspect that there was fixing in several competitive matches and also in some friendly matches which Nepal lost," he said. Khanal said matches involving Bangladesh and Afghanistan, played as part of a regional competition, were also being investigated.

Bishwa Raj Pokharel, Kathmandu police's chief spokesman, told AFP that sums ranging from \$1,000 to \$1,500 had been deposited in the players' accounts courtesy of the alleged overseas betting syndicates. Nepal's football association said that all of the accused would be suspended pending the outcome of the police investigation, and expressed sadness at the allegations.

"We are surprised and deeply saddened by these arrests and we will be helping the police with their investigations," Indra Man Tuladhar, the chief executive of the All Nepal Football Association (ANFA), told AFP. "We will also be holding our own internal investigation. In the meantime, the players will be suspended from all football activities, and if proven guilty, we will take the requisite action against them." — AFP

## UEFA CRISIS TALKS ON PLATINI BEGIN IN NYON

**NYON:** UEFA's crisis talks called to discuss the plight of its suspended president Michel Platini got underway yesterday in Nyon, Switzerland. The emergency meeting at the headquarters of European football's ruling body will give Platini a strong indication of the level of support he can count on in his bid to succeed Sepp Blatter as president of FIFA.

The Frenchman was the frontrunner to take control of football's scandal-tainted governing body until last week's 90-day suspension ordered by the FIFA ethics committee charged with investigating the corruption scandal engulfing FIFA.

Platini is being investigated over a contentious \$2 million (1.8 million euros) payment made to him by Blatter in 2011 for consultancy work performed years earlier.

The former France and Juventus star is not allowed to attend the meeting of the body's 54 member unions. Yesterday's proceedings began at 0900GMT with a meeting of UEFA's executive committee as Platini's place at the head of the table was assumed by vice-president Angel Maria Villar Llona of Spain.

Before the talks began a lorry bearing the name of a company called 'datarec sa' and advertising its services as 'destruction of confidential documents' was seen arriving at UEFA's base before leaving half an hour later.

Shortly before the meeting was due to commence, a succession of limousines were also seen arriving at UEFA's headquarters. German Karl-Heinz Rummenigge and Italy's Andrea Agnelli, executive board members of the European Club Association, who were invited to attend the meeting as observers, could be made out behind blacked out windows.

The executive committee meeting was expected to run until 1200GMT and be followed by a full emergency meeting attended by the presidents and general secretaries of all UEFA's member federations. UEFA's secretary general Gianni Infantino is due to hold a press conference on the outcome of the day's discussions.

Top of UEFA's agenda is "the question of Michel Platini's suspension and the eventual request to postpone FIFA's presidential election", a UEFA source told AFP.

### 'Protect UEFA'

German Football Federation boss Wolfgang Niersbach says the crisis talks will help determine whether or not Platini could maintain his candidature to replace Blatter as FIFA's head in February's elections with the corruption investigation hanging over his head.

He is more concerned that Platini's situation could drag UEFA into the FIFA corruption scandal. "We have to avoid that at all costs. We must protect UEFA," he told the Die Zeit newspaper. The 60-year-

already out of the running after being suspended for six years by FIFA's ethics committee. Without UEFA's support, Platini would also see his FIFA leadership hopes go up in smoke, although he risks being disqualified by the electoral commission in any case.

Over in Zurich, FIFA's acting president Issa Hayatou turned up at the world body's headquarters for his first day in his new job. "Mr Hayatou arrived this morning at FIFA's headquarters," a spokesperson confirmed.



**NYON:** UEFA General Secretary Gianni Infantino gives a press conference following a UEFA Executive meeting yesterday at the European football's governing body headquarters in Nyon. UEFA President Michel Platini will get a strong indication of the level of support from the organisation he heads after he was suspended for 90 days by FIFA's ethics committee looking into corruption at the global football body. — AFP

old Platini denies any wrongdoing. He describes the charges as "farcical" and is appealing his suspension.

Hours before UEFA's meeting began Prince Ali bin Hussein, Platini's main rival to succeed Blatter, formally registered his candidacy for next year's election to run FIFA. The Jordanian royal's potential opponents include Brazilian legend Zico, Liberia's Musa Bility and South African Tokyo Sexwale, an anti-apartheid campaigner who once shared a cell with Nelson Mandela on Robben Island.

South Korea's Chung Mong-joon is

The 69-year-old Cameroonian's first major task will be to establish the topics for FIFA's own crisis meeting scheduled for Tuesday. A Swiss bank, Julius Baer, meanwhile announced it was suing newspaper Handelszeitung over an article implicating it in the corruption scandal.

And Swiss prosecutors announced they had authorised the extradition to the United States of Nicaragua's Julio Rocha, one of seven FIFA officials arrested on corruption charges in Zurich on May 27. — AFP

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## MAGICAL DJOKOVIC CASTS SPELL OVER SHANGHAI

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SHANGHAI: Novak Djokovic of Serbia hits a return against Feliciano Lopez of Spain in their men's singles third round match at the Shanghai Masters tennis tournament in Shanghai yesterday. — AFP

