

SUBSCRIPTION

# Kuwait Times



THE FIRST DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2015

MUHARRAM 8, 1437 AH

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KAC expects profit in few years; plans for new terminal



Canada's Liberals storm to landslide election win



'Halal tourism' emerges as businesses serve Muslim travelers



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## KUWAIT-FRANCE TIES HAILED AS SHEIKH JABER, HOLLANDE MEET

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conspiracy theories

### RACISM AND WASTA!



By Badrya Darwish

badrya\_d@kuwaittimes.net

Call it discrimination. Call it racism. Call it whatever you want. These are diseases that kill society. They are viruses which creep into a society and slowly destroy it. Such diseases should not be nourished in my country. Lately, I heard the disturbing news that there is a study or possible plan to allocate the new Jaber Hospital only for us Kuwaitis.

Why? Are we superior to the rest of the human race? The expats that are serving us and our country are not allowed to enter this sacred place? Makkah does not forbid expats from coming. Madinah, where the Prophet (PBUH) lies, is for everybody from all races. So why should Jaber Hospital be allocated only for us?

Continued on Page 13



PARIS: French President Francois Hollande meets Kuwaiti Prime Minister HH Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah yesterday at the Elysee Palace. — AFP

PARIS: French President Francois Hollande received HH the Prime Minister of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah yesterday for broad talks on bilateral relations and an overview of the situation in the Gulf region and the Middle East, Hollande's office said. During the meeting at the Elysee Palace, Hollande told Sheikh Jaber of his satisfaction with the visit, which he said represents a "new step" in bilateral relations, noting that "this visit constitutes a reinforcement of our bilateral partnership".

Sheikh Jaber is heading an important delegation over the next two days to discuss relations with France in a variety of areas, including in the political, economic and finance, military, cultural and scientific and health areas. Contacts between a delegation of Kuwaiti businessmen from the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) and their French counterparts are also taking place at the MEDEF business federation.

In the meeting with Sheikh Jaber yesterday, Hollande indicated that "agreements will be reached in several areas" during the visit. He remarked that France and Kuwait will create "a public-private fund" aimed at financing small and intermediary enterprises and industries in "strategic sectors" here. The French leader also indicated that "a security and defense partnership" will be agreed and also an accord on "cultural and scientific cooperation", an area that has been growing solidly in recent years.

"The president of the republic also praised the important health cooperation that is being established with Kuwait," his office said. On regional issues, "the president praised the moderating actions of Kuwait in the region (and) its contribution to the fight against Daesh (IS)".

Continued on Page 13



THE LEADING INDEPENDENT DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

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Fawaz Al-Farah (right) and Yousef Al-Fouzan launch the exhibition.



Fawaz Al-Farah presenting a speech during the opening ceremony of the Conference. —Photos by Joseph Shagra

## KUWAIT AIRWAYS TO MAKE PROFIT IN TWO TO THREE YEARS

By Nawara Fattahova

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Airways expects to make a profit within the next two to three years, its chief executive said yesterday, as it aims to cut costs and improve its operational efficiency. The airline's losses for 2015 will be less than KD 20 million (\$66.3 million), compared with KD 33 million in the previous year, Chief Executive Abdullah Al-Sharhan said. "In 2015, we aim to reduce some of the losses. We continuously improving," he said. Kuwait's government has approved plans to privatize the airline. Under the proposal, 20 percent of the airline's shares would be offered to Kuwaiti citizens, five percent to current and retired employees, while the government would retain the rest. Sharhan said that parliament is expected to pass this plan in the next few months. Sharhan also revealed some of the carrier's present and future operations and expansion plans. "We intend to renew the current fleet with 12 aircraft from Airbus - five A330s and seven A320s - which should be executed during 2015 and 2016. By the end of 2016, we will start receiving 10 Boeing 777 aircraft till the mid of 2017. In 2019, we will start receiving 25 aircraft from Airbus including 15 A320 planes, which we will receive till 2021, and another 10 A350/900 aircraft from 2020 till 2022," he pointed out.

"To execute this plan, we need to develop and enlarge the airport. We also need infrastructure and smart and spacious airports. In 2022, we will have 47 new aircraft in the fleet, both leased and bought. We expect to have the second terminal completed within 5 to 10 years, and in 18 months from now, the construction of a new airport for Kuwait Airways will start. As part of the expansion plan, we will build a maintenance base, 10 hangars and runways, a training center, and land service center. We are only waiting for the lands to start the projects," stressed Sharhan. Sharhan was speaking at the Directorate General of Civil Aviation's 5th annual emerging airports conference and exhibition called "Expansion of Airports - Kuwait 2015". DGCA President Fawaz Al-Farah said civil aviation is one of the most important sectors participating in realizing economic and development plans by providing work opportunities and increasing the total local product. "Such conferences and exhibitions shed light on projects that aim to



Al-Farah and Al-Fouzan are pictured during a tour of the exhibition.

develop the civil aviation sector in Kuwait. The value of these projects is around \$6 billion," Farah noted during the opening ceremony held yesterday. The two-day conference at the Regency Hotel is held under the auspices of Minister of Communications Essa Al-Kandari, with Kuwait Airways as the diamond sponsor and ALAFCO as golden sponsor. The event is organized and managed by Kuwait's Expo Tag for Organizing Exhibitions and Conferences Co and Babylon International of the UAE.

Airports in the region and particularly in the GCC countries are rapidly developing. "These governments aim through these developments to increase abilities and improve services according to the increasing number of passengers using their airports. The civil aviation in Kuwait has prepared a major plan of expansion and developing projects of Kuwait International Airport. All these projects aim to improve the aviation services provided here," added Farah. The expected growth of air traffic at Kuwait airport during the next 10 years will reach 7 percent per year. "The expansion plan is in line with the fast growth of air traffic. The most important plans are the

expansion of the new terminal 2 at the airport, the supporting terminal project, developing the current runways - both the east and west ones - and building a third new runway, building a second control tower, carrying out the second phase of an air freight city, develop navigation equipments and the weather broadcast system, building and developing the road network at the airport and developing the electricity infrastructure," he explained.

Director General of DGCA Yousef Al-Fouzan stated that this event contributes to strengthening the Kuwaiti economy and will highlight the latest products, technologies and services related to airports. "The conference will discuss studies of investments and commercial opportunities for joint ventures with the public and private sectors through BOT (Build-Operate-Transfer)," he stated.

The Ministry of Public Works and Ministry of Interior are participating in the conference, in addition to many companies specialized in aviation and its various services such as NAS Co, Nisf Group for Trade and Industrial Engines, the Aviation Department of the Australian College, Alam Steel

Factories Co, United Projects for Air Services, the French company Real France and several international companies such as Selex, Smiths Detection, Siemens, Jet, Teco International and Cavotech.

During the conference, Vice Chairman and CEO of ALAFCO Airplane Finance, Purchase and Leasing Ahmad Al-Zeben spoke about the general trends of the aviation industry in Kuwait and the region. Then CEO of Bahrain Airport, Mohammad Youssef bin Falah, spoke about airport economic and commercial development opportunities, while the Hassan Hour, the CEO of National Aviation Services (NAS) Group spoke on the issue of development and improvement of passenger services and the future developments of self service. First-day panel discussions covered three main themes - airports capacity in the region, sustainability in the development of airports and effect of regional situations on the aviation sector, with presentations by Fouzan, Zeben, Falah and Regional Manager of Hill International Mohammad Al-Rais.

CEO of Erbil International Airport Talar Fae, spoke about the challenges facing Erbil International Airport in Iraq's Kurdistan region. Meanwhile, Adonis

Sokker, Business Development Manager - SITA, a company specialized in the field of air transport communications and IT, spoke about moving towards the next phase of airport development through technology and innovation.

On the agenda of the second day of the conference is Jamal Al-Foudari from the Australian College, who will speak about training requirements in the aviation field in Kuwait and the region; while Senior Consultant of Business and Financial Services Vinod Karthik from India will deliberate about the motivating factors for development and change in airports.

Moreover, Vice Chairman of Facilities Management at Saudi Oger Dr Waleed Youssef will address the management of airport facilities; and Sales Manager at Cavotech Co Yakeen Dabda will talk about ways to improve ground operations at airports and provide services to airplanes at airports. Additionally, Pedro Russo, Business Development Manager at Tisen Group Elevators in the Middle East in Dubai will give a lecture; plus a speaker from Cisco, as well as Hamdi Shok and the CEO of GRM Airport Development in India.

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## FIFA DECISION UNCONVINCING, UNJUSTIFIABLE: SHEIKH SALMAN

### INFO MINISTER BLASTS FIFA

**KUWAIT:** Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah has blasted FIFA for its recent decision to ban Kuwait from participation in international soccer activities. "The decision is utterly unconvincing and unjustifiable. It's an uncalculated punishment that harms the fame of the Kuwaiti sport," the minister told reporters on Monday evening. Sheikh Salman made the comments during a ceremony held by the Public Authority for Sports and Youth (PAYS) to honor the former board members of PAYS. "Given its numerous contributions to FIFA and the international sports, the State of Kuwait doesn't deserve this treatment," he regretted.

In the meantime, Sheikh Salman reaffirmed Kuwait's "unequivocal respect" for the Olympic Charter and the international sports regulations. "The Kuwaiti legislations are more advanced than

those of other countries in the region; they are on par with the international standards. "It would have been more proper for FIFA to hold Kuwait in high esteem after His Highness the Amir decreed in 2012 amending the sports legislations to enshrine the independence of the sports institutions. But the FIFA, to the contrary, resorted to threats," he went on.

"The International Olympic Committee issued threats to Kuwait on July 20 and October 15. We offered detailed explanations regarding the legal and technical aspects of the matter to the honorable IOC deputy chairman and board members, but all to no avail," he recalled. "Out of keenness on participation in overseas sports activity, we keep the door open for further discussions of all sticking points during meetings between the IOC and our Olympic Committee in a responsible way," Sheikh Salman went on. He

voiced hope that everybody will work for the interests of Kuwait and refrain from any measures that could have negative impacts on the progress of the sports movement in the country.

"The government remains committed to impartiality regarding the sports institutions and clubs, and will not interfere in the affairs of the Kuwait Football Association in keeping with the local and international regulations. "Nevertheless, the government will continue shouldering its responsibility and offer limitless support to these institutions as usual in order to maintain the good fame of the Kuwaiti sport," he added. Asked on the apology for the country's inability to host the 23rd Gulf Cup, Sheikh Salman blamed the decision on the abrupt FIFA ban, adding that Kuwait was eager for the event and put all its resources at the disposal of the championship but faced formidable hurdles. —KUNA

## KUWAIT PROMOTES SDGs

**NEW YORK:** Kuwait is ready to shoulder its regional and international responsibility towards achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2015-30, Diplomatic Attache in Kuwait's Permanent Delegate to the UN Farah Al-Gharabally has said. Kuwait is keen on dealing seriously and effectively with the SDGs-related issues, Al-Gharabally said in a speech at UN Economic and Social Council meeting on Monday.

She expounded that Kuwait has hosted a number of high-level economic, social and humanitarian meetings and conferences with a view to fostering development and humanitarian partnership among regional and world countries. Kuwait has been also providing financial assistance to set up development projects in developing and least developed countries, through its different financial institutions at the forefront of them the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, Al-Gharabally stated. She noted that Kuwait in the past few years provided development assistance that amounted to 2.1 percent of its GDP, which is more than double the percentage agreed-upon internationally. Al-Gharabally emphasized her country's backing to the UN and particularly the Economic and Social Council efforts to eradicate poverty, materialize SDGs and control the communicable and non-communicable diseases. She stated that Kuwait would end its term in the membership of the UN Economic and Social Council in December 2015.

She expressed gratitude for countries which voted for Kuwait's membership in the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, for four years starting from 2016. —KUNA



Diplomatic Attache in Kuwait's Permanent Delegate to the UN Farah Al-Gharabally

## GULF STATES EYE 'GREEN SCHOOLS'

**KUWAIT:** A consultative meeting of Gulf countries and Yemen has mulled an ambitious proposal to set up green schools in Gulf countries and Yemen as a part of the region's efforts to promote sustainable development. The conferees have discussed a number of recommendations to put into effect the proposal. General Coordinator of the meeting Dr Ali Al-Kandari said following the conclusion of the two-day event. They also thoroughly debated a plan of action on the green schools projects, detailing the roles of the students, teachers, school administrations and local community, he said. Al-Kandari added that the conferees reviewed a number of the stories of success of the eco-friendly projects in the region. The outcome of the meeting, organized by the Kuwaiti national educational, scientific and cultural committee under the auspices of Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Bader Al-Essa, would be formulated in a comprehensive report to be implemented by the participating countries. —KUNA



DOHA: Kuwait's Minister of Health Dr Ali Saad Al-Obaidi hold talks with GCC health ministers in Doha. —KUNA

## GCC HEALTH MINISTERS' MEETINGS AIM TO BOLSTER COOPERATION, UNIFY VISIONS

DOHA: Kuwait's Minister of Health Dr Ali Saad Al-Obaidi has stressed the importance of meetings of GCC health ministers - aiming to coordinate efforts, bolster cooperation and unify visions in regional and international scenes. Upon his arrival in the Qatari capital to take part in the second meeting of GCC health ministers' committee, Al-Obaidi said that the meeting will be held today in implementation of the directives of GCC leaders and the foreign ministers' meetings to achieve a Gulf health system from which all citizens benefit in several fields.

Among these fields are to imple-

ment quality, provide better healthcare, share expertise and enact legislations and regulations pertaining to the health sector, the minister said. The meeting's agenda has several topics, mainly preparations for emergency, the possibility of providing better healthcare to GCC citizens and following up the relevant resolutions of supreme council, he added. The meeting will also discuss putting in place comprehensive health coverage, financing healthcare and following up the progress made by GCC to achieve development objectives of the third millennium.

On arrival, the minister was

received by Qatar's Minister of Public Health Abdullah bin Khaled Al-Qahtani and Kuwait's Ambassador to Qatar Muteb Saleh Al Mutoteh. The Kuwaiti delegation headed by the minister, includes Undersecretary Khaled Saad Al-Sahlawi, Assistant Undersecretary for legal Department Dr Mahmoud Al-Abdelhadi, Assistant Undersecretary for Medicines and Medical Equipment Affairs Dr Omar Al-Sayed, Assistant Undersecretary for Public Health Affairs Majda Al-Qattan, Director of Public Relations and Media Faisal Al-Dosari and Director of Emergencies Department Dr Tareq Al-Jassar. —KUNA

## KUWAIT UNDERSCORES THE IMPORTANCE OF CLOSER COORDINATION AMONG GCC STATES 'GULF SHOULD EXERT EFFORT TO IMPROVE LABOR MARKETS'

DOHA: Kuwaiti Minister of Social Affairs and Labor, and Minister of State for Planning and Development Affairs Hind Al-Sabeeh has underscored the importance of closer coordination among GCC states in social action to realize the objectives of development. In statements to KUNA following the opening session of the 32nd GCC social affairs ministers' meeting, she said the GCC societies face almost identical risks which require concerted efforts to ensure better future.

"Today's meeting led to an agreement to promote sharing of information and experiences among the GCC states in the social fields in order to advance the joint action," Al-Sabeeh pointed out. She added that the executive office discussed a range of issues foremost among which are the youth question, the risks of violence and extremism, and how to offer social care for the vulnerable segments of the society including the elderly people, people with special needs and the street people. On the sidelines of the ministerial meeting 11 projects, including two Kuwaiti ones, were honored for leading the social action in the GCC states.

The project to rehabilitate and employ disabled persons of Majd International Trading Co won the award of the commercial sector while the student care project of Al-Najat Charitable Society was awarded on behalf of the civil society sector. Director General of Majd Co Dr Isa Ali Al-Saadi welcomed the honoring, saying that it will give impetus to the social action players from the private sector. "The honoring shed light on the effort to tap into the potentials of people with special needs and employ them in the private sector," he added.

Dr Al-Saadi thanked Qatar for hosting this gathering and honoring the GCC social action leaders in 2015.

On his part, Dr Mohammad Al-Ansari, director general of Al-Najat charity, expressed joy for honoring the student care project, saying that the award will encourage the

charity to offer more contributions to the social development in Kuwait. He spoke highly of the support given to civil society institutions by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor which set the standards for selecting the best projects in this regard.

Led by Al-Sabeeh, Kuwait's delegation to the meeting includes Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor Dr Matar Ali Al-Mutairi, Deputy Director-General of Human Resources and Financial Affairs Dept of the public authority of disability affairs Dr Hussein Al-Duwaihes and director of the cooperative development dept Sami Al-Othman.

determination of the GCC states to modernize their social legislations in a way that could ensure justice to marginalized or vulnerable segments of their communities, and improve the quality of social services.

### GCC labor markets

Meanwhile, Qatar's Assistant Undersecretary at the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs Ahmad Al-Nasser urged GCC states to exert more efforts to eliminate obstacles that face the GCC markets. Al-Nasser said that local and regional challenges are affecting the GCC markets and its manpower sources since the Gulf countries share the



Kuwait's Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Hind Al-Sabeeh

### Good citizenship

Al-Sabeeh noted that the GCC is ready to address social problems such as those related to the issues of belongingness, identity and citizenship. "Good citizenship, from the legal point of view, constitutes the principal social bastion against the menaces of extremism, terrorism and violence," she stressed. The minister called for strengthening the social relations and joint action among the GCC states with a view to coordinating their stances and reflecting their Arab cultural identity at the regional and international forums.

Earlier today, Qatari Minister of Labor and Social Affairs Dr Abdullah Al-Khulaifi opened the meeting and delivered a speech in which he affirmed the GCC states' commitment to advance the social development. He stressed the

same economic, social, cultural and environmental conditions. He pointed out that the meeting discussed means on increasing employment opportunities for national labors, updating vocational classifications, and renewing plans for joint markets activities.

The meeting also tackled labor rights, improving markets' structures, and discussing international treaty No 189 for domestic workers. Other high ranking participants in the meeting expressed similar opinions on how to improve labor markets in the GCC, especially through exchanging visits and expertise of all member states in order to achieve objectives of social development and social welfare of citizens and to ensure their security and their future. —Agencies

## QUALITY, RELIABILITY, TOGETHER

By Douglas Silliman  
US Ambassador to Kuwait

One of the most exciting and rewarding aspects of being the US Ambassador to Kuwait is the opportunity to help Kuwaitis discover new and interesting sides of American culture. That is why I am thrilled to announce the launch of the third annual "Discover America Week," October 25-31, a celebration of my country's culture, including education, technology, food, entertainment, and shopping. At venues across the city, you'll find events that capture your imagination and appeal to all five senses.

There will be musical performances, food exhibitions, educational fairs, a business speaker series, a car launch, and much more. You'll be able to discover the incredible depth and variety of the American experience. This year's Discover America theme is: Quality, Reliability, Together. I chose this theme because it not only describes American products and services, but also the enduring relationship between the United States and Kuwait.

Quality - The United States is

known for its quality products, services, technology, automobiles, education, films, and music—all of which are popular with discerning Kuwaiti consumers. This passion for quality unites Americans and Kuwaitis and is evident in the American businesses represented here.

Reliability - What is made in the United States lasts. This is as true of American products and services as it is of the strong US-Kuwait relationship. As we prepare to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Kuwait's liberation, we are reminded that, then as now, Kuwait has a reliable partner in the United States.

Together - The Kuwaiti and American people share much in common: a deep commitment to education, to family, to health, and to heritage. We have faced challenges together in recent years that have brought our two nations closer together, creating an inseparable bond.

It is therefore no surprise to me that trade between our countries expanded by more than 165 percent between 2009 and 2014. I am proud to note that American industry is the largest foreign investor in Kuwait and largest private employer of Kuwaiti

nationals, particularly in the petrochemical industry. Through Discover America Week, you will see many more examples of how American culture and business are creating new opportunities for our people to grow closer and prosper together.

Discover America Week is a fun way to bring our two people closer together, while highlighting the many ties between our countries. Culture and business are, after all, first and foremost about relationships and shared experiences. As US Ambassador to Kuwait, one of my top priorities is to strengthen and deepen the relationship between our countries, which I will continue to encourage across the full range of sectors and people-to-people exchanges. My embassy, working closely with the Kuwaiti government and the private sector, stands ready to support partnerships that benefit our two economies, our citizens, and our shared future. The 2015 Discover America Week is an excellent example of this partnership, and I hope that you'll join me at one of the exciting events taking place this week. Visit [www.daw-kuwait.com](http://www.daw-kuwait.com) for a complete schedule.

## SYRIAN NETWORK BUSTED

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Detectives busted a Syrian network for forging seals of vehicle technical inspection departments including the employment numbers of workers in the department. The network was run by a Syrian abroad, and after being contacted by phone, he instructed people who wanted transactions to be processed on where to go. Members of the network confessed and their cases are being processed.

### Bogus domestic help office

Residency affairs detectives arrested a gang of nine Ethiopians for running a bogus domestic help office and trading in absconding helpers. The gang used to make an agreement with a maid to escape from the sponsor's house and return to them. Authorities urged citizens and expats



to only deal with licensed offices to avoid swindlers and maids with infectious diseases.

### Coastguard patrols rescue 2

Coastguard patrols rescued two citizens after receiving a call about a boat that had flipped over in Al-Mafattah bay in Khairan. The two were in good condition, and their boat was tugged to Khairan coastal center. The coastguard urged citizens and expats to inform them about their times of sailing out and return, while complying with the safety rules.

### Airport officials nab 56

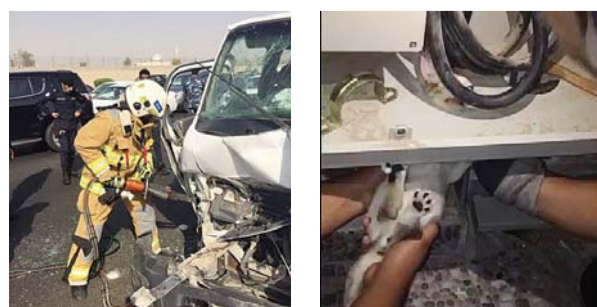
Airport security said the passport department, using the fingerprint system, arrested 56 persons, cancelled their residencies and deported them. The department also sent 31 persons to the central department for entry and exit procedures, 109 were sent to residency affairs detectives as they had security restrictions, while 36 forgers were arrested in the month of September.

### Firemen rescue Asian

Firemen rushed to an accident site and freed an Asian from one of the vehicles involved in the accident. He had minor leg injuries and was handed over to medical emergency personnel.

### Cat freed

Firemen freed a cat trapped in an electricity box in Jahra unharmed.



# McDonald's restaurants shift to new cooking oil with reduced saturated fat levels



McDonald's announced today that it has completed the transition of the frying oil used at all its restaurants in the GCC to a sunflower and canola oil blend. The new oil will have a significant impact on the nutritional value of McDonald's fried products, not least a 37% reduction in saturated fats.

"The change to the new oil blend delivers on our long-standing commitment to cater customers' varying lifestyles and diets. This marks a new milestone following our earlier initiative through which we brought down trans-fats in our fried food to almost 0%," commented Sherif Coutry, Marketing Director at McDonald's Kuwait.

The oil used in McDonald's restaurants in the GCC is non-hydrogenated with less than 0.3% trans-fat. The company is in the process of updating the nutritional information of the food it serves in the GCC. This



data will continue to be available on McDonald's packaging, tray mats and on [mcdonaldsarabia.com](http://mcdonaldsarabia.com), as part of the brand's commitment to provide all information required for customers to make informed choices about their food.

For any queries, please visit McDonald's Your Right to Know platform on [www.mcdonaldsarabia.com/yrtk-en](http://www.mcdonaldsarabia.com/yrtk-en)

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Photo

of the day



KUWAIT: A fisherman tries to fix his net near the Arabian Gulf. The fishing net, locally known as 'Al-Saliah' is a main part of our sea heritage. — KUNA

Crime

Report

EPA CHIEF DIVES INTO WATER TO ENSURE REEFS' WELL-BEING

KUWAIT: General Director of Environment Public Authority (EPA) Sheikh Abdullah Ahmad Al-Humoud Al-Sabah dived into the deep waters at Jaber marine reserve to examine status of coral reefs and marine life in the depths. EPA said in a statement yesterday that Sheikh Abdullah put on the scuba diving equipment and dived into the waters, accompanied by a team of divers to see for himself conditions of the coral reefs and the sea creatures living in and around the locations. Sheikh Abdullah, during the tour of the reserve, set up new buoys, as a precaution to safeguard the reefs and guide divers and visitors. He also checked on the oysters farming and sea-goes to abstain from acts harmful to the marine environment.



General Director of Environment Public Authority (EPA) Sheikh Abdullah Ahmad Al-Humoud Al-Sabah dived into the deep waters at Jaber Marine Reserve to examine status of coral reefs and marine life in the depths. — KUNA

Minister, US delegation discuss media relations

KUWAIT: Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah held talks with General John Allen, US President's Special Envoy for the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL and his accompanying delegation. The meeting, which was held at Kuwait National Library, aimed to strengthen Kuwaiti-US relations in the media and cultural fields, said the Information Ministry in a statement. They also discussed boosting youth capabilities in scientific, cultural and sporting aspects, it added. The meeting was attended by a number of officials in the US embassy and Information Ministry.

Cost of Maximo project hits KD 1 million: KNPC

KUWAIT: Total costs of the Maximo electronic project system in use at the Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) since 2012, have hit about KD 1 million, spokesman Khaled Al-Asousi said. Maximo brings all the technical and administrative operations at KNPC refineries under one umbrella, Al-Asousi, also Deputy CEO for Support Services said. The statement was made on the sidelines of the company's celebration of applying the IMB Maximo Enterprise Asset Management system, to all its refineries. The KNPC initially used the system for administrative work, and later in refineries as a "strategic step," he said. Maximo streamlines administrative work and duration of procedures in KNPC refineries, which have reached an advanced stage of using it. Since 2013, the system has finalized 300,000 work permits inside the company refineries, saving much time and effort, and it controls all commercial and administrative matters, he noted.

Judiciary following up PISS fraud case

KUWAIT: Justice Salah Hussein, in charge of the Public Institution for Social Security (PISS) fraud case, has denied reports that Swiss judicial authorities have enforced reserve seizure on assets of the former general director of the PISS Fahad Al-Rajaan. The judge, also the Head of the Fatwa and Legislation Department and chief of investigators tasked with investigations in the fraud case said that the department is continuing legal procedures, in line with the Cabinet instructions, concerning irregularities and suspected manipulation of public funds in the institution by the ex-director, along with "other parties," pending referral to the judicial authorities. The department is diligently following up on all detailed issues of the case. Orders had been issued to suspend accounts of Al-Rajaan and the other collaborators.

Khaleej Al-Noor Festival strengthens GCC bonds

KUWAIT: Gulf Festival 'Khaleej Al Noor' Higher Committee Deputy Chairman Abdullah Abdurassoul said yesterday that the upcoming youth gathering reflects the political leadership approach toward the youth locally and strengthens bonds among them in other Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states. Abdurassoul said the four-day festival, to be launched next November by the Public Authority for Youth and Sport (PAYs), will include many activities and field visits, under the supervision of the festival's organizing committee. Among the planned activities, there will be a fair for the youth handicrafts. PAYs under the leadership of its Chairman and Director General (PAYs) Sheikh Ahmad Al-Mansour Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah is looking forward to organize this festival which will present in the inauguration ceremony an operetta titled "Khaleej Al Noor." Around 900 participants of Kuwait Education Ministry and Kids Garden Association of the Social and labor affairs will take part in the operetta.



Abdullah Abdurassoul

UN-Habitat and KRCS discuss cooperation

KUWAIT: A visiting mission from the UN Human Settlements Program (UN-Habitat) held talks yesterday with Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) on bilateral cooperation in the humanitarian field. The visit aims at bolstering ties between UN-Habitat and KRCS, Dr Aameera Al-Hassan, head of the visiting mission, said in a press statement, pointing out KRCS's significant role in providing aid for the needy, particularly the Iraqi people, recently. Al-Hassan also commended the Kuwaiti society's efforts in aiding Iraqis since the fall of the former Iraqi regime and until this period, especially the recent donation provided by His Highness the Amir to help Iraqi refugees inside Iraq, stressing the importance of this aid that alleviated the suffering of refugees. Meanwhile, KRCS's Deputy Chairman Anwar Al-Hasawi confirmed the society's keenness on cooperating and coordinating with UN-Habitat in providing aid for the needy, affirming Kuwait's readiness to help those affected by conflicts anywhere in the world.

CUBA'S MINISTER OF EXTERNAL TRADE AND FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN KUWAIT

DIAZ WOOS KUWAITI INVESTORS



KUWAIT: Cuba's Minister of External Trade and Foreign Investment Rodrigo Malmierca Diaz (3rd from left) meets Kuwait officials at the KCCI. — Photos by Yasser Zayyat

By Ben Garcia

KUWAIT: With the political environment in Cuba improving rapidly as it reestablishes political relations with the US, business in Cuba is booming. A delegation of Cuba's Minister of External Trade and Foreign Investment Rodrigo Malmierca Diaz is in town, enticing Kuwaiti investors to invest in Cuba. Diaz was accompanied by Cuba's Director of Foreign Investment Opportunities Deborah Rivas and Cuba's Ambassador to Kuwait Andres Gonzalez Garrido as they visited the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) yesterday. The group was welcomed by KCCI Chairman Ali-Mohammed Thunayan

Al-Ghanem and a number of KCCI members. "Our political ties are excellent, but zero in terms of economic relations. So we want to hear from you how we can improve this," Ghanem said as he welcomed the delegation at the KCCI headquarters in Kuwait City.

Diaz said he is keen on developing and improving economic ties with Kuwait. "We have excellent relations politically, and we are thankful for this, but we want to see the same level in terms of the economy," he said in his opening remarks.

"We are in the process of change in Cuba, a process we initiated with our own population. We have the consensus of the majority of people when we



KUWAIT: Ali-Mohammed Thunayan Al-Ghanim (2nd from right) and a number of KCCI members at the KCCI.

approved the so-called guidelines for the economic and social development of Cuba," he pointed out.

"After discussions with the people and with their ideas included, we changed the guidelines. The process is complemented with the relationship with the US - we have already reestablished our diplomatic relations, but the economic blockade or embargo is very complex, so there is an obstacle with our relationship with the world. But we see the light at the end of the tunnel now since the US government has accepted that the blockade was a failed policy," Diaz mentioned. "US President Barack Obama has declared that he will go to the US Congress and will act on the

blockade issue. It's going to be a process and it's not going to happen in one day, but even before this (lifting of the embargo), we want to have a diversified relationship with the world," he said.

In the presentation yesterday by Rivas, she stressed various ways on how to invest in Cuba, mentioning a new law which was passed in Cuba's parliament last year where she emphasized more guarantees and more incentives for foreign investors. "We created a special development economic zone to be developed and financed by foreign investors. We have invested a lot in new ports, we have portfolio of foreign investment opportunities and we hope to welcome you all in Cuba," Rivas said.

KUWAIT OIL TANKER COMPANY CEO WINS 'SEATRADE AWARD'

KUWAIT: CEO of Kuwait Oil Tanker Company (KOTC) Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah has won the Seatrade Middle East, Indian Subcontinent and Africa Award 2015, the company announced yesterday. In a statement to KUNA, KOTC said that Sheikh Talal was announced as the winner of the international award on Monday night in Dubai, in appreciation for his efforts in the company and in Kuwait's oil sector, adding that this is his second time to win - as he received the same award in 2013. The CEO noted that the award was due to KOTC's efforts in developing its services and acquiring a large modern fleet performing on regional and international levels. KOTC is expected to receive several international awards this year, presented by well known organizations for the company's efforts in the fields of safety, the environment, training, performance and modern fleet. — KUNA



DUBAI: CEO of Kuwait Oil Tanker Company (KOTC) Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled receives the Seatrade Middle East, Indian Subcontinent and Africa Award 2015 in Dubai. — KUNA

KUWAIT SPEAKER AND IPU CHIEF HOLD TALKS

GENEVA: Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union (AIPU) President and Kuwait's National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanim and his accompanying delegation met in Geneva yesterday with President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Sabir Chowdhury. It was a "friendly and intimate," Al-Ghanim told reporters after the meeting, adding that Chowdhury is aware of Kuwait's role that helped him reach the post.

During the meeting, Chowdhury reiterated the pledges he had made before being elected for the IPU top job - namely to adopt Islamic and Arab issues, Al-Ghanim added, noting that Kuwait will submit a project "that we won't reveal for the time being till we are sure it will be a success." He said that the project would be submitted to the IPU's 134th Assembly, in Zambia, March 2016 "and we want to make sure it won't be a stumbling block to the relevant legal and regulatory procedures." According to Al-Ghanim, Chowdhury renewed his commitment to IPU regulations and statute and that he



would allow nobody to hinder the project," hoping it will serve the issues of the Arab and the Muslim nations.

In the meantime, the AIPU President noted that the IPU 133rd Assembly, Geneva 17- 21 October, was a success on the international, Islamic, Arab and Gulf levels. He added that during Kuwait's presidency of the AIPU, it managed to "take it to safe shores" despite hard Arab differences. Insistence by the Arab delegations

that Kuwait proceeds as AIPU president till March reflects their confidence in the country and the policy adopted by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, he said. Kuwait's diplomacy has reached "advanced levels and established close ties with all sisterly and friendly parliaments" and in case of need, they will support Kuwaiti rights. He hoped that the 134th Assembly would witness a landmark event. — KUNA

NCCAL PREPARES FOR 'WORLD ARABIC LANGUAGE DAY 2015'

KUWAIT: Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah, has ordered officials at the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) to prepare for the World Arabic Language Day 2015. Sheikh Salman, who is also Chairman of the NCCAL, entrusted the Council's Secretary General Ali Al-Yoha with making arrangements for participating in the event slated for 18 December at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris, the Information Ministry said in a statement yesterday.

Linguists and experts will take part in the event with a mul-

titude of writers, scientific researchers, media figures and diplomats at the UNESCO, to highlight Kuwait's civilized image as well as Arabic ability to interact with sciences, the statement added. In addition, Sheikh Salman tasked the NCCAL officials to organize local functions on Arabic and the role of early Arab scientists in developing sciences. Sheikh Salman had received a message from Dr Ziad Aldree, president of the International Advisory Board of the Plan for the Development of Arab Culture that the theme of the 2015 celebrations will be "Arabic language and sciences." —KUNA



Two Kuwaiti female activists in Social Responsibility honored in Jordan. — KUNA photos

## KUWAITI FEMALE SOCIAL ACTIVISTS HONORED IN JORDAN

AMMAN: Two Kuwaiti female activists in the Social Responsibility field have praised the prominent role of Kuwaiti women and their remarkable capabilities in leading and building the society along with the men. They stressed on the importance of trusting women's abilities and their skills in building the society. These remarks came during interviews with the Kuwaiti activists, following their honoring ceremony, organized by Arab Women Council, on sidelines of Social Responsibility Forum, held in Amman Jordan recently. The Executive Chief of 'Safira' Company for Social Responsibility, and head of

and cultural attainment, she added. The Kuwaiti woman has always been leading and innovative. She is capable of taking decisions not only within her household, but also outside the home, she affirmed.

Such capability of holding responsibilities is reflected in her continuous demand for gaining constitutional support for rights of education, work, and politics until she gained them all, she added. The honoring of Al-Baghli came after her nomination by Board Trustees of Arab Women's Council, for creating a social responsibility for specialized company since 2014, which aims at rehabilitating woman and young people through spreading social awareness and organizing campaigns in cooperation with the public sector institutions and bodies. She expressed her happiness for this honoring besides a number of activities and figures in the field in the Arab region.

Instructor of marketing at Kuwait University, and member of Board Trustees of Arab Women's Council Dr Mouna Al-Ghais said in remark to KUNA that the woman has a remarkable and distinguished role in the society, as the woman "composes half of the society and serves the other half". She praised the role of the Kuwaiti women in building the society, especially in the field of small and medium enterprises. The Kuwaiti woman proved through history that she has a role which is not less important than the role of man in community development.

She stressed on the importance of shedding light on Arab women who are distinguished in their working field, and to support them financially and morally through training and improving their skills.

The main aim of the Board Trustees of Arab Women's Council is working to create job opportunities for Arab woman, and to offer specialized training courses after studying each Arab society and understanding its needs, besides financing woman projects, as well as honoring prominent Arab woman figures in various fields, she said. Lebanon based-Arab Women's Council, which is chaired by Lina Moukazel has recently organized Regional Social Responsibility Forum, with the participation in specialized Arab governmental and public institutions, besides the civil society organizations. — KUNA



The Executive Chief of 'Safira' Company for Social Responsibility and head of Kuwait Business and Professional Network Maha Al-Baghli.

Kuwait Business and Professional Network, Maha Al-Baghli, shed light on the importance of rehabilitation and empowerment of woman to be an active entrepreneur, and effective leader of the society.

Al-Baghli added that woman should receive great care in the Arab society, indicating that whenever the women's capabilities are supported, this leaves a boundless positive effect on the society. The Kuwaiti woman is efficient enough to be successful partner of the man in building the state, due to her keenness on improving herself through her continuous strife in educational

# KUWAIT 'HAS ACHIEVED MUCH OF ITS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS'

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION FOR STATISTICS MARKS WORLD STATISTICS DAY

KUWAIT: Kuwait has been fortunate to have achieved a sizable portion of its goals for sustainable development for 2015 and beyond, said an official yesterday. At a meeting celebrating World Statistics Day, Assistant Undersecretary for Statistical Information at the Ministry of Planning and Development, Muna Al-Da'as, delivered a speech in which she stressed that the nation predicated much of its sustainable development plans on information stemmed from collating statistics on the socio-economic conditions in society.

For instance, statistics provided to the government by the Kuwait Central Statistical Bureau through the 2011 census and the 2013 survey of income expenditure by families and the 2014 survey on the status of the work force in the country were instrumental in planning the near and medium future of development plans and economic growth in Kuwait, said Lawaheth Al-Qattan Assistant Undersecretary for Administrative and Financial Affairs at the ministry.

In implementing a plan to gather statistics and concrete information on the nation's work force, the government has had to work in unison with the World Bank and the UN Development Program (UNDP), she said. Also speaking at the celebration was UNDP representative in Kuwait, Dima Al-Khateeb who emphasized that celebrating the World Statistics Day was an admission by the world community to the imperative that no tangible sustainable development would face success without enormous reliance on a pool of



Assistant Undersecretary for Statistical Information at the Ministry of Planning and Development Muna Al-Da'as.

This fact, she said, has not been lost on Kuwaitis who have paid serious attention to the usefulness of statistics in the nation's growth and development plans. This is the second World Statistics Day. This year's theme emphasizes the critical role of high-quality official statistical information in analysis and informed policy decision-making in support of sustainable development. It also reflects the importance of sustainable national statistical capacity to produce reliable and timely statistics and indicators measuring a country's progress.

### Role of CAS

Meanwhile, the Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Hind Al-Sabeeh said official data have become cornerstone for planning and decision making in Kuwait, stressing importance of Central Administration for Statistics (CAS) role in planning and development. Al-Sabeeh, also Minister of State for Development and Planning, made her remarks in a press statement Monday on the sidelines of an event where CAS celebrated World Statistics Day, noting that whenever database and official indicators were comprehensive, their impact grows bigger on the decision making process. Celebrating World Statistic Day in Kuwait is part of boosting Kuwait's pioneering role at the statistical action level and to support development at regional and international levels, the Minister said.

The event was also an opportunity to bolster public awareness on the importance of work and efforts exerted by statisticians at CAS in gathering database, support national and international activities, and contribute to the efforts to achieve the developmental goals for 2015. Al-Sabeeh also mentioned that celebrating World Statistics Day aims at confirming the importance of boosting society partnership in achieving duties and responsibilities of sustainable and integrated development. She said that honoring His Highness the Amir's vision required the collection of accurate statistics in order to monitor the development goals post 2015, as well as achieving Kuwait sustainable developmental plan 2030, and Kuwait's strategic vision for 2035. — Agencies



## ABK CONTRIBUTES TO RED CRESCENT

KUWAIT: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) yesterday announced its support for the Kuwait Red Crescent Society as part of an initiative launched by the Bank during Ramadan, whereby ABK donated 50 fils for every ATM withdrawal made using an ABK ATM across Kuwait.

Fawzy Al Thunayan, ABK's General Manager of Board Affairs, presented a cheque to Dr Hilal Al Sayer, Chairman of Kuwait Red Crescent Society, who thanked ABK for the contribution.

The Kuwait Red Crescent Society provides assistance to vulnerable people affected by social conflicts, wars or natural disasters. Each year ABK has a comprehensive Ramadan program, and this is the second year the Bank involves the community by donating through ATM withdrawals



towards the Red Crescent. For more information about Ahli Bank of Kuwait please visit [www.eahli.com](http://www.eahli.com), contact

an ABK representative via 'Ahli Chat' or by contacting a customer service agent via 'Ahlan Ahli' at 1899899.



## BURHANI CENTER FOR BOHRA COMMUNITY HOLDS MUHARRAM CONDOLENCE SESSION

KUWAIT: The Burhani Center for the Bohra community in Kuwait held a Muharram condolence session attended by thousands of Bohras in Kuwait. The representative of the Bohra sultan in Kuwait, Sheikh Saifuddin Jamali, started the session by thanking God and sending prayers and peace to His Prophet (PBUH). He praised

the Prophet (PBUH), members of his family and the late Bohra sultan Mohammed Burhanuddin. The current Bohra Sultan Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin is holding condolence sessions in Houston in the US.

Jamali reminded Bohras to abide by Islamic law, be of good behavior, respect the laws of Kuwait and participate with

their Kuwaiti brothers for the service of Kuwait in all fields. Jamali also presented to HH the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah, MoI Undersecretary Lt Gen Suleiman Al-Fahd, assistant undersecretaries of the MoI, the government and in particular the ministry of interior and security systems greetings of thanks and gratitude for the facilities and assistance they offer for conducting religious rituals marking the anniversary of the martyrdom of Imam Hussein in the month of Muharram.

Jamali asked God to extend the life of Humanitarian Leader HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah and wished him good health and wellness, and continue the blessings of security, safety, prosperity and progress on Kuwait. He also asked God to extend the life of Syedna Mufaddal for the sake of serving Islam, Muslims and the entire mankind.



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

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

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

**Type of Loan Facilities & guidelines:**

### Consumer Loans:

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

### Installments Loans:

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



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Al-Qabas

## FIFA STABS THE HEART OF KUWAIT

By Yousuf Al-Shihab

**F**IFA achieved what it wanted towards Kuwait sports, and decided on what it wished with premeditation to stop Kuwait sports activities for the second time, and with that it stabbed the heart of Kuwait, before targeting Kuwaiti sports and athletes. I expected such a decision, because intentions were clear and indicators do not need any clarification, despite the marathon meetings between the government delegation led by Information Minister and State Minister for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Al-Sabah and his delegation with FIFA officials, who confessed to receiving wrong information and different from those given by the government delegation.

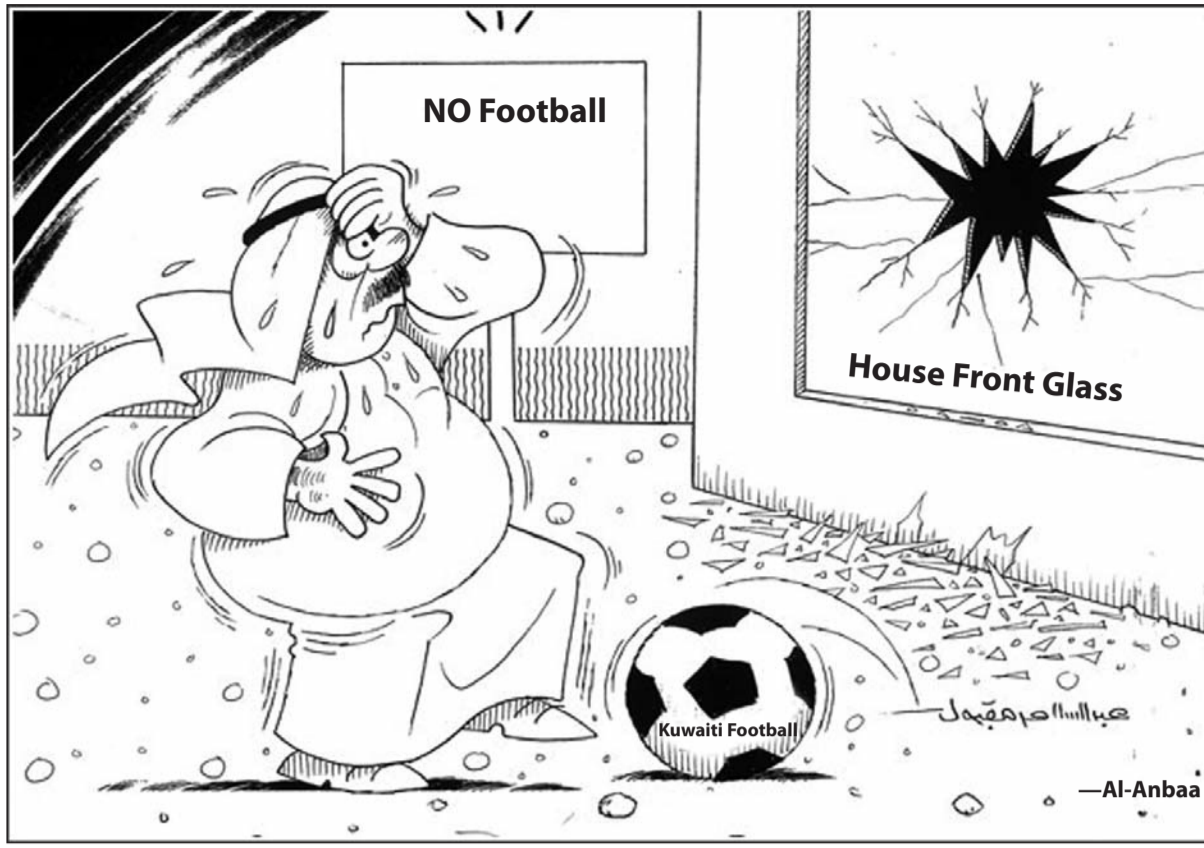
With those confessions, they should have been more realistic and fair in dealing with this case, and not consider the lies they received from those who sought the suspension from inside Kuwait, with regret. What we knew after the meeting of the government delegation with the International Olympic Committee (IOC), is that the delegation asked for the points that alleged government interference, and IOC promised to send them, while at the same time gave two more weeks as a deadline to send the clarifications. The Kuwait delegation rejected the deadline in respect of Kuwait laws and the state's sovereignty, which do not accept any encroachment from FIFA, IOC or others.

All promises of FIFA did not take place, rather they carried out their game and brought in the suspension, as if they do not know, or they know and ignore that there are countries with government interference more than those said the government here is interfering in sports, and this is a lie that came out of Kuwait, and FIFA took it with pleasure to fulfill what was wished by those who wanted the suspension by any means to feel that they got what they wanted, even if that was against Kuwait sport.

The issue, following the suspension decision, no longer requires any complacency with the sports union, following what the sports movement has seen in the form of destruction, deterioration and failure at the regional, continental and international levels. Our sports today need a rescue tube, following where it has reached. It is enough that our reputation abroad is the talk of all satellite stations and various media, and enough pain and heartbreak that hit us (by the deed of more than one person).

We were on top recently, when there were people who were not looking for the chair or budget as much as they were looking for achievements with which they raised Kuwait's name at all events. Congratulations to those who were hoping and longing to stop Kuwait sports activities, and they got what they wanted, but the stumble will not last long, and Kuwait will get its sports back as well as its pioneering role by those who are the people of sports, and not intruders.

—Translated by Kuwait Times



Al-Anbaa

## EGYPT'S MOST CRUCIAL ELECTIONS

By Sami Abdullatif Al-Nisf

**I**n view of unprecedented local and regional challenges, Egypt's parliamentary elections are absolutely the most important and dangerous in its entire history. Coinciding with those elections, a number of endless fatwas were issued by several scholars who prohibited the entire democratic process, deeming it 'haram', because it allows women and non-Muslims to vote in the elections, while others more radically announced that voting was a religious duty as important as prayer and that those who do not vote as just like those who never pray!

With its article 247, the new Egyptian constitution passed by a founding committee presided by ambassador Amr Moussa grants the parliament endless powers including demanding prosecuting and deposing the president upon the approval of two-thirds of its members, annulling or rejecting legislations he passes and depriving him of the right to dissolve the parliament unless through a public referendum, which cannot be done twice for the same reasons.

On the other hand, the new constitution authorizes the president, after consulting his PM, to appoint ministers of defence, interior, foreign affairs and justice because they are considered 'sovereign ministries' usually given to members of the ruling families in GCC states due to their significance as well as to give political leaderships a role to play in their governments' performance.

However, voter turnout is not expected to be as much as previous elections when competition was very fierce amongst various blocs and powers, as the current elections involve independent candidate and blocs. It is also a good thing not to declare the result of overseas ballots first, the way it was did in previous elections, and wait until the ones counted at home come to light, and both added and declared the way all other democracies do.

In view of their long passivity in terms of participating in general elections and in view of the traffic congestions in major Egyptian cities, it might be advisable to adopt online voting in the future to get higher participation.

### Finally, I would like to point out that:

- 1- The current voter turnout does not reflect negative nor positive acceptance of the current political leadership in Egypt.
- 2- This coming Egyptian parliament and the next one due to be elected in 2020 will not have any ruling majority party, and thus will go through the same democracy game Kuwait has been experiencing over the past 50 years, in which the government had no majority within the parliament, grilling motions have been excessively used, a multitude of political crises took place, many cabinets resigned, development has been delayed and, consequently, legislative corruption prevailed and enhanced corruption in other powers.

—Translated by Kuwait Times



Al-Anbaa

## GOOD INTENTIONS, BAD RESULTS

By Saleh Al-Shayegi

**E**fforts exerted for good causes that are driven by good intentions of honest souls who strongly believe in what they do will not necessarily be successful or fruitful. Good intentions are not enough to achieve the desired good. In this regard, I believe that efforts made by some countries, official establishments, some NGOs and even some individuals to bring various religious beliefs closer together and hold inter-faith dialogues, conferences and seminars that cost fortunes are highly appreciated, but they are unfortunately fruitless and in vain. They fail to achieve the purpose of holding them and all funds spent are uselessly wasted, leaving each religion or discipline with its own prejudices unchanged, which is normal, otherwise followers should have followed it in the first place.

If only those good-intentioned people and those who arrange conferences, opened halls for them and held various seminars had used those efforts to bridge the gaps between followers of different faiths, we would have been all leading a more peaceful life dominated by the concept of coexistence between people of various religions and doctrines. We would all act in a brotherly manner and exchange love and

cooperation. We would all help each other in safeguarding common human values. A follower of a certain religion did not create that religion himself. He was rather brought up to it, and thus cannot and is not entitled to amend it to be compatible with other beliefs. For instance, a Christian will not be able to convince a Jew to break the ice between both religions for the good of Christianity simply because he had not set the religion he follows. The same applies for a Muslim with a Christian, because such attempts are doomed to failure for the same reasons. Moreover, it also applies to followers of different doctrines within the same religion.

Accordingly, governments, activists, NGOs and people with good intentions must stop such attempts, because such good-intentioned attempts may revive and enhance differences and disagreements that make people cling stronger to their own beliefs - the ones they think are more genuine and correct. So, to all good people and mediators, leave everybody to their own beliefs and focus on having people of different beliefs peacefully coexist. Bringing people closer and leaving ideas would be much more fruitful.

—Translated by Kuwait Times

## Crime

Report

### GOOD SAMARITAN HAS CAR STOLEN

**KUWAIT:** Two people who pretended that their car broke down stole the car of a good Samaritan who stopped to help them. The citizen was heading back to his flat at dawn when he noticed the two next to a car in Ishbiliya area between blocks 2 and 3. The man stopped to ask if they needed help, they told him their car broke down so he got out of his car to help. Then one of the two pushed him to the ground, they both jumped into his car and drove off. The man called a friend who came and followed him with the other car to the police station. Hawally detectives are working on the case.

### Expat wife robbed by hubby

An expat accused her husband of transferring KD 2,750 from her account to his through the internet according to a complaint she filed at Salmiya police station. The man was charged with forgery in a bank document, and Hawally detectives were asked to arrest him.

### Convict arrested

A deputy prosecutor ordered the arrest of an ex-convict for attacking and beating a policeman at a police station. The policeman sustained a head wound, and his uniform was torn inside Nugra police station. The policeman was on duty at 5am when the culprit entered and all of a sudden began beating the officer. The injured policeman was taken to Mubarak Hospital. The suspect was arrested and is being processed for further legal action.

### Nursery robbed

Thieves broke into a children's nursery in Shuhada and stole computers and damaged other material inside the preschool. The nursery manager filed a complaint at Zahra police station. Hawally detectives are dealing with the case.

### Ethiopian mugged

Three men mugged an Ethiopian woman of KD 100 and a smart phone in Mahboula area, the culprits escaped, and she was not able to get the 4WD vehicle plate number. The victim told Abu Halaifa police that three persons in a 4WD stopped next to her then took the money and phone. Detectives are working on the case.

### Fiancé attempts suicide

A drunk citizen threw himself out of his Iranian fiancée's window, and was rushed to Mubarak Hospital. The Iranian told police about her fiancé's suicide attempt. So police rushed to the site and found him in a pool of blood. Paramedics rushed him to the hospital under heavy guard. The Iranian said the citizen broke into her flat, drunk, then jumped out of the window. He was charged with attempted suicide and drunkenness by Salwa police. —Al-Rai



**KUWAIT:** The Palestinian Ambassador in Kuwait Rami Tahboub yesterday received condolences for the Palestinian martyrs who were killed recently by Israeli troops in the occupied Palestinian territories. —Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



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**Flood misery in Philippines after typhoon kills 22**

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## UN CHIEF URGES CALM AMID PALESTINIAN-ISRAELI VIOLENCE



**MONTREAL:** Canadian Liberal Party leader Justin Trudeau and his wife Sophie wave on stage in Montreal yesterday after winning the general elections. — AFP

# CANADA'S LIBERALS STORM TO LANDSLIDE WIN

## PM TO RESIGN AS TORY LEADER AFTER ELECTION LOSS

**OTTAWA:** Canada's Liberals won a landslide general election victory Monday, with young leader Justin Trudeau ending a decade of Conservative rule with pledges to raise taxes on the rich in a struggling economy.

For many Canadians the vote was a referendum on outgoing premier Stephen Harper's management style, criticized as autocratic, and on who was better placed to put a sputtering economy back on track. Besides raising taxes on the richest Canadians, Trudeau, the youthful and good-looking son of the late and beloved ex-premier Pierre Trudeau, has said he will lower them for the middle class.

Canada's economy contracted in the first half of this year. The country is the world's fifth largest oil producer and has suffered dearly from a big drop in prices for crude.

Trudeau has also pledged to take in thousands of refugees from Syria and battle climate change.

The 43-year-old who ran a combative campaign and offered up what he called a "new vision" for the nation would be able to form a majority government with 184 of the 338 seats in the House of Commons, according to still

incomplete figures from Elections Canada.

Turnout was 68 percent, compared to 61 percent in the last election four years ago.

Public opinion had swung wildly during the hard-fought campaign, which at 11 weeks was one of the longest in Canada's history. The Liberals came from behind late in the campaign, with Trudeau promising "not just a change in government, but a better government." "Tonight Canada is becoming the country it was before," Trudeau said in his victory address.

"Canadians from across this great country sent a clear message tonight-it's time for a change in this country, a real change," he said. Trudeau was elected Liberal leader only two years ago, after two past leaders failed to unseat Harper in 2008 and 2011 and subsequently resigned. He appears to have made good on his hope to recreate the "Trudeaumania" that swept his charismatic father into office in 1968. Harper, who took power in 2006, had been seeking a fourth term in office. But Trudeau tapped into a strong desire for change in administration, and took

advantage of an all-time low in Harper's popularity. Indeed, "there was a kind of mini Trudeaumania" surrounding the campaign, said Claude Denis, a politics professor at the University of Ottawa.

### Marijuana and face veils

The long campaign gave voters unprecedented exposure to party leaders and their ideas in five debates and almost daily stump speeches. Besides campaigning on a pledge to raise taxes on the richest and lower rates for middle-income Canadians, Trudeau said he would spend billions on infrastructure to give the struggling economy a boost. He also pledged to legalize marijuana.

Along the way was debate on how Canada should handle a record influx of people fleeing the war in Syria, a court ruling quashing a ban on the niqab veil worn by some Muslim women, and economic recession. The left-leaning New Democratic Party, led by Thomas Mulcair, had hoped to build on its second-place finish in the last ballot in 2011, and govern for the first time.

But the party stumbled in recent weeks. It lost key support in Quebec province over its opposition to the popular ban on the niqab. It looked to finish in third place.

"This election has been about change and tonight Canadians have turned the page on 10 long years (of Harper rule)," Mulcair said in his concession speech. At times, the battle descended into personal attacks, with Tory ads suggesting that Trudeau was "just not ready" to be prime minister. But arguably, the long contest gave him time to sharpen his campaign skills, and give Canadians a chance to get to know him better. His colorful past includes work as a snowboard instructor, a bartender and a bouncer. By the end of the campaign, Trudeau had even lost his voice. On voting day, a cold snap hit parts of the country and attention on the Toronto Blue Jays' first baseball playoff run in 22 years risked resulting in a low voter turnout. But Canadians turned out in force after record low turnout in the past two elections. Harper said in a concession speech, as his party announced his plans to step down as Tory leader, that "the outcome is not the one we hoped for." But, he added, "We gave everything we had to give and we have no regrets." — AFP

## CAMBODIAN ON TRIAL FOR INFECTING 200 WITH HIV

**PHNOM PENH:** An unlicensed medical practitioner who infected more than 200 villagers in northwestern Cambodia with HIV by reusing unclean needles went on trial yesterday, facing three charges including murder, his lawyer said.

Yem Chhrin faces up to life in prison if found guilty of murder, intentionally spreading HIV - the virus that causes AIDS - and practicing medicine without a license, his lawyer, Em Sovann, said by telephone from Battambang town, where a provincial court is holding the five-day trial.

Yem Chhrin was arrested last December and taken into protective custody, fearing revenge lynching by residents of Roka village, where at least 206 of the 800 people tested were found to be infected with HIV, or human immunodeficiency virus. Local newspapers have put the number at 300.

The infected range in age from 3 to 82, and include Buddhist monks. At least 10 victims are reported to have died. Cambodia, one of the poorest countries in the world, has inadequate health care facilities, especially in rural areas, where villagers often have no recourse but to rely on unlicensed medical practitioners who have trained themselves to treat minor ailments and to give injections.

Yem Chhrin, 53, was one such practitioner. "I was shocked when I learned I was infected. ... I am sure the HIV virus I had was from Yem Chhrin's treatment," Leurn Lum, one of the 120 villagers who filed the police complaint, said by telephone. "I am a good husband, as I have never had sex with other women in my life."

Leurn Lum, 51, said he had never sought treatment from anyone other than Yem Chhrin. He found out he had HIV in late 2014, and his wife had also tested positive. He said he wants to see Yem Chhrin punished.

### Good reputation

Some villagers said Yem Chhrin had a good reputation for his years of dedicated service to the village by providing treatment even though he lacked formal training or certification. "Whether it was day or night, whether the patient had money to pay for the treatment or not, Yem Chhrin treated them regardless. I think he was a good neighbor," said Chay Savorn, a 60-year-old woman who received treatment from him and was later found to be HIV positive.

She said she decided not to join the police complaint even though four other people in

her family have been infected with HIV - her daughter, her mother, a 3-year-old granddaughter and a 57-year-old sibling.

Em Sovann, the lawyer, said his client has acknowledged reusing syringes for treatment of patients. But he "has repeatedly said before the police and court officials during pre-trial detention that he had no intention to transmit the deadly virus to any of his patients," Em Sovann said.

He said he will try to get two of the charges - murder and intentionally spreading HIV - dropped by the court. Yem Chhrin's wife, Nhoum Chenda, said her husband never believed that the villagers were infected because of his actions.

"The HIV virus transmitted to those villagers must be from ... something else that we don't know about right now," she said by phone. She added that since her husband's arrest, she also had to flee to another province, fearing that angry villagers would kill her.

Cambodia had a high HIV prevalence rate of 2.0 percent in 1998, but an aggressive campaign to promote safe sex brought the figure down to an estimated 0.7 percent last year, according to the UN agency that spearheads the worldwide fight against AIDS. — AP



**BATTAMBANG:** Yem Chhrin, 55, is escorted by Cambodian police officials at a court in Battambang province yesterday. An unlicensed Cambodian doctor who allegedly infected more than 200 people with HIV, including some who later died, went on trial for murder yesterday. — AFP

## POLICE ARREST KURDISH LAWYER ON CHARGES OF TERRORIST PROPAGANDA

**DIYARBAKIR:** Police arrested a senior Kurdish lawyer in southeast Turkey before dawn yesterday on a charge of terrorist propaganda after he said the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) was not a terrorist group.

Supporters, including lawyers and local politicians, gathered at Tahir Elci's office in the region's largest city Diyarbakir, chanting "pressure will not intimidate us", before he was flown to Istanbul.

Elci, head of Diyarbakir province's bar

association, made his assertion on CNN Turk TV last week, at a time when fighting is raging between PKK militants and government security forces, and tensions are mounting before Nov. 1 elections.

"Even if some of the PKK's acts have a terrorist character, the PKK is an armed political movement," he said during a discussion programme. "It is a political movement with political demands and with very strong support in society."

The PKK, deemed a terrorist organisation by Turkey, the United States and the

EU, has been fighting an insurgency since 1984, demanding greater Kurdish autonomy in the mainly Kurdish southeast. The conflict has killed about 40,000 people.

The state launched a peace process with the group's jailed leader in 2012 but a ceasefire collapsed in July and hundreds have died in the subsequent conflict. Accompanied by his supporters, Elci waited in his office on Monday night for the police to arrive and execute the arrest warrant issued by an Istanbul court - a decision which had been leaked by

Turkish media during the evening.

"If a bar chairman ... is subject to a criminal investigation and arrest because of what he said, it illustrates clearly what state democracy and freedom of expression has reached in this country," he told reporters in his office.

Elci said he had been waiting all day in his office, within the Diyarbakir court house, for an invitation to go and make a statement in court. Police from Turkey's anti-terror force took him away at around 2:20 am (2320 GMT), said witnesses. He

was due to be questioned in a courthouse in Istanbul's Bakirkoy district, the state-run Anadolu news agency said.

The agency said the charge was "making propaganda for a terrorist organisation".

The Union of Turkish Bar Associations said it could not agree with a declaration that the PKK is not a terrorist group but said the warrant was "unlawful", saying such a step should only be taken if a suspect refuses to go and make a statement. — Reuters



**RAMALLAH:** Palestinian protesters clash with Israeli security forces in the West Bank town of Al-Bireh, on the northern outskirts of Ramallah, yesterday. UN chief Ban Ki-moon warned of a "dangerous escalation" and urged Israelis and Palestinians to move quickly to calm nearly three weeks of unrest during a visit to Jerusalem. — AFP

## UN CHIEF URGES CALM AMID PALESTINIAN-ISRAELI VIOLENCE

### PALESTINIAN SHOT DEAD AFTER STABBING MILITARY OFFICER

**JERUSALEM:** UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called for calm during a surprise visit to Jerusalem yesterday ahead of meetings with Israeli and Palestinian leaders, in a high-profile gambit to bring an end to a monthlong wave of violence.

The visit comes amid unrest that erupted a month ago over tensions surrounding a Jerusalem holy site sacred to Jews and Muslims. It soon spread to Arab neighborhoods of east Jerusalem and then to the West Bank, Gaza and Israel. A spate of Palestinian attacks, most of which have involved stabbings, has caused panic across Israel and raised fears that the region is on the cusp of a new round of bloodshed.

The violence continued in the West Bank yesterday. A Palestinian attacker rammed his car into a group of Israelis waiting at a bus stop at a junction on the outskirts of Jerusalem in the West Bank, the Israeli military said. He then attempted to stab bystanders. A civilian and a soldier were injured in the attack before the attacker was shot and killed, it said.

Earlier, a 24-year-old Palestinian was shot dead by Israeli forces after he stabbed an Israeli military officer and lightly wounded him, the Israeli military and Palestinian health officials said. The military said it happened during a "violent riot" of Palestinian demonstrators.

In a separate incident in the West Bank, an Israeli man was killed after being run over during a clash with Palestinians. The man exited his car after Palestinian demonstrators threw stones at it and he began to hit passing Palestinian cars with a large stick, according to an Associated Press photographer who witnessed the incident. The man hit a passing truck with the stick, and the truck ran the man over. The Israeli military confirmed his death.

The truck driver turned himself in, saying he hit the Israeli by accident while trying to swerve out of the way,

according to a Palestinian security official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the media.

Ban arrived from Europe yesterday afternoon and is set to meet with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in the West Bank and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. He called for calm during a press conference with Israeli President Reuven Rivlin and said "no society should live in fear."

#### Dangerous escalation

"My visit reflects the sense of global alarm at the dangerous escalation in violence between Israelis and Palestinians," he said. "I am here to encourage and support all efforts to lower tensions and prevent the situation from spinning out of control."

Ban added, "It's not too late to avoid a broader crisis." Prior to the visit, Ban issued a video message late Monday calling for calm on both sides. He said he understood the Palestinians' frustrations, but that violence would only harm their legitimate aspirations.

"I know your hopes for peace have been dashed countless times. You are angry at the continued occupation and expansion of settlements," he said. "I am not asking you to be passive, but you must put down the weapons of despair."

Addressing Israelis, he said he understood their fears due to the security deterioration, but said there was no military solution. "When children are afraid to go to school, when anyone on the street is a potential victim, security is rightly your immediate priority," he said. "But walls, checkpoints, harsh responses by the security forces and house demolitions cannot sustain the peace and safety that you need and must have."

Over the past month, 10 Israelis have been killed in Palestinian attacks, most of them stabbings. In that time, 43 Palestinians were killed by Israeli fire, including 21

labeled by Israel as attackers, and the rest in clashes with Israeli troops. An Eritrean migrant died after being shot by a security guard and beaten by a mob that mistakenly believed he was a Palestinian attacker.

The initial outbreak of violence was fueled by rumors that Israel was plotting to take over Jerusalem's most sensitive holy site, a hilltop compound revered by Jews as the Temple Mount and home to the Al-Aqsa Mosque, Islam's third-holiest shrine and a key national symbol for the Palestinians.

#### Hamas official arrested

Israel has adamantly denied the allegations, saying it has no plans to change the status quo at the site, where Jews are allowed to visit but not pray. Israel has accused Palestinian leaders of incitement to violence over the site. But Jewish visits to the site have doubled since 2010 and senior members of Netanyahu's government have called for Jewish prayer rights, fueling Palestinian concerns about the site.

Israel has struggled to contain the attacks. Authorities have blocked roads and placed checkpoints at the entrances of Palestinian neighborhoods in east Jerusalem. Other security measures include ID checks and requiring some Palestinian residents to lift their shirts and roll up pant legs as they exit their neighborhoods to prove they are not carrying knives. Soldiers have been deployed in Jerusalem and cities across Israel.

Yesterday, the Israeli military arrested top Hamas official Hassan Yousef in the West Bank, saying he had been "actively instigating and inciting terrorism" by encouraging attacks against Israelis.

"Hamas' leaders cannot expect to propagate violence and terror from the comfort of their living rooms and pulpits of their mosques," said Lt. Col. Peter Lerner, a military spokesman. — AP

## TENS OF THOUSANDS FLEE NEW SYRIA OFFENSIVES

**BEIRUT:** Tens of thousands have fled new regime offensives in Syria, the UN warned yesterday, as Russian air strikes were reported to have so far killed 370 people, many of them civilians.

The mass exodus was focused south of Syria's second city Aleppo, one of five areas where regime troops have launched renewed attacks since Russia began its air war on September 30. "Around 35,000 people are reported to have been displaced from... the southwestern outskirts of Aleppo city, following government offensives over the last few days," said Vanessa Huguenin, spokeswoman for the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). She said many of the displaced were living with host families and in informal settlements in the west of the province. "People urgently need food and basic household and shelter items," she said.

"Aid agencies are growing more and more concerned for families living outdoors as the weather is getting colder, especially overnight." Syria's conflict has left more than 250,000 dead and forced millions from their homes since March 2011, sparking a mass migration of refugees that has left Europe struggling to cope.

Russia has carried out more than 500 air raids in support of President Bashar al-Assad's forces and a monitoring group yesterday gave the first estimate for the total number of dead in the strikes.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said at least 370 people had been killed, including more than 120 civilians. Among them were 45 rebels and civilians killed on Monday in a series of Russian strikes in the north of government stronghold Latakia province, it said.

Dozens were also wounded in Monday's raids, some of the deadliest yet in the Russian campaign, and a rebel commander from a moderate opposition group was among the dead, it said.

The Observatory also said tens of thousands were fleeing the new offensives, estimating that up to 100,000 had been forced from their homes in Hama, Aleppo and Latakia provinces.

#### Regime targets key highway

Aleppo, once Syria's economic hub, has been a key focus of the fighting. The city has been

ravaged by war and divided between government forces in the west and rebels in the east since shortly after fighting there began in mid-2012.

The situation is largely reversed in the surrounding countryside and the frontlines have been static for months. But last Friday, government forces began a new offensive south of the city, attacking areas near the strategic Aleppo-Damascus highway.

The Observatory said yesterday that regime forces had seized five villages in the area since the offensive began. But Syria's Al-Watan daily, which is close to the regime, said the army had taken 16 villages and an area totalling some 100 square kilometres (40 square miles).

It said the operation would "cut militant reinforcement routes between south Aleppo province and east Idlib province and take the international highway from Aleppo to Hama." The highway that runs from Aleppo to Damascus via Hama and Homs provinces appears to be the main target of several of the government offensives launched in recent weeks.

In Hama, much of the fighting has centred on an area close to the road, and in Homs, the government has been fighting to take villages along the highway just north of the provincial capital.

There has also been heavy fighting for the Sahl al-Ghab region between Hama, Idlib and Latakia provinces, with government troops seeking to prevent rebels who control Idlib province from being able to attack Latakia.

Russia insists its air campaign is intended to target the Islamic State group and others it describes as "terrorists". But rebels and their backers accuse Moscow of seeking to prop up Assad, a longtime ally, and accuse Russia of striking moderate and Islamist opposition forces rather than just jihadists.

The Observatory said yesterday that some 243 opposition forces had been killed in Russian air strikes since September 30, including 52 from IS. At least 127 civilians have been killed in the strikes, including 36 children and 34 women, it said.

Another 25 fighters from the pro-government National Defence Forces militia were killed in clashes in Jabal Al-Akrad and Sahl al-Ghab on Monday, the monitor said. — AFP



**MAALOULA:** In this photo taken on Sunday, children talk as they sit in the village of Maaloula, north of Damascus, Syria. Syrian government forces retook the ancient Christian town of Maaloula in early 2014 after it was overrun by Syrian rebels and al-Qaeda-linked militants. — AP

## TOP US MILITARY OFFICER ARRIVES FOR TALKS IN IRAQ

**IRBIL:** The top US military officer landed in Iraq yesterday to get an update on the battle against Islamic State militants, saying he sees no prospect right now for Russia to expand its airstrike campaign into the war-torn country.

Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, was making his first trip to the warzone since taking the top post on Oct. 1. He told reporters traveling with him that earlier reports that Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi wanted Russia to conduct airstrikes in Iraq are no longer in play. He said US officials spoke with Iraqi leaders and were told no Russian strikes have been requested.

Dunford said he wants to talk with his commanders to get updates on battles in Beiji and Ramadi. "Being in the job about two weeks, one of the things I want to do is go over here, get eyes on, on the ground," Dunford said as his C-17 headed into Irbil. Dunford's flight into Iraq was suddenly delayed when Iraqis on the ground in Baghdad refused to allow his C-17 aircraft to land in Irbil. Just before 9:30 a.m., local time, as Dunford's plane was nearing Baghdad en route to Irbil, the crew was directed to fly instead to Baghdad.

The change set off a flurry of activity on the plane, as military staff quickly yanked phones and cords out of con-



**IRBIL:** In this photo provided by the Pentagon, US Ambassador to Iraq, Stuart E. Jones and US Army Lt. Gen. Sean McFarland, left, greet Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Joseph Dunford Jr. upon his arrival at Irbil, Iraq, yesterday. Dunford landed in Iraq yesterday to get an update on the battle against Islamic State militants, saying he sees no prospect right now for Russia to expand its airstrike campaign into the war-torn country. — AP

tainers to make urgent phone calls to officials on the ground, to fix the confusion. After about a half-hour, the aircraft got permission to land in Irbil.

It was unclear what triggered the mix-up, but officials said the plane's flight had been pre-approved by Iraqi leaders.

This also is Dunford's first overseas trip since he took the chairman's job,

signaling the high priority he and the Pentagon leadership place on finding the right formula to use local forces backed by coalition airstrikes to defeat the Islamic State extremists and retake territory the militants control in Iraq and Syria. He was scheduled to meet with the head of Iraq's Kurdish regional government, President Massoud Barzani and other government leaders.

Iraqi officials have broad concerns about any effort to provide equipment or weapons directly to the Kurds.

#### IS threat

Dunford's stop in Iraq comes after three days of meetings with senior military and government leaders in Israel and Jordan, two key US allies in the region. In both countries, Dunford heard officials' concerns about the Islamic State threat and the roiling instability in the region. Dunford is also likely to talk to Iraqis about the volatile situation in Beiji. Late last week Iraqi troops backed by Shiite militia fighters drove IS militants out of the Beiji oil refinery, which has been contested for months.

Islamic State militants still hold the town of Beiji, which is about 155 miles (250 kilometers) north of Baghdad and is strategically located on the road to Mosul, the country's second largest city.

Mosul and Ramadi, the capitol of Iraq's western province of Anbar, are both under IS control, and efforts to retake them have been problematic. Earlier this month, however, US officials said Iraqi ground forces have advanced to the outer suburbs of Ramadi and that conditions may be right to launch an assault to take back the city. — AP

## SAUDI ACTIVISTS SENTENCED TO DECADE-LONG PRISON TERMS

**RIYADH:** A terrorism tribunal in Saudi Arabia, which was elected to the UN Human Rights Council in 2013, has sentenced two political activists to decade-long prison terms for establishing a rights organisation, Amnesty International said on Monday.

Abdulkareem al-Khoder, one of 11 founding members of the Saudi Civil and Political Rights Association (ACPRA), was sentenced to 10 years in prison under a year-old counter-terrorism law, London-based Amnesty said. On Wednesday, another ACPRA member, Abdulrahman al-Hamid, was given nine years in prison followed by a nine-year travel ban, it said. His brother Issa al-Hamid was due to be sentenced the same week, but the court session was postponed to November. The sentences dealt a further blow to civil rights activism in Saudi Arabia that has been targeted by a sweeping security crackdown since the Arab Spring uprisings of 2011.

All 11 of ACPRA's founding members are either jailed or awaiting trial. "The outrageous convictions of ACPRA members for their human rights activism, coming on top of Saudi Arabia's already appalling human rights record, makes a further mockery of its obligations as a member of the UN Human Rights Council," said James Lynch, Middle East

director at Amnesty. A Saudi judiciary spokesman was not immediately available for comment. The Interior Ministry has previously said ACPRA's involvement in a string of protests against what it called extrajudicial imprisonment of suspected militants had led to attacks in the kingdom.

Al-Khoder, a former professor of Islamic jurisprudence, was previously sentenced to eight years in prison in 2013 by a criminal court for offences including "disobeying the ruler" and "taking part in founding an unlicensed organization". His conviction comes amid a flurry of activity by the Saudi Specialized Criminal Court (SCC), a tribunal established in 2008 to try terrorism cases, but often used for political offences.

The SCC recently reopened its case against ACPRA's youngest member, Omar al-Sa'idi, who likewise was sentenced in 2013 to four years imprisonment and 200 lashes. Last Tuesday, the court sentenced another activist, Abdulaziz Abdulatif Alsonaidi, to eight years in prison and a travel ban, according to the Canada-based Monitor of Human Rights in Saudi Arabia. Alsonaidi was charged with signing an ACPRA petition and writing tweets critical of the king, the group said in a statement. — Reuters



# Ruby Tuesday

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**Seafood Sampler**



**Ceasar Salmon Salad**



**Rib Eye Teriyaki & Shrimps**



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## INDONESIA'S WIDODO MARKS DISAPPOINTING FIRST YEAR IN POWER

**JAKARTA:** Indonesian President Joko Widodo took office last year on hopes that an outsider and "man of the people" would swiftly usher in a new era of cleaner, more effective governance. Twelve months on, critics say those hopes have come to naught. Widodo, known by his nickname "Jokowi", swept to power on a wave of popular support for his hands-on approach and his image as a corruption-free, fresh face in a country long dominated by oligarchs from the era of dictator Suharto. The former Jakarta governor, who would campaign in the slums wearing casual clothes, was elected after a bruising battle against a controversial ex-general with a chequered human rights record, becoming the country's first leader from outside the political and military elite.

But running the world's fourth most-populous country has proved even more difficult. Widodo's plans to kick-start the economy have made little progress, he has been criti-

cised for backsliding in the fight against corruption in one of the world's most graft-ridden nations, and his image abroad has been tarnished by the execution of foreign drug convicts.

"It has been a rocky first year for Joko Widodo," said Professor Jeffrey Winters, an Indonesia expert from Northwestern University in the United States. "The Indonesian people are tired of business as usual and they voted for Jokowi to bring change-but there hasn't been much change."

### Languishing economy

The president took office on October 20, 2014 and got off to a good start by cutting fuel price subsidies that ate up a huge chunk of the government's budget, freeing up billions of dollars to invest in boosting the slowing economy.

But red tape and a lack of organisation hampered efforts to launch vital infrastructure

projects, and Widodo's attempts to attract investors were undercut by protectionist policies unilaterally announced by ministers, such as the abrupt cancellation of thousands of import licences. A year on, economic growth is languishing at a six-year low and the rupiah has fallen heavily.

While global market turmoil has played a major role, Widodo has also faced criticism for not doing enough to fix the economy-his main focus. In a recent BBC interview, he defended his record, saying that reforming the economy was a "long process", adding: "It takes time to manage a country as big as Indonesia."

For many Indonesians, an even bigger disappointment has been what they see as Widodo's failure to step up the fight against graft, in a country where facing demands for kickbacks is just part of everyday life for many. In particular, the president faced criticism over his nomination of a controversial figure as the

new national police chief-a move observers believe was aimed at keeping the powerful head of his party and political patron, Megawati Sukarnoputri, on side.

### 'Determined dolphin'

The nomination triggered a row between the notoriously corrupt police and the popular anti-graft agency, which accused the nominee of bribery. Widodo withdrew the candidate, but only after dithering, by which point the anti-corruption body had been severely weakened by attacks from the police. His popularity has been sliding ever since. A survey by pollster Indo Barometer this month showed public satisfaction with Widodo at 46 percent in September, down from 57 percent in March.

For allies overseas who had welcomed a fresh face in the presidency, there was disbelief at Widodo's drive to put foreign drug convicts to death in the name of fighting a national narcotics "emergency" that experts

said was based on flawed evidence.

The execution by firing squad in April of two Australians, a Brazilian and four Nigerians for drugs offences sparked international outrage, and ally Australia took the unprecedented step of withdrawing its ambassador from Jakarta in protest.

Despite all his problems, some analysts nevertheless see signs he is finding his feet-he was praised for an August cabinet reshuffle that replaced key economic ministers, and a recent series of stimulus measures. "He's still very weak, but he is progressing," said Achmad Sukarsono, an Indonesia analyst from risk consultancy Eurasia Group. Northwestern University's Winters said the president can still keep support by playing to his down-to-earth image.

"The Indonesian people will cut him slack if he can maintain the image that he is a determined dolphin swimming in a pool of menacing sharks," he said. — AFP



**GEVVELIJA:** People sit on the ground as they wait with other migrants and refugees to enter a registration camp after crossing the Greece-Macedonia border near Gevgelija yesterday. A surge of 10,000 migrants crossed from Macedonia into Serbia overnight on October 18 to 19 and headed for the Croatian border, where 3,000 had gathered by October 19 morning, said Mirjana Ivanovic Milenkovski with the UN refugee agency in Serbia. — AFP

## EU, TURKEY REMAIN DIVIDED, DESPITE MIGRANT CHALLENGE

### ERDOGAN ACCUSES EU OF BEING 'NOT SINCERE'

**BRUSSELS:** Never waste a crisis, the political adage goes. The European Union and Turkey may be doing so right now, failing to build a closer partnership while facing a common challenge in the Syrian refugee crisis.

Instead of bringing the two sides together, the past few weeks have mainly highlighted why the relationship has been troubled for decades. Even if the EU persuades Turkey to keep refugees from spilling into Europe - in exchange for money and political sweeteners - the deep-seated causes of the antagonism will remain.

In recent days, Cyprus has thrown water on rekindled hopes for speeding up Turkey's EU membership bid, and France and Holland stressed the need for stringent conditions before visa-free travel for Turks becomes a reality. An angered Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan responded by accusing the EU of being "not sincere" about bringing Turkey into the European fold. Meanwhile, the two sides are bickering over how much money Turkey should get for helping to keep migrants out of Europe.

The EU sees Turkey as a sieve letting through too many Syrian refugees, while Ankara says Europe is not doing its part in helping Turkey deal with the crisis - and has always shown disdain for Turkey's attempts to get closer to wealthy bloc.

The solution under review: more financial aid for Turkey to keep migrants within its borders; acceleration of EU membership talks; and concessions on lib-

eralized visa requirements. All of that would give President Recep Tayyip Erdogan a boost ahead of the Nov. 1 elections.

### Harsh words

The outcome so far: angry words, hurt feelings and accusations of political extortion. On Monday, on the heels of a visit from Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany - where World War II references still touch a nerve - Turkey's Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu said "no one should expect Turkey to turn into a concentration camp where all of the refugees are kept."

The harsh words are an indication the size of the challenges ahead. "This is going to be very, very difficult to bridge in practice," said Ian Lesser of the German Marshall Fund think tank. "Yes, there is a lack of trust. But there is also a gap on policies."

And tensions had already been driving both sides asunder over the past months and even years, with the EU ever more critical of Erdogan, increasingly viewed as a repressive autocrat. Even as relations soured, Erdogan has been able to bolster Turkey's national pride, economic clout and strategic importance. The country no longer has much reason to be subservient to a troubled economic power like the EU.

A glance at a map of the region drives home Turkey's vital strategic importance as a bridge to Asia, and the volatile Middle East - making it a key EU partner by force of geography alone. The conundrum is that Europe knows that it needs Turkey, but can't

seem to find a way to make the relationship work, especially with an increasingly assertive Erdogan.

### Key diplomatic broker

Three decades ago, when Turkey first made its EU membership request, the situation was starkly different. Turkey was economically weak, and the main thing it was known for bringing to the EU was "gastarbeiter" - guest workers doing the menial jobs that fueled industry in Germany and other western European nations.

The membership request was mostly met with derision then. Things started to change as Turkey, under Erdogan, became one of the world's hottest emerging economies and a key diplomatic broker with the Middle East. But even today, the thought of a mainly-Muslim nation of 78 million joining a mostly Christian club of over 500 million is met with great resistance in Europe - especially due to the hostility spawned by Islamic extremism.

"Unfortunately," said Lesser, "for political reasons we can understand, (Islam) has become part of the debate." Since Turkey was accepted as a candidate for membership a decade ago, accession talks have moved at snail's pace, overshadowed by the 1974 Turkish invasion of Cyprus after a Greek junta-backed coup aiming to unite the island with Greece. The Greek part of Cyprus is an EU member now. As recently as Monday, Cyprus insisted that Turkey should not harbor too many hopes for membership. — AP

## OUATTARA SEEKS RE-ELECTION IN TEST OF COUNTRY'S STABILITY

**ABIDJAN:** Five years after winning office in a vote marred by violence, Ivory Coast President Alassane Ouattara looks set to win a new mandate Sunday in an election seen as critical to sealing the peace.

Ouattara's election campaign has focused on his efforts to revive the economy of the world's top cocoa producer, ravaged by months of post-election violence in 2010-2011 in which some 3,000 people died. But voter apathy and opposition criticism of the country's electoral commission threaten to undermine the credibility of the October 25 vote.

Photos circulating on social media this week show staff soundly sleeping in offices where Ivory Coast's 6.3 million voters can pick up their election ID cards, highlighting a lack of public interest in the ballot.

Just days before the vote, the national electoral commission (CEI) decided to extend distribution of the cards until Wednesday, October 21. The move came after two presidential candidates pulled out of the race, denouncing it as "a masquerade".

Ouattara's 2010 election was the last but deadliest chapter in a conflict that had divided the country into a rebel-held north and a loyalist south for almost a decade.

Then president Laurent Gbagbo refused to concede defeat to the former deputy head of the IMF, triggering the bloodshed. He is now in a Dutch jail, awaiting his November war crimes trial by the International Criminal Court in The Hague.

### Ouattara needs 'strong vote'

It was hoped this week's vote would turn the page on the past and help Ivory Coast become the stable West African powerhouse it once was.

Ouattara, a tall 73-year-old economist married to a Frenchwoman, is hoping for a clear first-round victory. "In the next five years we will strengthen our institutions to consolidate peace and harmony," he pledged on the campaign trail.

He heads a coalition including his own Rally of Republicans (RDR) party and the Democratic

Party of Ivory Coast (PDCI) set up by the country's founding father Felix Houphouet-Boigny.

Ouattara needs "a strong vote," said his biographer Cisse Ibrahim Baongo. "That is how he will win unquestionable legitimacy." But his camp is worried. "Our enemy is abstention," said Alphonse Soro, a parliamentarian who heads the RDR youth movement. "The problem is how to convince people to come out and vote."

### Gbagbo's ghost

As criticism of the election commission mounts, former foreign affairs minister Amara Essy suspended his candidacy "to avoid becoming an accomplice in an electoral masquerade".

"If we don't take care we'll head into a post-election crisis that will be one post-election crisis too many," he warned.

Three days later he was followed by another eminent contender for the top job, ex-parliament speaker Mamadou Koulibaly. Other Ivorian political VIPs, former premier Charles Konan Banny, MPs Konan Kouadio and Kacou Gnanango, as well as businessman Simeon Konan Kouadio, have suggested they too could boycott the vote.

Only four of the eight contenders still in the race have so far signed "a code of good conduct for a peaceful election" drafted by the electoral commission. Some in the opposition want the commission dissolved on the grounds it favours Ouattara.

Ouattara's main challenger is seen as being Pascal Affi N'Guessan, a former prime minister under Gbagbo and leader of the Ivorian Popular Front.

Founded by the ex-president the party is now split between those backing N'Guessan's run for president and die-hard Gbagbo loyalists, who are boycotting the vote. Some 34,000 troops, including 6,000 UN peacekeepers, will be deployed during the election. To ward off fears of electoral fraud, polling stations will send vote counts electronically to the electoral commission in Abidjan and voters will be identified biometrically. — AFP



**ABIDJAN:** A supporter of the Democracy and Peace party (RHDP) headed by the incumbent Ivorian President Alassane Ouattara, wearing the Ivory Coast colours, passes by the popular Koumassi district in Abidjan on October 17, to rally supporters for the upcoming 2015 presidential elections. — AFP

## US STUDENT ARRESTED IN ATTACK ON MUSLIM WOMAN

**BLOOMINGTON:** A 19-year-old Indiana University student accused in a racially motivated attack on a Muslim woman says he had been drinking alcohol and had not taken his anti-anxiety medication prior to the incident.

Court records show Triceten D. Bickford faces multiple felony charges including intimidation, strangulation and battery in the Saturday evening attack in a cafe in Bloomington, Indiana. He was released on \$500 bond and returned to class Monday.

A city police report says officers responded to reports of an assault at a cafe around 7:30 p.m. Saturday. The report says a 47-year-old woman was sitting at a table with her 9-year-old daughter when a man shouted epithets and racially charged threats at the woman, including "white power" and "kill them all."

According to the report, the man then grabbed the woman by the neck and forced her head toward the table, restricting her breathing while trying to take off her headscarf. The report says her husband and passers-by were able to pull the man off and restrained him on the sidewalk until police arrived.

The man spit in the faces of the husband and passers-by, threatened to kill them and arriving officers, tried to kick out the windows of a patrol car and bit an officer on the calf after arriving at the Monroe County Jail, according to the report.



**Triceten D. Bickford**

Federal authorities could also bring hate crime charges against Bickford. Wendy Osborne, a spokeswoman for the FBI in Indianapolis, told TV station WXIN that the agency is considering whether to open a civil rights case. Bickford told WTHR-TV in Indianapolis he has no memory of the incident and that a combination of drinking alcohol and not taking anti-anxiety medication caused him to snap. He said he is not a hateful person.

"I am so sorry to that woman," Bickford told the TV station. "I have no idea who she is, but words can't explain how much that... I've never hurt someone like that before." — AP

## 3 JOURNALISTS ATTACKED AT GERMAN ANTI-ISLAM RALLY

**BERLIN:** The German Federation of Journalists union called on authorities yesterday to prosecute those responsible for attacks on reporters at an anti-Islam rally in the eastern city of Dresden.

At least three journalists were assaulted by people taking part in the rally organized by the group calling itself Patriotic Europeans against the Islamization of the West, or PEGIDA.

Participants at Monday's rally, which marked the group's first anniversary, chanted slogans denouncing immigrants, the government and journalists, including "Lying press, smash their faces!" Hendrik Zoerner, a spokesman for the German Federation of Journalists, said the union had observed a growing willingness among PEGIDA protesters to attack journalists over the past year, and a reluctance of bystanders to step in. "Sadly, the authorities aren't doing enough either," Zoerner said. "We've repeatedly noted that police aren't acting against those who attack journalists." He cited similar violent incidents at two previous PEGIDA rallies in the past month.

German broadcaster Deutsche Welle said one of its reporters, Jaafar Abdul Karim, was hit in the neck by protesters as he and two colleagues were trying to conduct interviews. The Berlin-based news agency Ruptly said one of its cameramen was attacked by neo-Nazis, who also broke his camera. Dresden police spokesman Thomas Geithner said a photographer also reported being attacked by four PEGIDA protesters and having his camera stolen.

Prosecutors said they were still waiting for police reports on the attacks, which also included clashes between PEGIDA protesters and counter-demonstrators. A spokesman for the Dresden prosecutors, Lorenz

Haase, said a criminal complaint alleging incitement had been received about remarks made by PEGIDA speaker and author Akif Pirincci suggesting that refugees should be put in concentration camps. — AP



**DRESDEN:** Supporters of the PEGIDA movement, "Patriotische Europaeer gegen die Islamisierung des Abendlandes," which translates to "Patriotic Europeans Against the Islamisation of the Occident" gather at a protest rally yesterday in Dresden, eastern Germany. — AFP

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 Minerva Technologies JLT - UAE

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 Technologies - Al Futtaim  
 Group - Qatar**

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**IT Product Manager**  
 Gulf IT Network  
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 Doha International Consulting  
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**LA PAZ TOWN:** Residents ride on a farm tractor with their belongings including motorcycles as they cross floodwaters over a national highway due to heavy rains brought about by typhoon Koppu in La Paz town, Tarlac province north of Manila yesterday. Heavy rain deepened flood misery in farming and mountainous regions of the northern Philippines yesterday, after the latest typhoon to hit the storm-ravaged nation killed at least 22 people. — AFP

## FLOOD MISERY IN PHILIPPINES AFTER KOPPU TYPHOON KILLS 22

### SECOND STRONGEST STORM TO HIT PHILIPPINES THIS YEAR

**LA PAZ:** Head-high floodwaters churned across vast farming regions of the northern Philippines yesterday as heavy rain compounded the misery of a typhoon that killed at least 22 people and displaced thousands. Koppu weakened into a tropical storm and moved into the South China Sea by yesterday morning, but its huge rain band ensured more downpours while flooding swept within 40 kilometres (25 miles) of Manila, the capital. Rice farmer Jeffrey de la Torre, 32, woke up to water flowing through his shanty for a second day, dangerously close to the top of a dining table used by the family of five as an emergency bed.

"We're miserable. I hardly get any sleep. I'm scared the water might rise," said de la Torre, a father of three young children from the small farming town of La Paz, 95 kilometres (59 miles) north of Manila. "I just hope our rice stock is enough. Our farm was wiped out so, for now I'm out of work."

De la Torre spoke to AFP as he waded across a

flooded road to beg a friend for fish to feed his wife and children, aged between three and eight. Koppu, the second strongest storm to hit the Philippines this year, forced 70,000 people from their homes and impacted about 230,000 others across the main island of Luzon, the government's disaster management agency said.

Twenty-two people were killed in floods, landslides and boat accidents, as well as by flying debris, according to an AFP tally based on confirmed figures from national and local authorities.

Floods as high as rooftops covered some of the nation's most important rice and corn farming regions in the flat plains north of Manila that are either side of three giant mountain ranges. While the water had subsided yesterday in many areas closer to the ranges, the flooding moved downstream. With the heavy rain continuing over the Cordillera ranges in the north and dams almost at capacity, more water was expected to flow down throughout the week.

#### Hundreds of villages flooded

More than 200 villages in the farming regions were submerged yesterday, with some areas more than 1.5 metres (five feet) under water, according to the local civil defence office and regional officials.

In the large coastal town of Lingayen, 170 kilometres north of Manila, residents were taken by surprise on Monday night after the Agno river broke its bank and led to neck-deep floods.

"We thought the danger had already passed," municipal disaster officer Sharon Sison told AFP, referring to Koppu slashing through the town of 100,000 people late on Saturday.

Sison said local rescue workers and volunteers on boats picked up more than 2,000 people who were stranded in their homes or on the roofs. The Philippines endures about 20 major storms a year, many of them deadly.

The islands of the Southeast Asian archipelago are often the first major landmass that the storms

hit after emerging over the Pacific Ocean. Scientists have warned climate change will mean more frequent and intense storms.

The most powerful storm ever recorded on land, Super Typhoon Haiyan, hit the Philippines in 2013, leaving at least 7,350 people dead or missing. While the latest storm has not been one of the deadliest, it will condemn many thousands of already financially struggling farmers to deeper poverty. On the outskirts of Cabanatuan, a regional trading centre about three hours' drive north of Manila, receded floodwaters on Monday revealed vast swathes of rice crops destroyed, their green blades turned brown, flattened and withered.

Farmers and other residents, their legs and arms caked in mud, wrung mattresses and blankets by the roadside to squeeze out brown water. "If we don't clean this up fast, we'll get sick," tricycle driver Dennis Punzalan told AFP, his feet buried in thick, slimy mud, as he threw his five-year-old daughter's teddy bears on to a pile of rubbish. — AFP

## News

in brief

#### Bangladesh politician jailed

**DHAKA:** A Bangladesh court yesterday jailed a former mayor of Dhaka for 13 years for corruption in absentia, a prosecutor said, a fresh blow to the beleaguered opposition which called the charges politically motivated. An anti-graft court found Sadeque Hossain Khoka, now living in the United States, guilty of amassing wealth illegally and of concealing information about his income. "He was sentenced to 13 years in jail in total for the two charges," Mosharraf Hossain, prosecutor for the country's Anti Corruption Commission, told AFP. "The judge also ordered confiscation of 100.5 million taka (\$1.3 million) in illegally acquired property," he said. Khoka, 63, is a vice-chairman of the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and was mayor of the capital Dhaka for nearly ten years until 2011. He now lives in New York where he is being treated for cancer, his lawyer Sanaullah Mian told AFP, adding that they planned to appeal against the verdict. Mian, who is also a BNP official, called the case "one hundred percent politically motivated".

#### Youngsters killed in arson attack

**NEW DELHI:** A nine-month-old boy and his toddler sister from a low-caste community were burnt alive in an arson attack yesterday on their home in India which also badly injured their parents, police said. The infant and his two-year-old sister were both asleep in their home in Faridabad district, around 25 miles (40 kilometres) outside New Delhi, when the attackers doused the building with petrol and set it alight. Both children died at the scene while their parents were rushed to hospital in the capital, according to police. The mother is in critical condition although the father's life is no longer in danger. Three people have been arrested over the attack on the family who are members of the Dalit community, according to the detective leading the murder inquiry, although no one has yet to be formally charged. Subhash Yadav, Faridabad's police commissioner, said the attack appeared to have been part of a long-running feud between the area's Dalit community and the higher Rajput caste, which also claimed the lives of three people a year ago.

#### Pakistan executions

**MULTAN:** Pakistan hanged nine more convicted murderers yesterday, bringing the total number of executions to around 250 since the government controversially lifted a moratorium on the death penalty last December. Pakistan lifted its six-year ban on executions as part of a crackdown on militancy following an attack by Taleban militants on a school in the northwestern city of Peshawar in which they killed over 150 people—mostly children. The latest executions took place in Lahore, Attock, Faisalabad, Sargodha and Bahawalpur in Punjab province. "Three convicts on death row were hanged in Attock, two each in Faisalabad and Kot Lakhpat Jail Lahore, and one each in Bahawalpur and Sargodha jails," Chaudhry Arshad Saeed, an adviser to Punjab's chief minister for prison affairs, told AFP.

## DELHI COURT FINDS UBER DRIVER GUILTY OF RAPE

**NEW DELHI:** An Indian Uber taxi driver was convicted yesterday of raping a young female passenger in the capital last year, a case that sparked fresh fears in a city plagued by sexual violence.

Uber was banned from operating in New Delhi in the aftermath of the December 5 attack, which sparked accusations it failed to conduct adequate background checks, although the ban has never been fully enforced.

The Delhi court found Shiv Kumar Yadav guilty of raping the 25-year-old woman as she returned home from dinner with friends in the Indian capital. "Shiv Kumar Yadav is convicted of all charges (against him)," Judge Kaveri Baweja said. Yadav will be sen-

tenced on October 23 after being convicted on four charges rape, abduction, intimidation and causing harm.

Defence lawyer Dharmender Kumar Mishra said his client would appeal the verdict at a higher court, calling the investigation "flawed".

Shortly after the attack it emerged that Yadav had been accused of assaulting other women, although he had no previous convictions. Yadav was tried by one of the fast-track courts introduced in 2013 following the fatal gang-rape of a student on a bus in Delhi, a crime that sparked nationwide protests about India's treatment of women.

The Uber rape occurred days before the second anniversary of the attack on the bus,

which shone a harsh spotlight on the issue of violence against women. The victim in the December 5 attack, who cannot be named for legal reasons, said she had dozed off in a taxi while returning home from dinner.

She told police she woke to find the taxi parked in a secluded place where the driver raped her, before dumping her near her home in north Delhi.

The woman also hired a lawyer in New York in January to sue Uber in US courts but later dropped the lawsuit. "I think it (the verdict) is extremely important in times when we are getting more and more incidents of sexual violence," Ranjana Kumari, head of the Delhi-based Centre for Social Research, told AFP.

Yesterday's judgement comes days after a toddler and a five-year-old girl were raped in separate attacks in New Delhi. India recorded 36,735 rape cases in 2014, with 2,096 of them in Delhi alone. Experts say those figures are likely to represent only the tip of the iceberg.

#### 'Brought to justice'

Uber, which resumed operations in the capital earlier this year despite the ban, said it had learnt lessons from the case and made improvements for better safety.

"Sexual assault is a terrible crime and we're pleased he has now been brought to justice," Amit Jain, Uber India president, said in a statement on the verdict.

The California-based startup's rapid international growth has sparked tensions in several countries, with rival taxi companies protesting that Uber cars are not subject to the same regulations. It set up its India operation in September 2013 and now works in more than a dozen cities. The company and its Indian rival Ola applied for formal licences to operate as radio taxi companies after they were banned from operating in December. — AFP



**NEW DELHI:** In this photograph taken on December 8, 2014, Indian police escort Uber taxi driver and accused rapist Shiv Kumar Yadav (C) following his court appearance in New Delhi. An Indian court yesterday, has convicted an Uber driver of raping a young female passenger in the capital last year, his lawyer and the public prosecutor said, in a high profile case that sparked fresh safety fears in a city plagued by sexual violence. — AFP



**DIAMOND MOUNTAIN RESORT:** North and South Korean family members meet during the Separated Family Reunion Meeting at Diamond Mountain resort in North Korea, yesterday. Hundreds of elderly Koreans from divided North and South began three days of reunions yesterday with loved ones many have had no contact with since the war between the countries more than 60 years ago. — AP

## KOREANS CELEBRATE REUNIONS ACROSS DMZ

**SOKCHO:** Nearly 400 South Koreans crossed the heavily armed border into North Korea yesterday to be reunited, in an outpouring of emotions and tears, with family members separated for more than six decades since the 1950-53 Korean War. The two Koreas, which are divided and remain in a technical state of war, agreed to hold the family reunions for the first time since February last year after negotiating the end of a standoff at the military border in August.

Participants, some as old as 88, were reunited at the resort of Mount Kumgang just north of the militarised border with children and spouses from whom they had been separated when the peninsula was divided at the end of the war.

"Father, it's me, your son," Chae Hee-yang, 65, from the South told Chae Hoon-sik, 88, from the North, as they wept at

their first meeting since the younger man was just a year old, according to a report by South Korea's Yonhap news agency.

Foreign news outlets were not allowed to cover the event. Families separated since the war have no means of communication and often do not know if relatives on the other side are surviving.

#### Guidebook

In the first round of reunions which started yesterday, 96 North Koreans and their families met about 390 people travelling from the South. The second round reunites about 190 North Koreans with 90 South Koreans and their families.

The South Koreans, mostly elderly and some in wheelchairs, had gathered on Monday in the east coast city of Sokcho near the border for medical check-ups and a briefing on appropriate conduct

while in the North. Yesterday morning they boarded buses to cross the border. The reunions, held in a ballroom at the Mount Kumgang resort, are watched by officials and media and include only two hours of private time before they end tomorrow. South Korean participants are advised to steer clear of a long list of topics, such as the North's political leadership or living standards, to the frustration of some of the visitors.

A guidebook suggests advance preparation of notes for subjects to be discussed with North Korean kin, such as the dates of parental deaths, as time is limited and the emotions can be overwhelming.

Before leaving yesterday for a reunion with his elder brother in the North, Kim Ki-joo struggled to frame the questions he would ask at their first meeting in 65 years. — Reuters

## SRI LANKAN JUDGE SAYS WAR CRIMES CLAIMS 'CREDIBLE'

**COLOMBO:** Allegations that Sri Lankan troops committed war crimes are "credible", a judge appointed by the island's former president has concluded in a report presented to parliament yesterday. The findings mark the first time a domestic inquiry has said there is evidence the army committed war crimes, and are all the more remarkable given that the report was commissioned by Mahinda Rajapakse. Sri Lanka's former strongman leader oversaw the final push against Tamil Tiger rebels in 2009 before losing power in January, and has always fiercely denied his troops committed war crimes.

He ordered the inquiry in 2013 in a bid to deflect mounting international censure, and the new government made the findings public in line with a promise to the UN Human Rights Council last month.

A long-awaited report from the United Nations human rights office last month laid bare horrific wartime atrocities committed by both the army and the separatist Tamil Tiger rebels in the bitter 37-year war. "There are credible allegations which, if proved to the required standard, may show that some members of the armed forces committed acts during the final phase of the war that amounted to war crimes giving rise to indi-

vidual criminal responsibility," said the 178-page report presented to parliament yesterday. The government of Rajapakse's successor, Maithripala Sirisena, has vowed to punish war criminals and set up a truth commission and a reparations office to help heal the wounds left by the conflict.

#### Fabrication

But it has resisted pressure to allow a foreign inquiry, which many members of the island's Sinhalese majority consider an infringement of sovereignty. The latest inquiry was overseen by retired judge Maxwell Paranagama and examined claims

in a documentary broadcast by Britain's Channel 4 that purportedly showed Sri Lankan soldiers executing Tamil prisoners.

At the time Sri Lanka's military dismissed the documentary, "No Fire Zone: Sri Lanka Killing Fields", as a fabrication. But Paranagama concluded there was evidence to suggest the footage-showing prisoners stripped naked and blindfolded, their arms tied behind their backs, being shot dead by mocking soldiers—was genuine. "The Commission is of the view that the material shown in Channel 4 - shorn of its theatrical and dramatic presentation and of the occasionally extravagant language used—does

show, however, that there was material enough to justify a judge-led investigation," the Paranagama commission said. It said another high-profile case involving the execution of the top Tamil Tiger political leadership on or about May 18, 2009 should also be investigated by an independent judicial inquiry despite the then-government denying the killings.

The commission had no powers to prosecute, but it recommended that the government set up an internationally monitored judicial inquiry to ensure accountability, in line with last month's Human Rights Council resolution. — AFP



A truck driven by a Palestinian man runs over an Israeli man as a stick he was wielding is thrown into the air at Fawar junction near the West Bank city of Hebron yesterday. The Israeli, who later died, had gotten out of his car after Palestinian demonstrators threw stones at it and began to hit passing Palestinian cars with the stick. The truck driver turned himself in, saying he hit the Israeli by accident while trying to swerve out of the way, according to a Palestinian security official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the media. — AP

## 'HALAL TOURISM' EMERGES TO SERVE MUSLIM TRAVELERS

ABU DHABI: A rental company in Orlando, Florida, is offering "halal vacation homes" with curtained pool decks and rooms with prayer mats and copies of the Holy Quran. A British company's app lists gourmet restaurants serving halal meat in London and Dubai, while a Boston-based developer's app offers travel guides for 90 cities with local prayer times and a compass pointing Muslims toward Makkah for daily prayers.

The so-called "halal tourism" market was once seen as a niche revenue stream, limited to pilgrimages like the multi-billion dollar-a-year revenue stream generated by Muslim travelers to Makkah. But now there's a movement in the tourism industry to widen the "halal tourism" market to cater to Muslim travelers worldwide, particularly those from wealthy Gulf Arab states. Travelers from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Oman will spend \$64 billion traveling this year and are expected to spend \$216 billion by 2030, according to a 2014 study for the travel tech company Amadeus. The study found that, on average, a traveler from these countries spends around \$9,900 per trip outside the Gulf. For Emiratis, the figure reaches \$10,400.

Ritz-Carlton hotels in Dallas and New York hired the Dinar Standard advisory firm to help them better serve Muslim guests, including Arab royalty. Now the two hotels serve halal meals upon request, have Middle Eastern chefs on staff, offer rooms with spaces that allow for gender-segregated settings and have trained frontline staff on other cultural norms.

Reem El-Shafaki, a senior associate at Dinar Standard, says that the hospitality industry can market to Muslims without alienating non-Muslims. "What some hotels and destinations are doing is that they're using the term 'family friendly,'" she said at a conference this week in Abu Dhabi, which brought people from across the budding industry to explore the topic.

Halal in Islam literally means that which is permissible. Observant Muslims typically avoid alcohol and areas where there can be excessive nudity, like beaches and nightclubs. For women who adhere to Islam's modest dress code, swimming can pose a challenge. That means resorts that offer gender-segregated beaches and pools have an advantage.

Roberto Silva of Florida Realty Investments says the company took 50 of its rental properties and outfitted them with a few changes, like curtains around the pool deck, to make them more comfortable for their many Gulf Arab customers, who often travel as large families to Orlando for several weeks at a time and want to be near Disney World and other parks. "I would love to do

more ... Los Angeles and San Diego, there are a lot of people going there, and also New York," he said from his stand at the World Halal Travel Summit and Exhibition in Abu Dhabi.

Along Turkey's southern coast, several all-inclusive resorts have expansive private beaches and pools for women. One resort even built a structure in the sea to keep people on boats from catching a glimpse. Malaysia is also aggressively seeking more Muslim tourists, promoting itself as "Muslim-friendly Malaysia" in brochures at the Abu Dhabi conference.

### Permissibility

Elnur Seyidli, chairman of a website called Halal Booking, says his company has served 43,000 customers from 75 countries. The website can filter requests to find hotels that do not serve any alcohol, or hotels that only serve alcohol in some restaurants. For meat, which should be slaughtered according to Islamic rules, the website offers filters ranging from food that is all halal, or halal meat available upon request. "It's about permissibility... Nothing is 100 percent halal in my opinion and nothing is 100 percent non-halal," he told an audience at the summit. "Even for individual travelers for different trips, requirements may change."

For those not interested in a shawarma (grilled meat) wrap on the go, Halal Gems is an app that lists gourmet halal eats in London and Dubai. The app's founder Zohra Khaku says she's raised money by charging listed restaurants an annual fee. In Dubai, though, the challenge isn't so much finding halal food, but finding the best gourmet options, or as she calls it, "curated halal dining."

Irfan Ahmad is another app developer tapping into the Muslim market. His app, called Irlhal, lists sightseeing and shopping as well as maps for mosques and halal restaurants. It also comes with a compass to help Muslims find the direction of prayer toward Makkah. The app, available in both English and Arabic, has been downloaded more than 25,000 times, he said, and covers 90 cities worldwide, ranging from Amsterdam and Athens to Beijing and Bangkok, as well as US cities like Los Angeles, Chicago, Houston, New York and Washington DC.

The idea was sparked by his personal struggles finding halal food in Europe, as well as not knowing when it was dawn or dusk in different cities, which affects Muslim prayer times. He's looking for around \$1 million in investment to expand and include more cities. "Just like any startup, one of the biggest challenges is funding ourselves," he said. "We've been able to fund the entire project on our own by bootstrapping." — AP

## US TO SELL SAUDIS 4 WARSHIPS

WASHINGTON: The US government has approved an \$11 billion deal to sell Saudi Arabia four advanced warships, officials said yesterday, amid mounting regional tension. Saudi Arabia is modernizing its eastern fleet, which faces off against Iranian forces across the oil-rich Gulf. The four ships, based on the US Navy's littoral combat ship, are relatively small but designed to be fast and maneuverable in shallow water and to pack a punch.

The statement from the Defense Security Cooperation Agency said it had notified the US Congress of the State Department's decision and was awaiting final approval. The agency said the sale would "improve the security of a strategic regional

partner, which has been and continues to be an important force for political stability and economic progress in the Middle East."

Dubbed a "multi-mission surface combatant ship" in its export version, the ships carry dozens of Sea Sparrow anti-aircraft missiles and Harpoon anti-ship missiles. Its main gun is the 76mm OTO Melara, built in Italy, but the main contract for the vessels will go to US arms giant Lockheed Martin. The sale, if approved as expected, comes amid a renewed arms race in the Middle East. Russia has stepped up military support for Syria, a bitter foe of Saudi Arabia, and Saudi ally Egypt has agreed to buy two helicopter carrier vessels from France. — AFP

## KUWAIT-FRANCE TIES HAILED AS SHEIKH JABER...

Continued from Page 1

Hollande also praised the humanitarian role of HH the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

Meanwhile, a source familiar with the matter said France will today sign €2.5 billion of defense deals and provisional agreements with Kuwait, including a sale of Airbus-built military helicopters worth €1 billion. The

deal for 24 Caracal heavy helicopters has been in the works since June, when French officials said it had been provisionally agreed during a visit to Kuwait by French Defense Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian. Also due to be signed today are non-binding "letters of acceptance" on deals worth €1.5 billion for ground vehicles built by Volvo's Renault Trucks Defense and the modernization of P37 patrol boats, the source said. — Agencies

## RACISM AND WASTA!

Continued from Page 1

Why are we tarnishing the reputation of Kuwait by the actions of a few silly people who are narrow-minded and think by such racist acts they show more patriotism to Kuwait? On the contrary, my dear sirs, you are harming Kuwait. Maybe you don't even realize or know it.

You are harming all the generations to come when you start institutionalizing discrimination between all strata of society. As far as I know, expats in my country are not charitable projects. They work and earn their money, and actually we are of very little help to them. We are not subsidizing them for anything, and I'm not asking for them to be subsidized. They pay health insurance and high rents and still they accept this and don't complain.

So don't jump the edge. For those heroes who think patriotism is shown by attacking expats, we are not stupid and naive. Patriotism doesn't come from segregation or racism against nationalities. Also, this is against our religion, and of course our beautiful constitution.

Patriotism comes by enhancing education; by creating strong generations who can support and work and take care of Kuwait when we can no longer afford expats (in case oil runs out or in an emergency). Patriotism comes from advancing Kuwait at all levels and loyalty to the souls of Kuwait, not by robbing it left, right and center, and complaining that expats did this to us, when expats did not do it - we did it to ourselves with wasta and corruption.

Patriotism comes from regulating the status of expats and maintaining high standards of imported labor. But high numbers of unskilled and unnecessary labor is brought in through wasta, which takes a toll on our services and systems. But of course, we all know that wasta (influence and connections) is a disease. It is what should be segregated and discriminated and decimated in my country.

Like this, all expats suffer. Good workers who benefit this country suffer. Have a nice day.

Kuwait Times

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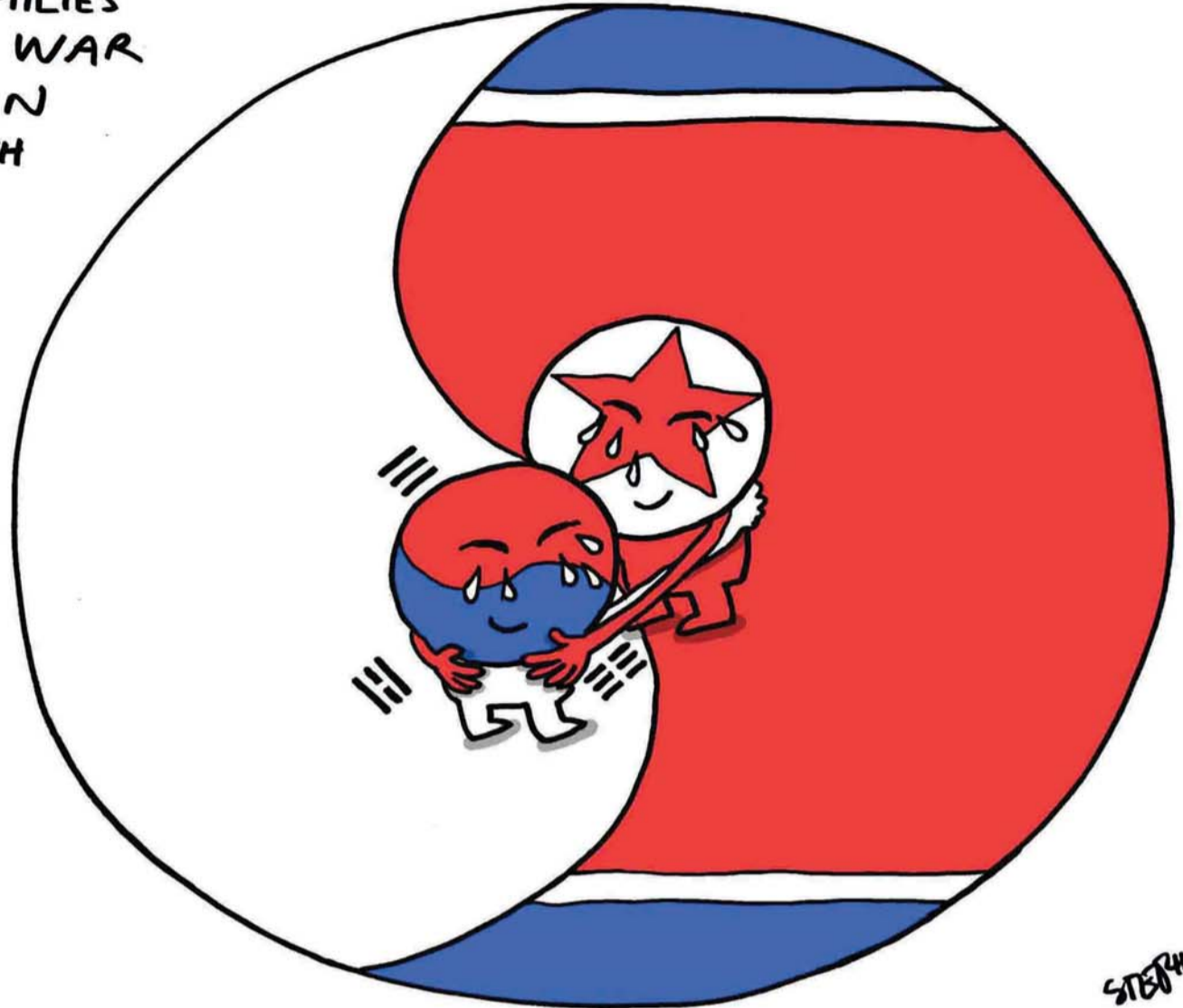
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 Founder and Publisher  
**YOUSUF S. AL-ALYAN**  
 Editor-in-Chief  
**ABD AL-RAHMAN AL-ALYAN**  
 EDITORIAL : 24833199-24833358-24833432  
 ADVERTISING : 24835616/7  
 FAX : 24835620/1  
 CIRCULATION : 24833199 Extn. 163  
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**KOREAN FAMILIES DIVIDED BY WAR REUNITE IN THE NORTH**



**RENZI MIMICS BERLUSCONI TO INHERIT VOTERS**

By Gavin Jones

A recent front-page cartoon in Italy's mainstream newspaper Corriere della Sera depicted elderly former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi affectionately holding the hand of his little ice-cream licking "son" Matteo Renzi, the current premier. The sketch summed up a growing perception in Italy that 40-year-old Renzi, leader of the centre-left Democratic Party (PD), has moved so far to the right that he has become the political heir to 79-year-old conservative leader. The cartoon followed an announcement by Renzi that he was relaxing a limit on the use of cash, which had been introduced by a previous government to curb rampant tax evasion.

The last person to raise the cash ceiling, in 2008, was Berlusconi, to howls of protest from the PD, which said at the time that he was pandering to his electoral base of tax-dodging small businesses and retailers. The cash threshold was just the latest of many examples of the former mayor of Florence singing from Berlusconi's hymn sheet, blurring the traditional divide between left and right and making the future of Italian politics more unpredictable.

"Renzi has decided to ally himself with big business," said Luca Ricolfi, a sociology professor and prominent political and economic commentator. "By most traditional parameters his economic policy is more to the right than Berlusconi's." Berlusconi's decline and the absence of an obvious centre-right successor offers Renzi rich electoral pickings among his former voters, if only he can persuade them to cross an increasingly tenuous but deep-rooted political divide. The centre-piece of Renzi's 2016 budget is the abolition of housing tax, reviving a flagship policy of Berlusconi which had always been criticised by the left and most economists, who see it as populist move that will dent a drive to cut the deficit. The budget has been attacked by the trade unions, the PD's traditional allies, but cheered by industry lobby Confindustria, which welcomes Renzi's labour reforms and tax breaks. Renzi's left-wing predecessor as PD leader, Pierluigi Bersani, said that by scrapping the housing tax even for those with castles, Renzi was pandering to the rich and flouting the constitutional tenet that tax levels should be linked to income. Renzi shot back that "cutting taxes is neither right-wing nor left-wing, it's just the right thing to do".

**Awkward Ally**

Renzi's choice of allies angers PD traditionalists as much as his policies. With his parliamentary majority weakened by defections, he has enlisted the help of Denis Verdini, a former close aide to Berlusconi, to push through a hotly contested reform to reduce the powers of the upper house Senate. Verdini abandoned Berlusconi's Forza Italia party in July along with a group of fellow deserters to bolster Renzi's majority. Facing trial for fraud, bankruptcy and corruption, Verdini is seen as a pariah by many in the PD.

Rubbing salt into their wounds, Verdini says he is confident Renzi will eventually break with the left and turn the PD into a broad-church party like the defunct Christian Democrat party that dominated Italy for 50 years after World War Two. "Renzi is emptying our policy bag," said an exasperated deputy from Forza Italia, asking not to be named. Renzi's signature reform this year, abolishing the talismanic article 18 of the labor statute that protected workers from wrongful dismissal, achieved what Berlusconi failed to do 13 years ago, when he was beaten back by union resistance.

Renzi's schools reform and his bid to cut the powers of the Senate also both have echoes of previous Berlusconi initiatives. The similarities are not limited to policy. Both men have formidable communication skills based on constant, can-do optimism. They both came to power cultivating the image that they were outsiders vowing to sweep away an old, discredited political class. Berlusconi made a "contract with the Italians" on television in 2001 promising "less taxes for everyone". Fourteen years on, Renzi proposed a "pact with the Italians" involving whopping tax cuts of 50 billion euros (\$56 billion) by 2018.

**PD Decline**

On a personal level, Renzi and Berlusconi seem to like each other. Renzi snipes at the unions and PD dissidents far more often than he criticises Berlusconi; and the ageing opposition leader is similarly "soft" on the prime minister. "Berlusconi sees himself in Renzi and he also envies him," says Vittorio Feltri, former director of Berlusconi's family newspaper Il Giornale. "When you see someone 40 years younger doing what you tried to do, then envy is only natural."

Berlusconi won three national elections over 14 years before he was hamstrung by a tax fraud conviction and sex scandals. Renzi, who took office last year in an internal PD power struggle, has yet to win an election. Some analysts believe he may dominate Italian politics as long as Berlusconi did, though that looks less likely now than it did in May last year when the PD won a record 41 percent in elections for the European Parliament. —Reuters

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By Maayan Lubell

The sound of a fist banging on a table came through sharp and clear as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, his anger captured on a leaked audiotape, berated his own party members for not having his back in confronting a Palestinian wave of attacks. "I expect support from each and every one of you and not these games ... Be leaders. Leaders do the right thing, don't play games," Netanyahu said at the closed meeting of his Likud faction last week, in the recording broadcast on Army Radio.

He was referring to public remarks and visits several Likud ministers paid to a protest tent that settlers, demanding stronger security measures, erected outside Netanyahu's official residence in Jerusalem after a deadly Palestinian assault. It was only one signal of possible political trouble ahead for the four-term leader trying to stem an eruption of almost daily Palestinian knife and gun attacks, which have killed eight Israelis in the past three weeks.

Forty-one Palestinians, including assailants and protesters at anti-Israeli demonstrations in the occupied West Bank and Gaza, have been killed by Israeli security forces in response. An Eritrean migrant mistaken for an attacker was also killed. At least three recent polls have shown an overwhelming majority of the public is dissatisfied with Netanyahu's handling of the situation. It is a jolting reversal for Netanyahu, who many supporters have long hailed as "Mr Security" and who enjoyed wide public backing during last year's Gaza conflict, when he ordered an assault on the Hamas-controlled enclave to halt rockets.

**Determination**

The death toll among Israeli civilians in this wave of attacks is already higher than it was from rockets during that war, when Netanyahu demonstrated his determination to protect Israelis by ordering the offensive that killed 2,100 Palestinians, many of them civilians, and 67 Israeli soldiers. If last year

Netanyahu was able to show off Israel's ability to shoot down incoming rockets with a high-tech anti-missile system, today he has found no such success halting knife and gun attacks, for which he has said there is "no quick fix".

A rightwing Israeli group, demanding a crackdown to halt the wave of violence, has posted a widely viewed clip of Palestinian attacks on the

Internet. It includes old footage of Netanyahu telling an Israeli television show: "How do I want my term to be remembered? As a guardian of Israel's security." In the past year, Netanyahu's image at home has also been dented by his inability to persuade the United States and other allies to rebuff a nuclear deal with Iran.

Washington drew Israeli anger last week when a State Department spokesman suggested that excessive force was being used to thwart Palestinian attacks. President Barack Obama seemed to take a swipe at Netanyahu, who has been vocal in accusing Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas of inciting violence, by saying on Friday that both leaders should "tamp down rhetoric" that may fuel bloodshed. While Netanyahu's coalition government's majority of just a single seat in parliament seems safe for now - Israeli parties traditionally do not walk out during security emergencies - cracks are already visible. "As of now it is not in the interest of anyone in the coalition to break up the government," Amnon Abramovich, a political analyst for Israel's Channel Two television, told Reuters. "But this can definitely change."

A Channel Two poll on Saturday found 71 percent of the Jewish public is dissatisfied with Netanyahu's handling of the security situation. Only 17 percent of those polled considered Netanyahu the best person to resolve the crisis, placing him second to former Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman, an ultranationalist picked by 29 percent. Lieberman has called for tougher action such as the death penalty for Palestinians who kill Israelis.

Within the cabinet, Education Minister Naftali Bennett has gone public with misgivings about Netanyahu's stated willingness to meet Abbas to try to calm tensions. Bennett, whose party controls eight of parliament's 120 seats and can potentially bring down the coalition, called Abbas "a terrorist with whom you don't speak."

"In the short run there is no imminent threat on Netanyahu's government stability because during times of terror usually politicians actually back up the government. Nevertheless, in the long run, Netanyahu's position as 'Israel's Mr. Security' might be affected," Amit Segal, a Channel Two political correspondent, told Reuters. "People say: 'If terror attacks happen on a daily basis, on an hourly basis and if he can't handle the situation against the 16 year old terrorist in Jerusalem or the 18 year old terrorist in Beersheba, why would we elect him again?' and that's the main threat on Netanyahu's position." —Reuters



**GADDAFI LEGACY STILL HAUNTS LIBYA**

By Mohamad Ali Harissi

Four years after Muammar Gaddafi was killed in an uprising, the dictator's legacy continues to haunt oil-rich Libya as it struggles to find its national identity. "Gaddafi chose to build the idea of a state around his personality," said Michael Nayebe-Oskoui, senior Middle East analyst at the US-based global intelligence firm Stratfor. The dictator ousted and slain in October 2011, "used a military funded by oil to crush any opposition to himself, rather than build state institutions that could survive beyond him," he said. "It will be several years if not decades for Libya to create a national identity."

Libya, a largely tribal nation, descended into chaos after Gaddafi's fall, with two governments vying for power and armed groups battling for control of its vast energy resources. A militia alliance including Islamists overran Tripoli in Aug 2014, establishing a rival government and a parliament that forced the internationally recognized administration to flee to eastern Libya. Months of UN-brokered talks to persuade the warring sides to agree to a peace deal and form a national unity government have run aground.

**Lockerbie Bombing**

Taking advantage of the chaos, the Islamic State group has gained a foothold in Libya and people-smugglers are again ferrying illegal migrants from its shores to Europe on rickety boats and contributing to thousands of deaths. But the focus remains on Gaddafi, the flamboyant strongman who called himself "Guide of the Revolution" and declared Libya a Jamahiriya or "state of the masses" run by local committees.

"He will make headlines for a long time because the regime he consolidated will need a long time to be undone," an official with the Tripoli-based government said. "Everything he left behind is corrupted: Politics, the economy, society even sports, and we need to change from A-to-Z, all the legislation, all the rules and all the instructions," he added. Gaddafi was captured and killed by gunmen in his hometown Sirte on Oct 20, 2011. Three days later transitional authorities announced the "total liberation" of Libya.

Known for his droning speeches and flashing bedouin-style

robes, he ruled Libya four decades after leading a military coup that toppled a Western-backed monarchy in 1969. He died aged 69. "There was no institutionalised state in Libya, leading to the chaos after his removal," said Nayebe-Oskoui. "He pitched tribes and regions and different ethnic groups against one another for decades, which is why Libyans and the international community have struggled to create a national identity in his absence."

The expert believes that Gaddafi's name and the consequences of his policies will continue to make news for years to come. Last week Scottish prosecutors said they had identified two new Libyan suspects in the bombing of a Pan Am jet over the Scottish town of Lockerbie in 1988, which killed 270 people. Scottish media named one of the two suspects as former intelligence chief Abdullah Senussi and the other as Abu Agila Mas'ud.

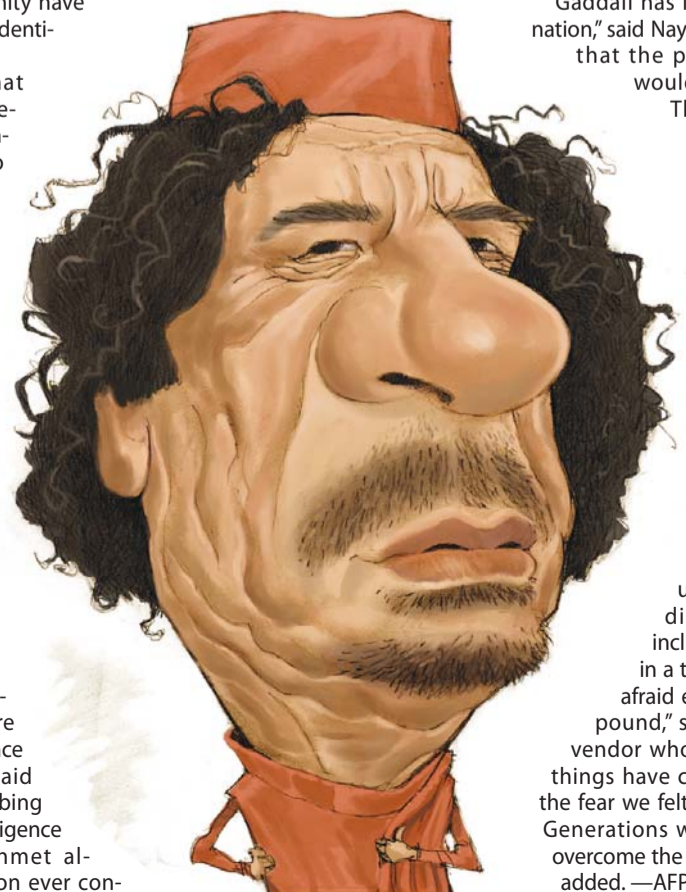
Senussi was sentenced to death in July for crimes committed during the uprising along with Seif al-Islam, Gaddafi's son and one-time heir apparent, and seven other people linked to the slain strongman. Mas'ud is reportedly behind bars in Libya, where Senussi has been in custody since 2012. Scottish prosecutors said they are suspects in the bombing along with former Libyan intelligence officer Abdelbaset Ali Mohmet al-Megrahi, the only other person ever con-

victed in the case who died in 2012 protesting his innocence. Libya admitted responsibility for the bombing in 2003 and Gaddafi's regime eventually paid \$2.7 billion in compensation to victims' families.

**Chaos and Fear**

Gaddafi has left behind a "fractured nation," said Nayebe-Oskoui, who expects that the policies he formulated would "extend for decades". The Tripoli government official agreed. "He is still remembered despite his death and he will stay present among us until we can overcome the 40 years of chaos he has sown," he said. "I hope we won't need another 40 years."

Outside the walls of Gaddafi's former Tripoli compound, meanwhile, street artists have left unflattering graffiti of the dictator and drawings, including one depicting him in a trash can. "We used to be afraid even to look at the compound," said Ahmad, a cigarette vendor who works nearby. "Today, things have changed, of course, but the fear we felt still reminds us of him. Generations will pass before we can overcome the fear he instilled in us," he added. —AFP



### 'SWANS WILL TAKE FLIGHT'

**LONDON:** Swansea manager Garry Monk is confident his players can halt the club's slide down the Premier League table as their woeful run of results continued on Monday with a 1-0 defeat at home to Stoke City. The Swans made a promising start to the campaign, climbing as high as fourth in the table after the first four games, following results that included an impressive 2-1 win against Manchester United and a 2-2 draw with champions Chelsea. However, there has been little to cheer since as they have failed to win any of their last five matches, losing three of them. Swansea currently sit 14th in the table after nine games and are in danger of spending the season looking nervously down towards the relegation zone rather than dreaming of a European berth if their poor form continues.



Their slump has also coincided with a dry spell for striker Bafetimbi Gomis, who has failed to find the back of the net since their victory against Manchester United on Aug. 30. "We're in a difficult moment but we will come back in tomorrow and work hard and stick together to make sure we return to the levels that we are capable of," Monk told the club's website (www.swansea-city.net). "We've been in difficult moments before and we've all experienced them, but it's about working hard to come through this period. We went five games last season without winning and went on to have a fantastic season."

"I'm more than confident in the group that I have-it's about bringing the players' confidence back up and working with them closely. It's not through lack of effort and commitment, you can see that. It's our intricate passing in and around the box, which is usually so crisp, that isn't quite there," he added. Monk will be hoping to get back to winning ways on Saturday when his side travel to face 19th place Aston Villa, who have lost their last five game. — Reuters

### CHADLI OUT FOR SIX WEEKS

**LONDON:** Tottenham Hotspur midfielder Nacer Chadli has been ruled out for six weeks after he sustained ankle ligament damage during Saturday's goalless draw against Liverpool, the Premier League club said on their website (www.tottenhamhotspur.com).

The Belgium international was forced off the field after 11 minutes on Saturday having landed awkwardly inside the Tottenham penalty area.

Chadli joined the growing ranks of Tottenham players on the treatment table, including recent signing Son Heung-min, midfielder Ryan Mason and Nabil Bentaleb. The 26-year-old Chadli, who has scored one goal in 11 appearances this season, is set to miss the North London derby against Arsenal on Nov. 8 and the clash with champions Chelsea on Nov. 29. — Reuters

### SPIETH TO PLAY IN SINGAPORE

**SINGAPORE:** Player of the Year Jordan Spieth will skip the Farmers Insurance Open on the PGA Tour to instead play in the returning Singapore Open in January, organisers announced yesterday.

The 22-year-old world number two enjoyed a breakout 2015, winning the Masters, US Open and the PGA Tour Championship among his five victories as he went on to claim the lucrative FedEx Cup.

"Playing in the SMBC Singapore Open is something I'm really looking forward to," Spieth said in a statement. "I'm very fortunate to play golf around the world and can't wait to visit Singapore for the first time." The 50th Singapore Open, featuring prize money of at least \$1 million, will be played on the Sentosa Golf Club's demanding Serapong Course from Jan. 28-31 on the Asian and Japan Golf Tours after a three-year absence.

Spieth missed the cut at the \$6.5 million Farmers Insurance Open in January at the famed Torrey Pines course in San Diego, where current world number one Jason Day of Australia triumphed after a four-man playoff. — Reuters



**NEW YORK:** Rangers' Jesper Fast (19) shoots the puck past San Jose Sharks goalie Martin Jones (31) during the third period of an NHL hockey game. — AP

## RANGERS BLANK SHARKS

**NEW YORK:** Antti Raanta made 22 saves for his fourth career shutout in his Rangers debut to lead New York to a 4-0 victory over the San Jose Sharks on Monday.

Marc Staal, Mats Zuccarello, Jesper Fast and Viktor Stalberg scored for New York, which snapped a three game winless streak (0-2-1) after opening the season with three wins. Raanta was playing for the first time since being acquired from Chicago in a draft-day trade in June.

Martin Jones finished with 24 saves in his first loss of the season as the Sharks lost their second straight after opening the season

with four wins. Jones had allowed just two goals in the Sharks season-opening winning streak and came in leading the NHL in goals-against average (0.49), save percentage (.982) and shutouts (2).

Alain Vigneault opted to keep the same forward lines and defense pairings that could only score once in the Rangers' 2-1 overtime loss to the New Jersey Devils on Sunday.

Vigneault's gambit paid immediate dividends as Staal scored his first of the season 10:36 into the game. Staal's point shot appeared to ricochet off of Joel Ward. New York continued to attack in what was the

Rangers' most complete performance of the season.

While Raanta did not have to work especially hard, his toughest stop occurred early in the second period as New York was killing a 5-on-3 Sharks power play. San Jose center Joe Thornton attempted a quick shot from along the goal line as Patrick Marleau drove the net, but Raanta kicked the puck away.

The save was significant when Zuccarello scored his fourth of the season later in the period. With Rick Nash screening Jones, Zuccarello whipped a shot from the right side into the net. — AP

### NHL Standings

Western Conference						Eastern Conference						
Central Division			Pacific Division			Atlantic Division			Metropolitan Division			
W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS	W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS	
St. Louis	5	1	0	21	14	10	Montreal	6	0	0	20	7
Dallas	4	1	0	19	13	8	Tampa Bay	4	2	0	19	15
Nashville	4	1	0	14	9	8	Ottawa	3	2	1	19	17
Winnipeg	4	2	0	20	13	8	Florida	3	2	0	16	9
Minnesota	3	1	1	14	15	7	Detroit	3	2	0	15	13
Chicago	3	3	0	14	14	6	Boston	2	3	0	18	21
Colorado	2	3	0	16	16	4	Toronto	1	3	1	12	17
San Jose	4	2	0	17	12	8	Buffalo	1	4	0	9	14
Vancouver	3	1	2	16	11	8						
Arizona	3	2	0	16	11	6						
Los Angeles	2	3	0	6	14	4						
Edmonton	2	4	0	12	16	4						
Anaheim	1	3	1	5	12	3						
Calgary	1	4	0	10	19	2						

### ZAIN HONORS KUWAITI JET SKI CHAMPION ABDULRAZZAQ

**KUWAIT:** Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, congratulated Kuwaiti Jet Ski champion Yousef Al Abdulrazzaq, who recently achieved the first place title of the Pro-Am Runabout LTD category during his recent participation in the International Jet Sports Boating Association (IJSBA) World Championship 2015 held in Lake Havasu in Arizona, USA.

Zain expressed its pride in Al Abdulrazzaq's latest achievement, which the Kuwaiti champion attained for the second consecutive year. This year marks the seventh in which the company sponsors Yousef Al Abdulrazzaq, who continues to show unmatched determination in raising the Kuwaiti flag high by achieving internationally renowned titles.

Zain affirmed that its role not only concentrates on economic and business activities but also contributes significantly in various areas within the Kuwaiti society, especially towards Kuwaiti champions. This resembles the company's endless confidence of the competencies of these young athletes and their capabilities in excelling in different fields.

As a leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, Zain is constantly looking to identify and support excellence across the sports sector. The company will continue to put Kuwaiti National teams and individual athletes at the forefront of its priorities and pledges to con-



tinue motivating them to achieve the recognition they deserve.

It is worth noting that Al Abdulrazzaq won a number of prominent titles in his past participations, including the first round of 2013's Aquabike Class Pro World Championship held at Viverone, Italy, and the Gold title of the 800 Professional Category during 2006, 2007, and 2008, in addition to the Gold title of the Beach Olympics Championship held in Oman.

## EAGLES SOAR OVER GIANTS

**NEW YORK:** The Eagles intercepted Eli Manning twice and returned one for a touchdown as Philadelphia beat the New York Giants 27-7 on Monday to take over first place in the NFC East.

The big play of the game came when cornerback Nolan Carroll picked off a Manning pass and returned it 17 yards for a touchdown that gave the Eagles a 14-7 lead in the second quarter. The Giants never scored again. "I just read the route and jumped it," said Carroll.

"Then it was just a matter of catching the ball and not falling down before I got to the end zone," Manning, who completed his first 10 passes, finished 23 of 37 for 200 yards and one touchdown. The quarterback, who was sacked just four times in the Giants' first five games, was sacked four times on Monday and penalized twice for intentional grounding.

"There's no big secret to all of this—we're just playing better football," said linebacker DeMeco Ryans, who had one of the Eagles' interceptions.

"We got off to a slow start on both sides of the ball, but we stuck with it and kept working, and good things started to happen."

"Now we have to build on this win and keep playing the way we're capable of playing. We still haven't put together 60 minutes of good football, and that's our next challenge."

touchdown pass to wide receiver Riley Cooper. Bradford also threw three interceptions.

Running back DeMarco Murray had his first 100-yard rushing game with the Eagles, finishing with 109 yards on 22 carries.

The Eagles led 17-7 in the third quarter when they marched downfield on an 85-yard, 11-play drive that was helped by a roughing-the-punter call against Giants defensive tackle

Nikita Whitlock that gave Philadelphia a first down. The Eagles took advantage, finally scoring on a 12-yard run by Murray to give the Eagles a 24-7 lead with 6:13 left in the third quarter.

The Philadelphia defense held back the Giants in the fourth quarter, and Caleb Sturgis kicked a 39-yard field goal to make it 27-7 with 8:19 left in the game. — Reuters

### NFL Standings

American Football Conference							National Football Conference							
AFC East				AFC North			AFC South			NFC East				
W	L	T	OTL	PF	PA	PCT	W	L	T	OTL	PF	PA	PCT	
New England	5	0	0	0	183	103	1.000	Philadelphia	3	3	0	0	144	110
NY Jets	4	1	0	0	129	75	.800	NY Giants	3	3	0	0	139	136
Buffalo	3	3	0	0	145	139	.500	Dallas	2	3	0	1	101	131
Miami	2	3	0	0	103	111	.400	Washington	2	4	0	1	117	138
Cincinnati	6	0	0	0	182	122	1.000							
Pittsburgh	4	2	0	1	145	108	.667							
Cleveland	2	4	0	1	141	158	.333							
Baltimore	1	5	0	1	143	162	.167							
Indianapolis	3	3	0	0	126	147	.500							
Houston	2	4	0	0	128	155	.333							
Tennessee	1	4	0	0	112	129	.200							
Jacksonville	1	5	0	1	113	176	.167							
Denver	6	0	0	0	139	102	1.000							
Oakland	2	3	0	0	107	124	.400							
San Diego	2	4	0	0	136	161	.333							
Kansas City	1	5	0	0	127	159	.167							





## ROOM FOR A VIEW - TESTS BATTLE EMPTY FEELING

**ABU DHABI:** Ticket prices slashed, night-time cricket with pink balls and desperate appeals for livelier wickets, the battle continues to preserve the integrity of Test matches.

When Pakistan and England opened their Test series in Abu Dhabi last week, only 54 people watched the first day at the 20,000-capacity Sheikh Zayed Stadium.

The stadium's operations manager Shahnawaz Hakim admitted that crowds have always been bigger for one-day internationals than for five-day Tests. "We put prices on tickets in anticipation that people would come but there were insignificant numbers on the first two days," Hakim told AFP. Prices ranged from just \$5 to \$28.

"We expect more people in the one-day internationals-in fact, it's always a full house on Friday in limited overs matches," said Hakim, of the four one-day and three Twenty20 internationals which will follow the three-match Test series.

England's enthusiastic supporters group, the

touring "Barmy Army" outnumbered locally-based fans, mainly expats from India and Pakistan whose time to watch cricket is severely limited by their work duties. David Miller, a fan from Sheffield in northern England, described the numbers as disappointing. "We thought that it would be a good competition in the stands but there were very few people to counter our songs and chants," Miller said.

The number of spectators rose to around 5,500 on the Thursday-a holiday due to the first day of the Islamic calendar-and on Friday, the traditional weekly rest day in the Gulf.

But it came down to 2,500 on Saturday as the match headed for a draw on a flat pitch drained of its lifeblood. Even the drama in the final evening session, when England were denied a possible victory by bad light, came too late to whet the appetite of stayaway fans.

When play was halted, England required just 25 runs off eight overs. Dubai will stage the second Test from Thursday where crowds will again be

sparse although organisers are hopeful of an upturn for the final Test in Sharjah.

Declining crowds for Tests is not restricted to the United Arab Emirates. "There were never great crowds in Pakistan in modern times," former England captain Bob Willis told Sky Sports.

"In India, all they want to see is one-day cricket. Once you lose a Test crowd, it's hard to get it back." "Similarly in South Africa, only the Cape Town Test gets any crowd at all.

"People are concerned about the future of Tests-it's only in England and Australia where you still get large crowds." Pakistan have been forced to play their 'home' series in the UAE ever since the 2009 militant attack on the Sri Lankan team sparked an international boycott of tours to the country.

But even when Pakistan last hosted a Test against the Sri Lankans in Lahore six years ago, there were more policemen than fans in the stadium. Analysts believe the advent of more thrilling and the shorter duration Twenty20 matches, with

full houses in the Indian Premier League, are to blame for the decline in Tests' attendance.

England enjoyed good crowds in the recently concluded Ashes series, with a good number of fans making the journey from Australia. But the Ashes tends to be the exception.

The argument that fans cannot spare time in the day to watch Test matches led the MCC cricket committee to back day-night Tests using a pink ball.

Adelaide will finally host a Test under lights for the first time next month when Australia take on New Zealand. Cricket Australia chief executive James Sutherland suggested Test matches starting late in the afternoon could be a solution.

"We came out of a series in the UAE where apart from the weekend days there was virtually no one there," said Sutherland after Australia's series against Pakistan last year. "But it's quite foreseeable that if those matches had started at 3pm and gone into the evening, the attendance would have been significantly better." — AFP



**PRETORIA:** In this Monday April 7, 2014 file photo, Oscar Pistorius weeps as he listens to evidence by a pathologist in court in Pretoria. — AP

## PISTORIUS UNDER HOUSE ARREST

**PRETORIA:** Oscar Pistorius, South Africa's double-amputee "Blade Runner", was released on parole late on Monday, just short of a year into his five-year sentence for killing his girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp on Valentine's Day 2013.

The disgraced Paralympic gold medalist must serve the rest of his sentence under house arrest and still faces an appeal on Nov. 3 by prosecutors who argue that he should have been convicted of murder, not culpable homicide.

Pistorius, 28, who was found guilty of the lesser charge for firing four shots through a locked bathroom door that hit Steenkamp, will be confined to his uncle Arnold's home in a wealthy suburb of the capital, Pretoria. Pistorius had been expected to leave prison on Tuesday, and his early release took media by surprise. Family spokeswoman Anneliese Burgess said on Tuesday that they were glad to have Pistorius home and that the athlete would observe his parole conditions closely.

"The family is happy that Oscar is home, but they want to make the point that his sentence continues," Burgess said outside the house.

The Department of Correctional Services (DCS) said officials at the capital's Kgosi Mampuru II prison, formerly known as Pretoria Central, had acted to avoid a media scrum at its gates. "The handling of the actual placement is an operational matter of the local management, and how they handle it is their prerogative," department spokesman Manelisi Wolela said in a text message. "They carry it out in the best interest of all parties concerned."

The DCS later said in a statement that "the privacy of offenders may not be invaded", in response to media requests on the specific details of Pistorius' parole conditions.

A lawyer for Steenkamp's family, who publicly questioned the verdict in August said they were indifferent to his release in view of their loss. "To them it doesn't matter whether he was released yesterday a few hours earlier or a few hours later," lawyer Tania Koen said on Talk Radio 702. "Whether he remains incarcerated or not, it makes no difference to them now because Reeva is still not coming back." Koen said the Steenkamps will not be issuing a further statement about Pistorius's release. "They are focusing on their work with the Reeva Rebecca Steenkamp Foundation. The fight against gender-based violence was a passion of Reeva's and she was due to speak about it on the day of her death," Koen told Reuters.

A neighbour who declined to be named told Reuters it was sad Pistorius was freed having served less than a year in prison.

"This is hardly a prison," she said of the leafy suburb of Waterkloof, where Pistorius is under

house arrest. But Dewald Reynders, a former athlete who said he trained with Pistorius in the past, welcomed the news. Reynders said he'd known Pistorius since 2004 and had seen what effect the media scrutiny had on the then teenage boy.

"I'm glad he was released quietly last night. He shouldn't have to go through all of it over and over again." A bouquet of flowers was delivered to the house although it was unclear who had sent it.

The athlete, whose lower legs were amputated when he was a baby, was freed in line with South African sentencing guidelines that say non-dangerous prisoners should spend only one-sixth of a custodial sentence behind bars.

"I'm hoping to catch up with him some time this week," Pistorius agent Peet van Zyl said, adding that he understood Pistorius had not been training during his year behind bars.

Pistorius will be allowed to leave the house on occasion. "The conditions are strict and he will be able to leave the house to go to work, go to church or to buy groceries," said Karen van Eck, an attorney with Clarke and Van Eck Attorneys. But as his job is competitive athletics this could prove challenging for him, as events far from the house are likely to be off limits, said Van Eck.

### APPEAL LOOMS

Prosecutors argue that the verdict should be one of murder because Pistorius must have known that the person behind the door could be killed. Their appeal is due to be heard on Nov. 3. The state will argue that the trial judge misinterpreted parts of the law. A murder conviction would result in a minimum sentence of 15 years in prison.

A panel of five judges will hear the appeal, which Pistorius is not obliged to attend. They could either reject the prosecution's appeal, order a retrial or convict Pistorius of murder themselves, legal experts say. Parole conditions already announced include that Pistorius, a gun enthusiast, must undergo psychotherapy and is not allowed to possess a firearm.

South Africa has one of the world's highest rates of violent crime. Louise Ferreira, a feminist activist and writer, was critical of how short a time he had spent behind bars in view of his crime.

"He might not have been found guilty of murder, but it was yet another instance of a South African woman killed by an intimate partner, and I don't believe the time he spent in prison reflects the severity either of his crime or the epidemic of violence against women," she said. — Reuters

## ISNER STARTS WITH VIENNA WIN

**VIENNA:** American John Isner rained down 16 aces in an opening victory at the Austria Open yesterday as the third seed kept up a long-odds bid for an ATP year-end finals spot.

One of the tallest men in tennis defeated an opponent he called "a left-handed version of me," advancing to the second round over Frenchman Kenny De Schepper 7-6 (7/4), 7-6 (7/5). Isner did not face a break point in the victory lasting almost one and three-quarter hours at the Stadthalle. Isner had a match point in the penultimate game, which he missed before serving out the victory 7/5 in a tight deciding tie-breaker.

He next lines up against Ernests Gulbis after the patchy Latvian ended an ATP-level five-match losing streak stretching to last August with his opening victory on Monday.

"I'm very happy with this performance," said Isner, who stands provisional 12th among five other rivals battling for the last two places in the eight-man field for next month's World Tour Finals in London.

"My goal is to try and make London but (Vienna top seed David) Ferrer is so many points ahead (on provisional eighth). It's not a

problem if I don't make it - at least I will have tried my best.

"I'll just go into the off season, rest and prepare for 2016." Isner said that advancing past 123-ranked De Schepper was not easy. "It came down to a few points, which I was able to win.

"I like the conditions here, the court and the balls are fantastic," said the player how lost in the 2009 first round on his only other appearance in the Austrian capital.

Unseeded Italian Paolo Lorenzi of Italy spent two and a quarter hours getting past Radev Ram 6-7 (4-7), 6-1, 6-4, winning thanks in part to 16 aces. Sergiy Stakhovskiy of the Ukraine beat Germany's Jan-Lennard Struff 6-4, 6-4.

In addition to Ferrer and Isner, two more London contenders are trying to add points in Vienna this week plus two more remaining in the ATP regular season.

Shanghai finalist Jo-Wilfried Tsonga will make his start on Wednesday in the first round against 37-year-old wild card Tommy Haas while South African Kevin Anderson also begins play. — AFP

## RECORD-BREAKING INDIAN OPENER SEHWAG RETIRES

**NEW DELHI:** Swashbuckling opener Virender Sehwag, the only Indian batsman ever to score a triple century in Test match cricket, announced his international retirement yesterday.

More than two years after last appearing for his country, Sehwag accepted that there would be no emotional comeback as he became the latest member of India's World Cup-winning team to call it a day. "God has been kind and I have done what I wanted to do," he said in a statement on his 37th birthday after again being overlooked by the selectors for the ongoing series against South Africa.

"Cricket has been my life and continues to be so. Playing for India was a memorable journey and I tried to make it more memorable for my team mates and the Indian cricket fans."

The right-handed batsman also confirmed he was retiring from the Indian Premier League, an annual Twenty20 tournament that takes place in April and May.

Reports however said Sehwag would continue to play first-class cricket for his state side Haryana in the domestic Ranji Trophy competition. After making his debut against South Africa in 2001, Sehwag became one of the most feared batsmen in world cricket, forming part of a formidable line-up that also included Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid, VVS Laxman and Sourav Ganguly. Sehwag is widely credited with transforming the role of opening batsman in Test cricket with a hard-hitting style that brought him a top score in Test matches of 319, against South Africa in Chennai in 2008.

### 'MY WAY'

While his sometimes unorthodox style often infuriated the purists, he resisted pressure to temper his aggression at the top of the order.

"I also want to thank everyone for all the cricketing advice given to me over the years and apologise for not accepting most of it," he joked on Tuesday. "I had a reason for not following it, I did it my way!" The Delhi-born batsman was twice named the world's leading player by the Wisden cricketers' almanack. He played a total of 104 Tests, scoring 8,586 runs at an average of 49.34.

He also played 251 ODIs, scoring 8,273 runs at an average of 35.05. He at one stage held the record for the highest score in 50-over internationals after plundering 219 against the West Indies. Although he had not played for his country since a Test against Australia in 2013, many fans yearned for his return to the national side, with which he also won the 2011 50-over World Cup on home soil.

Mahendra Singh Dhoni, who captained India to victory in 2011, led the tributes to his former team-mate as he compared Sehwag to West Indies batting legend Vivian Richards.

"Didn't see Viv Richards bat in person but I



**INDORE:** In this Thursday, Dec. 8, 2011 file photo, India's captain Virender Sehwag celebrates scoring double century and his world record one-day score during their fourth one day international cricket match against West Indies. — AP

can proudly say I have witnessed Virender Sehwag tearing apart the best bowling attacks," Dhoni wrote on Twitter.

Tendulkar, who retired in 2013, said Sehwag had been a joy to watch and play with.

Writing on Twitter, Tendulkar said that he "had the best seat during most of his superlative performances on field".

"Loved his instinctive approach to batting and life," he added. Sehwag was dropped from the national side after a string of poor performances with the bat. He continued to hold out hope of a comeback but only fired intermittently

on the domestic circuit. His announcement came just five days after his World Cup team-mate and bowling spearhead Zaheer Khan said he was quitting international cricket.

Dhoni, Virat Kohli and Harbhajan Singh were the only survivors of the 2011 World Cup to be named on Monday in the ODI and Test squads chosen to play the touring South Africans. Sehwag has already signed up for a veterans' Twenty20 competition due to be held in the United Arab Emirates next year alongside the likes of former West Indies captain Brian Lara and Australia's Adam Gilchrist. — AFP

## BALANCED 2016 TOUR ROUTE STILL SET TO FAVOR CLIMBERS

**PARIS:** The Tour de France looks set to be dominated by the climbers once more in 2016 but cycling's most prestigious stage race should get off to a calmer start than this year after organisers revealed a balanced course yesterday. After rattling through cobbled sections and battling perilous crosswinds in an extremely nervous opening block of racing this year, the overall contenders will be relieved that the first week will be much less treacherous. "It looks that way but we can never be sure. The Tour de France is a stressful race," warned defending champion Chris Froome of Britain.

"It will, however, be a week for the strong," said competition director Thierry Gouvenou, who designs the course along with Tour director Christian Prudhomme. The sprinters will have more chances to shine with about seven stage finishes designed for the speed merchants, between the first stage ending at Utah Beach, the site of one of the D-Day landing operations in 1944, to the traditional final dash up the Champs-Elysees. It means that a sprinter is highly likely to wear the yellow jersey after the first stage. "That makes me super excited obviously, hopefully this time it's going to work out," said Briton Mark Cavendish, who missed out on that opportunity in 2014.

There will be plenty of mountains too, with 28 climbs, three more than this year, scattered over four chains-the Massif Central, Pyrenees, Alps and Jura. Four mountain stages will conclude with uphill finishes. The Tour has heavily favoured the pure climbers since 2012, when all-rounder Bradley Wiggins became the first Briton to win the race.

The Queen stage on Bastille Day will take the peloton from Montpellier to the iconic Mont Ventoux, one of France's toughest climbs-a crippling 22.7-km ascent at an average gradient of 7.2 percent, where defending champion Chris Froome crushed his rivals in 2013.

"We try, when possible, to have a significant stage on the 14th of July (French national day)," Prudhomme told reporters. While this year's race had a post-World War Two low single individual time trial measuring just 14 km, the 2016 edition will feature two arduous tests against the clock that are likely to suit the overall contenders and Olympics-bound cyclists. — Reuters



**FRANCE:** This photo provided by ASO (Amaury Sport Organisation) and released yesterday, shows the official map of the 2016 Tour de France cycling race. — AP

## JUVENTUS MUST ECLIPSE DOMESTIC WOES AGAIN - ALLEGRI

**MILAN:** Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri has demanded his side forget their domestic woes with a Champions League win over Borussia Monchengladbach that would put them within sight of the last 16. An underwhelming start to the Serie A season has left Juventus just four points above the relegation zone and nine points behind leaders Fiorentina after eight games.

But in true Jekyll and Hyde style, Juve-last season's beaten finalists appear to transform when the challenge of Europe's premier club competition looms. They are among only six teams with maximum points from their first two games, following a 2-1 win at Manchester City with a 2-0 defeat of Sevilla that has propelled them to the top of Group D.

Holding a three-point cushion on both City and Sevilla, Juve will take a significant step towards the knockout stages with victory over Andre Schubert's improving Bundesliga side today.

Observers looking at Juve's Serie A performances and position should be wary. On Sunday, the Bianconeri snatched a point from a pulsating scoreless draw away to on-form Inter Milan, but it was a compelling display from the champions and, with the exception of a poor first-half display from Paul Pogba, dispelled any existing doubts about Juve's steadily-improving form. After the game, Allegri alluded to Juve's split personalities in a post on Twitter, writing: "We played a good game, now let us see #euroJuve and get focused on the Champions League."

The statistics back up the 48-year-old coach. Juve stunned City at the Etihad Stadium just after they had suffered defeats to Udinese and Roma, and could only draw with Chievo at home, in their first three games of the season.

Since then, Juve have only slowly improved on the domestic front. But Allegri has welcomed back key players from injury, including midfielders Sami Khedira and

Claudio Marchisio as well as experienced defender Andrea Barzagli.

Although Juve are not quite the side that Argentinian striker Carlos Tevez inspired to a league and Cup double last season, the Bianconeri are finally beginning to play like a team. "Now, I have all of the squad available for selection, even if some of the lads are lacking a little match fitness," Allegri said. Allegri is expected to deploy his preferred 4-3-1-2 formation for Wednesday's clash in Turin, with Alvaro Morata already sure to claim one of the two strikers' spots.

The Spanish international's goal against Sevilla last time out meant he equalled Alessandro Del Piero's club record of scoring in five consecutive Champions League games. Mario Mandzukic and Paulo Dybala are vying to join him up front.

Gladbach have also endured a Jekyll and Hyde season so far, in the Bundesliga at least. The Germans suffered five straight league defeats and lost 3-0 to Sevilla in Europe, leaving them bottom of Germany's top flight and prompting coach Lucien Favre's shock resignation in mid-September after four successful years at the helm.

Schubert was installed only as caretaker coach, but the change was immediate. The Fools went on to win four league games on the trot and although a 2-1 defeat to City has left them bottom of the group without a point, the Germans are defiant.

"There is a jolt going through the team and the way we are playing at the moment is sensational," defender Tony Jantschke said after Gladbach hammered Eintracht Frankfurt 5-1 away on Saturday. "The fact is that we are not exactly playing with our heads down at the moment. "We are going to Turin to win, we want to show that we can compete against the big names." Fleet-footed winger Patrick Herrmann is out with a knee injury while Swiss defensive midfielder Granit Xhaka is doubtful with an ankle knock. — AFP



SPAIN: Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo reacts during a Spanish La Liga soccer match. — AP

## SUPREMACY AT STAKE AS PSG HOST INJURY-HIT REAL

**PARIS:** Paris Saint-Germain and Real Madrid will test their Champions League credentials when they meet at the Parc des Princes today with supremacy in their group at stake.

The two teams, who harbour ambitions of going all the way in Europe's elite club competition, are locked together at the top of Group A having both beaten Malmo and Shakhtar Donetsk without conceding a goal.

Both sides are therefore well on course to qualify for the last 16, but their double confrontation over the next two weeks they also meet in the Spanish capital on November 3 — will likely determine who wins the section and thereby sets up a more favourable draw in the first knockout round.

Madrid's preparations for the match—which comes ahead of a testing run of games in which they will also meet Celta Vigo, Sevilla and Barcelona in La Liga in the next month—have been overshadowed by injuries. Gareth Bale is set to miss out with a recurrence of a calf injury suffered in the 3-0 win against Levante at the weekend, while James Rodriguez, Pepe and Dani Carvajal are all expected to be sidelined in Paris. Karim Benzema is also a major doubt due to a hamstring strain.

However, Rafael Benitez's men have been boosted by the return of Luka Modric to training after an abductor muscle injury and captain

Sergio Ramos is reportedly set to start against the French champions after overcoming a shoulder injury.

Madrid are joint top of La Liga and are still unbeaten this season under Benitez, but Spain midfielder Isco admits that record will be seriously tested at the Parc des Princes.

"They are one of the most complete sides in the competition and they have great players," Isco told realmadrid.com. "The two matches against them will be very hard and will be defined by the small details. We need to follow the same path as we have up to now, scoring a lot of goals and conceding very few."

Like their opponents, PSG are yet to lose this season and they are top of Ligue 1 after winning 2-0 at Bastia at the weekend.

Indeed, that result left them unbeaten in their last 20 games in all competitions since a 2-0 defeat against Barcelona in the quarter-finals of last season's Champions League in April.

However, Paris coach Laurent Blanc also has injury concerns, with Marco Verratti and Angel Di Maria hoping to feature after missing the Bastia game and David Luiz struggling to overcome a knee injury suffered playing for Brazil.

In addition, first-choice goalkeeper Kevin Trapp faces a fight to recover from a thigh injury in time, so Salvatore Sirigu is standing by to replace him.

"Real can hurt you at any moment. In mid-field and up front all of their players can make the difference," warned PSG striker Edinson Cavani. The all-star cast for the game will be headed by PSG's Zlatan Ibrahimovic and Real's Cristiano Ronaldo, who have both become the all-time leading scorers for their respective clubs since the start of this month.

Meanwhile, Argentina winger Di Maria will be eager to feature for Paris against the side he helped win the Champions League in 2014 with an outstanding performance in the final against Atletico Madrid.

However, he says he will not produce his trademark celebration, his fingers forming the shape of a heart, should he score. "I won't celebrate because in my heart I have not forgotten what I went through with Madrid. It was unforgettable, a magnificent memory that will always stay with me," Di Maria told Canal Plus. While Paris have faced Barcelona six times in the last three seasons, they have not come up against Real for two decades.

Back then, the French side knocked Madrid out of Europe in consecutive seasons, beating them in the UEFA Cup quarter-finals in 1993 when a legendary late goal by Antoine Kombouare secured a 5-4 aggregate triumph, and then coming out on top in the Cup Winners' Cup quarter-finals a year later. — AFP



ITALY: Juventus' Juan Cuadrado kicks the ball in this file photo.

## GULF RIVALS BATTLE TO REACH ACL FINAL

**DUBAI:** Gulf bragging rights are at stake as Dubai's Al Ahli and Saudi Arabia's Al Hilal play the second leg of their Asian Champions League (ACL) semi-final late yesterday.

The likes of World Cup winning captains Fabio Cannavaro and Diego Maradona have been lured to play or coach in the wealthy region in recent years, but sustained continental success has proved elusive with only one Gulf club—Qatar's Al Sadd—crowned Asian champions in the past decade.

Hoping to put that right are hosts Al Ahli, who will be slight favourites after netting a potentially crucial away goal in drawing the first leg 1-1, and Al Hilal, Asia's second-ranked team and 2014 ACL runners-up. Al Ahli coach Cosmin Olariu led Al Hilal to the Saudi title in 2008 and also took charge of the kingdom's national team

at this year's Asia Cup, but he played down any advantage this experience might provide.

"In football everyone has the tendency to believe football is a science, or mathematical," the Romanian told a news conference. "Football is a show, it is made by artists and in any moment they improvise, they can do things that are not expected."

"My knowledge of them helps, but it will not be the deciding factor. Whoever has more psychological power, more strength, they will succeed."

For Al Ahli, much will depend on playmaker Everton Ribeiro. The two-time Brazilian player of the year has dazzled since his surprise move to the United Arab Emirates for a reported fee of 15 million euros last winter. The 26-year-old scored in the final three ACL group games to help Al Ahli scrape into the knock-out phases and has five goals and a clutch of assists in 21 domestic games.

Ribeiro will be ably supported by his compatriot, the striker Rodrigo Lima, 32, who netted home and away against Iran's Naft Tehran in the quarter-finals and bagged the opener in the semi-final first-leg. "We know about Al Ahli, they have good players, not only these two," Al Hilal's Greek coach Giorgos Donis said. "They work as a team, but tomorrow it is more important for us to improve some things from the last game."

Al Hilal will also look to two Brazilians for inspiration. Ailton, a journeyman striker recruited from Europe's minor leagues, and muscular midfielder Carlos Eduardo, 25, have scored nine goals in six ACL and Saudi league matches between them since signing in the summer.

But the Riyadh outfit will be without key defender Digo, who is suspended, plus goalkeeper Khalid Sharhili who was dropped after skipping training.

"If someone continues with amateur behaviour there's no place for him in our club," added Donis. In the other semi-final, Japan's Gamba Osaka will attempt to overturn a 2-1 first-leg deficit at home to China's Guangzhou Evergrande today. — Reuters

## ATLETICO EYE MAXIMUM POINTS

**MADRID:** Atletico Madrid striker Fernando Torres has insisted his side must take maximum points from their two encounters with Champions League debutants Astana in the next fortnight to get their European campaign back on track.

The Spanish side host the Kazakh champions today hoping to make amends for their first home defeat in the Champions League for six years against Benfica last time out.

Diego Simeone's men are still well-placed to qualify from Group C thanks to their 2-0 win at Galatasaray on match day one. However, having made the quarter-finals in each of the last two seasons, Torres is determined to reach the knockout stages as group winners to ensure an easier path to the last eight once more.

"We knew it was very important to win at Galatasaray ahead of the home match against Benfica. We won in Turkey, but it wasn't our plan to lose here at home against Benfica," the former Liverpool and Chelsea striker told Uefa.com.

"We need the points even more in the upcoming matches but we are confident that we will make it into the next round, which is our short-term objective."

"We want to finish first in our group, because you have more advantages, or let's say fewer disadvantages, in the next round. We are at that point now to know that we need six points in our next two matches." Astana made the longest ever trip in Champions League group stage history when they travelled over 6,000 kilometres to play Benfica on matchday one and face another marathon trip as they try to spring a massive upset in the Spanish capital.



SPAIN: Atletico de Madrid's Yannick Carrasco celebrates in this file photo. — AP

"On paper we are the favourites, but not really knowing them can be a real danger," added Torres, who is just one goal away from his 100th for the club.

"In such matches we have to focus on ourselves, play our game, keep the concentration that you need in Champions League matches, and approach it with the determination to win."

Simeone has a fully-fit squad to choose from,

but the Argentine could rotate his squad with a key clash against Valencia in La Liga to come on Sunday.

Astana secured their first ever point in the competition with a 2-2 draw at home to Galatasaray last time out in a crazy game dominated by three own goals. The visitors will be without Ghanaian striker Patrick Twumasi as he serves the third of a four-game ban. — AFP

## STERLING SETS SIGHTS ON SEVILLA

**LONDON:** After a hat-trick against Bournemouth, Manchester City forward Raheem Sterling has set his sights on bigger targets, starting with today's Champions League encounter at home to Europa League holders Sevilla.

Sterling inspired City to a 5-1 demolition of Bournemouth on Saturday in his best performance since joining from Liverpool in a deal that could be worth up to £49 million (\$75.7 million, 66.7 million euros).

With Wilfried Bony also scoring twice, Manuel Pellegrini's side barely missed the injured Sergio Aguero and David Silva, but ahead of successive games against Sevilla and Manchester United, Sterling knows that City's path is about to become a great deal steeper.

"That was my best game so far for City. I had chances and I finished them, so I'm happy," the England forward told the club website.

"The movement up front and the passing from midfield has been really good in the last few games and we've been playing some good, free-flowing stuff. "We have to put this game to

one side now and look towards Sevilla on Wednesday and Man United next weekend. But our focus for now is purely on Wednesday."

Having crushed Newcastle United 6-1 prior to the international break, City have now scored 11 goals in two games, but the transition from domestic to continental competition has been a consistent area of concern in recent seasons. City won their first five Premier League games without conceding a goal, only to crash 2-1 at home to Juventus in their opening Group D assignment last month.

A 90th-minute Aguero penalty saw them win at Borussia Moenchengladbach in their second group game, but with Juventus having beaten Sevilla 2-0 on the same night, a shootout for second place is already on the cards. As well as Aguero and Silva, City are also currently without both left-backs Aleksandar Kolarov and Gael Clichy, meaning right-back Bacary Sagna is expected to fill in on the left side of defence. Skipper Vincent Kompany is in line to return after being rested against Bournemouth, while

Pellegrini has allayed fears about the fitness of Yaya Toure after he was taken off at half-time.

Although fit, Toure is not content, as he disclosed in an interview with L'Equipe on Monday in which he said that he was "not happy" due to a perceived lack of recognition from the English media. While the Ivorian broods, Wednesday's game is likely to be a happier occasion for City winger Jesus Navas, who played 393 games for Sevilla during a 10-year period prior to alighting in northwest England in 2013.

Sevilla's domestic struggles continued on Saturday as they could only manage a 1-1 draw at Eibar, which left them 12th in La Liga with just two wins from their opening eight games.

However, they have shown their ability to rise to the occasion as one of those victories came against European champions Barcelona.

Unai Emery's squad is also beginning to take shape after a spate of injuries, but Gael Kakuta, Sergio Escudero, Nico Pareja, Daniel Carrico and goalkeeper Beto are all expected to miss the trip to Manchester. — AFP



Matches on TV  
(Local Timings)

### UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Juventus v Borussia	21:45
beIN SPORTS 3 HD	
Moskva v Man United	21:45
beIN SPORTS 4 HD	
beIN SPORTS 12 HD	
Atletico v Astana	21:45
beIN SPORTS 9 HD	
Wolfsburg v PSV	21:45
beIN SPORTS 7 HD	
Galatasaray v Benfica	21:45
beIN SPORTS 6 HD	
Malmo v Shakhtar	21:45
beIN SPORTS 5 HD	
PSG v Real Madrid	21:45
beIN SPORTS 2 HD	
beIN SPORTS 11 HD	
Man City v Sevilla	21:45
beIN SPORTS 1 HD	

## IDEYE GIVES OLYMPIAKOS 1-0 VICTORY AT DINAMO

**ZAGREB:** Olympiakos Piraeus boosted their hopes of reaching the Champions League knockout stages after an Ideye Brown goal helped them to a 1-0 Group F win at Dinamo Zagreb yesterday.

The result left Olympiakos level with Bayern Munich at the top of the section with six points from three games after the German side suffered a 2-0 setback at Arsenal.

Dinamo and Arsenal have three points each. Nigerian Ideye scored the 79th-minute winner with a superb finish from a tight angle, redeeming himself for an astonishing miss earlier in the second half. Dinamo had the upper hand in the opening period but the best chance fell to the visitors when a viciously dipping shot by defender Arthur Masuaku forced a good save from the home team's goalkeeper

Eduardo. Dinamo pounded a series of fizzing crosses into the penalty area but to no great effect as a packed Olympiakos defence held their own.

Both sides missed a sitter each in the space of a minute shortly after the break when Dinamo's Domagoj Antolic hit the post from close range before Ideye skewed his shot wide from three metres with the goal at his mercy.

Marko Rog's trickling shot shaved the Olympiakos woodwork before Ideye raced clear of his marker on the left flank and buried the ball past Eduardo with a crisp finish.

Substitute Angelo Henriquez missed Dinamo's last chance to salvage a point, heading inches wide of the far post after a good cross from the right by full-back Alexandru Matel. — Reuters

## PORTO GO TOP IN GROUP G

**PORTO:** Two first half goals gave Porto an easy 2-0 win over Champions League Group G outsiders Maccabi Tel Aviv yesterday that put the Portuguese side in the box seat to qualify for the last 16.

Goals from striker Vincent Aboubakar in the 37th minute and Yacine Brahimi in the 41st helped Porto go two points clear at the top of the group as rivals Dynamo Kiev held Chelsea to a goalless draw.

Porto allowed Maccabi plenty of possession and space but that was never going to be enough for the Israelis, as the superior speed and skill of the home team kept them in control and they were never threatened. Maccabi managed to create some threatening situations midway through the first 45 minutes but

they are still without a point or a goal in the competition so far.

The dynamic Aboubakar, a constant threat, ran into the area to powerfully head home a perfectly-measured cross from the left by Miguel Layun that left Maccabi's goalkeeper Predrag Rajkovic helpless on his line.

Aboubakar then sent a ball through the middle of the Maccabi defence for Brahimi to slot home and effectively end the match as a contest.

Porto's former Real Madrid keeper Iker Casillas set a new record for the most clean sheets in the Champions League with his 51st shutout, moving one ahead of ex-Juventus and Manchester United keeper Edwin van der Sar. — Reuters



**UKRAINE:** Kiev's Artyom Kravets (left) challenges for the ball with Chelsea's Gary Cahill during the Champions League Group G soccer match. — AP

## KIEV STALEMATE KEEPS CHELSEA IN SUSPENSE

**KIEV:** Chelsea's Champions League last 16 hopes remain in the balance after they drew 0-0 at Dynamo Kiev yesterday despite an improved display at the Olympic Stadium.

On a cold, misty night in the Ukrainian capital, Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho saw his side hit the woodwork through the recalled Eden Hazard and Willian, but had to settle for a point.

Having lost 2-1 at Porto in their previous game, it means the misfiring Premier League champions have gone two games without victory in Group G, leaving them three points below Porto and a point behind Dynamo. But with home games against both those sides to come, as well as a trip to Maccabi Tel Aviv, Mourinho will remain confident of progressing, particularly after witnessing a much-improved performance by his team.

Sehly Rebrov's Dynamo will also take heart from the game, however, particularly as it followed a 3-0 loss at home to Shakhtar Donetsk, which was their first league defeat in 39 games. Mourinho made three changes to the team

that beat Aston Villa 2-0 in the Premier League on Saturday, with Hazard, Gary Cahill and Nemanja Matic replacing Pedro Rodriguez, Ruben Loftus-Cheek and Baba Rahman. Hazard, last season's Player of the Season, had been upbraided by Mourinho for his lack of defensive efforts, but he was quick to make his presence felt on his return to the starting XI.

In the ninth minute, a deflected shot from Cesc Fabregas found its way to the Belgian, who shifted the ball onto his right foot and curled a shot goalwards, only for Dynamo's 40-year-old goalkeeper Olexandr Shovkovskiy to brilliantly tip it onto the post.

Fabregas then had a penalty appeal turned down after tumbling over Serhiy Rybalka's outstretched leg inside the home penalty area.

Pursuing their strong start, Chelsea saw Willian's left-wing free-kick narrowly elude Diego Costa, while Nemanja Matic slalomed through the Dynamo defence and poked a right-foot shot across goal and wide. Chelsea were showing a zip and snap scarcely seen this season, but

Vitaliy Buyalskiy served a reminder of the hosts' threat mid-way through the first half with a left-foot shot that flicked off John Terry and flashed narrowly wide.

The visitors continued to exert pressure early in the second period, with Willian bending a 25-yard free-kick against the bar and Fabregas driving a shot straight at Shovkovskiy.

But with each chance they did not take, so the risk of a sucker-punch loomed larger, and Dynamo began to make inroads of their own. With Chelsea's players caught upfield, Andriy Yarmolenko released Derlis Gonzalez with a showy, no-look pass and the Paraguayan cut inside before forcing Asmir Begovic to save at his near post. Mourinho sent Oscar on in place of Fabregas for the final 15 minutes, but Dynamo continued to threaten. After a sloppy pass from visiting captain Terry, Denys Garmash set up fellow substitute Junior Moraes with a whipped cross from the right, but Begovic bravely threw himself at the Brazilian's feet. Willian almost had the last word for the men in blue, but he could only curl wide from just outside the box. — AFP



**ST. PETERSBURG:** Lyon's Brazilian defender Rafael (left) vies for the ball with Zenit's Spanish midfielder Javi Garcia during the UEFA Champions League Group H football match. — AP

## ZENIT IN SIGHT OF LAST 16 AFTER LYON WIN

**SAINT PETERSBURG:** Zenit St Petersburg edged closer towards a place in the last 16 of the Champions League yesterday after a 3-1 home victory over Lyon in Group H.

Artem Dzyuba continued his impressive goalscoring form as he put Zenit ahead after just three minutes at the Stadion Petrovskiy.

Lyon pulled level shortly after half-time through Alexandre Lacazette but Hulk drilled home a trademark long-range strike to restore the lead for Zenit. Danny then ended any hopes of a Lyon comeback on 83 minutes as Andre Villas-Boas' men registered a third win in as many attempts to strengthen their position at the top of the group.

Zenit are three points clear of second-placed Valencia who beat Gent 2-1 in the night's other game to leave both defeated sides, Lyon and Gent, on one point apiece with their European dreams fading fast.

Lyon were caught cold on a chilly night in St Petersburg as the hosts secured an early breakthrough when Oleg Shatov played in Dzyuba to coolly

steer beyond Lyon goalkeeper Anthony Lopes for his sixth goal in his last seven appearances for club and country.

Mapou Yanga-Mbiwa stung the palms of Zenit 'keeper Mikhail Kerzhakov with a snap volley but the home side should have increased their lead when Hulk found Dzyuba in acres of space inside the box, only for the Russia striker to slip as he pulled the trigger.

Having conceded possession for the Zenit opener, it was from right-back Christophe Jallet's low cross that Lyon restored parity as Lacazette cleverly flicked the ball past Kerzhakov four minutes into the second half. However, Lyon were made to pay a heavy price seven minutes later after Hulk shrugged off a couple of challenges before taking aim from distance and beating Lopes with a vicious swerving effort. Dzyuba wasted a chance to add to his tally after prodding wide on 67 minutes but Zenit skipper Danny ensured the Russians achieved a hat-trick of wins to start a group stage campaign for the first time as Shatov raced clear before squaring for the Portuguese to tap in. — AFP

## LEVERKUSEN SALVAGE POINT IN THRILLING ROMA DRAW

**LEVERKUSEN:** Bayer Leverkusen snatched a dramatic late point in a 4-4 draw against Roma in a thrilling Champions League group stage encounter yesterday.

Javier Hernandez's brace had put Leverkusen ahead after just 20 minutes, but Roma drew level before half time as Daniele De Rossi struck twice, before the Italians scored twice more through Miralem Pjanic and Iago Falque to seemingly secure victory in the second half.

However, two Leverkusen goals in the last 10 minutes from Kevin Kampl and Admir Mehmedi capped off an exhilarating game and secured the Germans a dramatic share of the spoils.

The result was another disappointment for Roma. After defeat to BATE Borisov earlier this month, they now sit bottom of Group E. The group remains wide open, however, with just one point separating Leverkusen, Borisov and Roma underneath leaders Barcelona.

Leverkusen took the lead from the penalty spot with only four minutes played. A Hakan Calhanoglu cross struck Vassilis Torisdidis' trailing hand, and Hernandez converted the resulting penalty.

The Mexico international doubled the lead in the 19th minute. Free in the box after a defensive mistake from Lucas Digne, Hernandez's first shot was saved by Wojciech Szczesny, but he coolly slotted home the rebound. But Roma were gifted a goal in the 30th minute. After Bernd Leno failed to properly clear a corner, Daniele De Rossi was left unmarked six yards from goal and the Roma captain toe-poked the ball in to make it 2-1.

The goal sparked Roma into life, and they were rewarded for sustained pressure in the 38th minute. De Rossi was left unmarked again at a free kick from Pjanic, and he equalised from close range. With Roma dominating the early stages of the second half, Gervinho broke through the Leverkusen defence in the 53rd minute, only to be denied by a smart save from Leno. The Italians completed the turnaround just one minute later. Pjanic showed his set piece quality once more, placing a free kick into the bottom corner from 20 yards out.

Leverkusen struggled to find a route back into the game despite a short resurgence immediately after the goal. With 17 minutes to play, Roma hit on the counter attack, Gervinho linking up with the substitute Falque, who made it 4-2. The game looked over until the 84th minute, when Kampl suddenly curled in a beautiful strike from outside the penalty area. Just two minutes later, the ball passed from Kampl, via Wendell to Mehmedi, who put it in the net from close range. Hernandez could have won the game in stoppage time as Leverkusen struck on the counter attack, but his shot flew inches wide of the post. — AFP



**SPAIN:** Valencia's Aderlan Santos from Brazil duels for the ball with Gent's Laurent Depoitre (left) during a Group H Champions League soccer match. — AP

## LATE OWN GOAL EDGES VALENCIA PAST GENT

**VALENCIA:** A Stefan Mitrovic own goal 18 minutes from time handed Valencia a vital 2-1 win over Gent yesterday to edge the Spaniards closer to the last 16 of the Champions League.

A strong start from Valencia was rewarded when a combination of Sofiane Feghouli and Gent defender Lasse Nielsen opened the scoring for the hosts from close range, but Gent went in level at the break thanks to a stunning strike from Thomas Foket.

However, a better second-half display from the Belgian champions was undone when Mitrovic turned Jose Luis Gaya's effort into his own net. Victory strengthens Valencia's position in second place in Group H, five points ahead of Gent and Lyon, who lost 3-1 to group leaders Zenit St Petersburg.

Valencia should have had the game well wrapped up by half-time, but were left to rue some wayward finishing and brilliant goalkeeping by Matz Sels.

Santi Mina missed a one-on-one with the Gent 'keeper after eight minutes before Shkodran Mustafi headed over when unmarked from a corner 10 yards out.

The opener did arrive on 15 minutes when Feghouli swept home his third European goal of the season from Joao Cancelo's cross with the help of Nielsen.

Sels then made a fantastic double save from Mina and Dani Parejo and was called into action again from the resulting corner as he parried Santos's header. However, the Mestalla was stunned five minutes before the break when Foket broke forward and fired a spectacular shot into the top corner.

A much more evenly balanced second period ensued as nerves crept into a Valencia side that has struggled in La Liga so far this season.

Spanish international Paco Alcacer should have restored the hosts' lead when he clipped the ball over the bar with just Sels to beat.

Yet Valencia got the slice of luck they needed when Cancelo's cross came back off the crossbar and Gaya's follow-up effort rebounded off Mitrovic and into his own net.

Gent could still have salvaged a point, but Jaime Domenech came to Valencia's rescue with a stunning stop to deny Thomas Matton 10 minutes from time. — AFP

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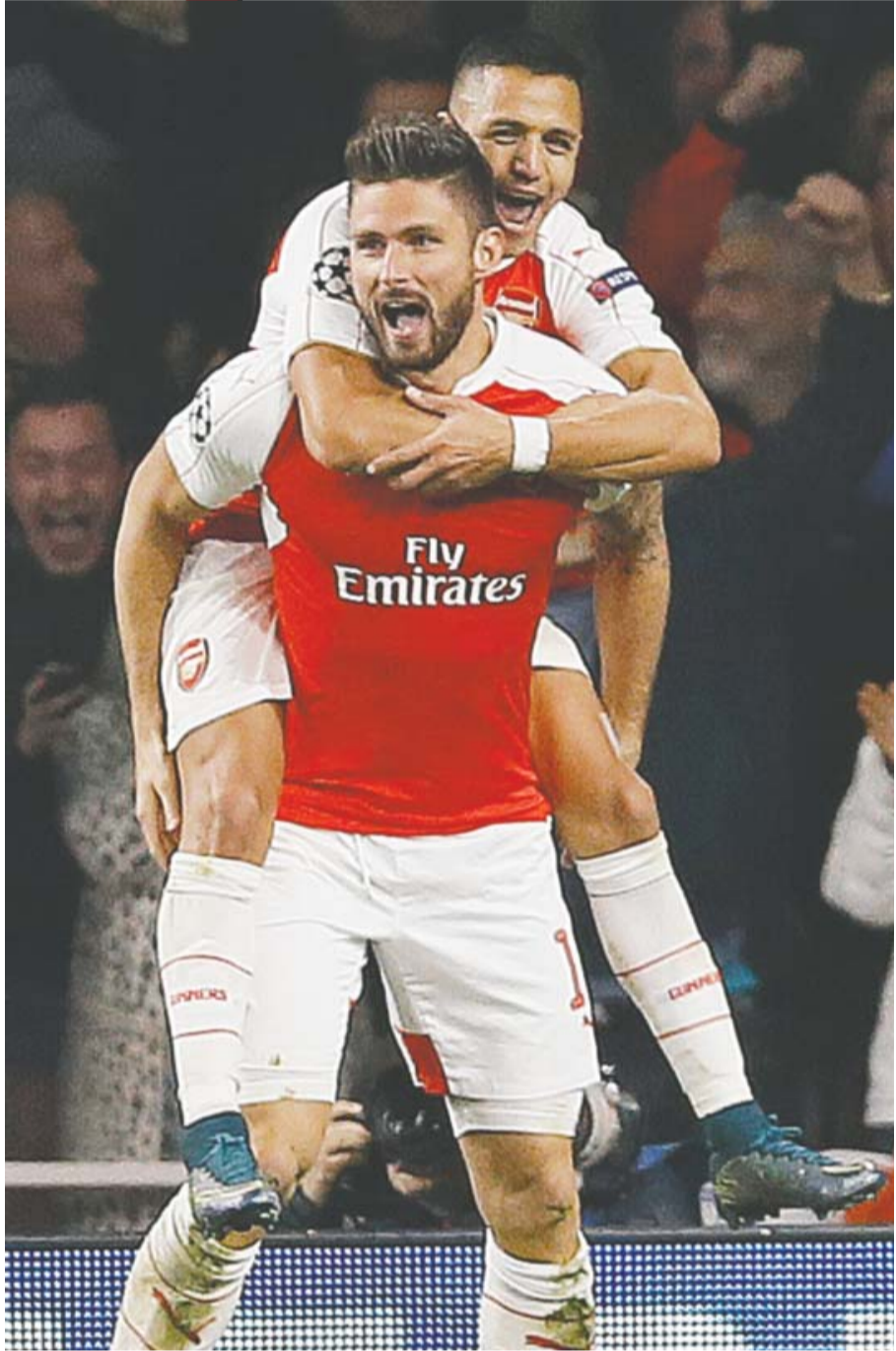


Kiev stalemate  
keeps Chelsea  
in suspense



WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2015

BALANCED 2016 TOUR ROUTE STILL SET TO FAVOR CLIMBERS Page 17



LONDON: Arsenal's Olivier Giroud (front) and Arsenal's Alexis Sanchez celebrate after scoring during the Champions League Group F soccer match between Arsenal and Bayern Munich. — AP

## GIROUD PUNISHES NEUER BLUNDER TO LIFT ARSENAL

LONDON: Olivier Giroud kept Arsenal's Champions League campaign alive as the France striker punished a costly blunder from Bayern Munich goalkeeper Manuel Neuer to inspire a crucial 2-0 win yesterday. Giroud came off the bench to open the scoring after Neuer made a hash of dealing with a free-kick with 13 minutes left at the Emirates Stadium and Mesut Ozil added the killer second with virtually the last kick. Despite being on the back foot for long periods, Arsene Wenger's side gratefully accepted Neuer's gift after consecutive Group F defeats had left them on the verge of elimination.

The Gunners still have little margin for error with a trip to Munich next up, but their determined display has given them much-needed hope of making the knockout stages for a 16th successive year. It was an especially ironic twist after a howler from Arsenal goalkeeper David Ospina had played a major role in their loss against Olympiakos in their previous European fixture.

Wenger had made the surprisingly candid revelation that his players underestimated Dinamo Zagreb and Olympiakos in the two defeats that had put them in such a perilous position, but there was never any chance they would repeat that mistake against the Bundesliga leaders.

Alexis Sanchez led Arsenal's first incisive raid as the Chilean surged forward before picking out Ozil for a low shot that Neuer turned away.

Bayern's victory at Werder Bremen on Saturday made them the first team ever to win their opening nine league games. And the sublime attacking play behind that record-breaking run was on display when Thomas Muller slipped a perfectly weighted pass through to Thiago Alcantara, whose drive was parried away by Petr Cech. Bayern boss Pep Guardiola had claimed he expected Arsenal to fight like animals, but Wenger's men were caged by the Germans' metronomic passing game for long periods and Sanchez was fortunate to get away with a handball as he blocked a shot.

With the Germans weaving intricate patterns around midfield, Arsenal's concentration wavered when Jerome Boateng was given time and space for a long pass to Douglas Costa.

Costa's quick feint took him past Hector Bellerin with ease and Bayern winger's powerful shot from a tight angle forced Cech to make a good save at his near post. Bayern's intelligent movement again reduced Arsenal to helpless bystanders when Arturo Vidal finished another flowing move by testing Cech with a dipping strike.

Aware that chances would be at a premium against such elite opposition, Arsenal countered by attacking with pace on the break, but when their chances came Theo Walcott scuffed wide from a good position and Sanchez blazed high into the stands.

Walcott had no reason to reproach himself late in the first half when his seemingly goal-bound close-range header from Nacho Monreal's cross was brilliantly clawed away by Neuer. It was an outrageously good save and Arsenal's frustration only grew as Aaron Ramsey dragged the rebound across goal.

Costa was a constant menace and the Brazilian

lashed just over from long-range soon after the interval. Robert Lewandowski had scored 15 goals in his last seven appearances for club and country and Bayern's Polish forward nearly added to that tally with a stinging drive that Cech pushed over.

Bayern kept pressing and Lewandowski's shot was repelled by a Laurent Koscielny block, while Muller's angled strike flashed just wide.

But after his earlier heroics, Neuer finished the villain as he gifted Arsenal the lead in the 77th minute. Santi Cazorla floated a high free-kick into the Bayern area and as Neuer came to collect behind Koscielny he allowed the ball to slip past him to Giroud, who headed against his hand and into the empty net. Rocked by that stunning setback, Bayern succumbed again in stoppage-time when Bellerin caught them on the break with a blistering run and cross to Ozil, whose first-time shot crossed the line despite Neuer's best efforts. — AFP

## RAKITIC EASES BARCA PAST BATE

BARYSAW: European champions Barcelona edged closer to sealing their place in the last 16 of the Champions League as Ivan Rakitic's double handed them a comfortable 2-0 win away at BATE Borisov.

Rakitic had started on the bench, but was pressed into action by a first-half injury to Sergi Roberto and finally opened the scoring after a frustrating opening period for the visitors soon after half-time.

Neymar then teed up the Croatian for his second of the evening as Barca solidified their position atop Group E with seven points from their first three games. An incredible 4-4 draw between Bayer Leverkusen and Roma in the other game in the group on Tuesday leaves Barca three points ahead of the Germans with BATE still a point ahead of Roma in third.

Neymar has taken the lead role since Lionel Messi was sidelined by a knee ligament injury three weeks ago and he nearly added to his four goals against Rayo Vallecano on Saturday within

three minutes but his shot was too close to Sergei Chernik.

Munir El Haddadi was standing in for Messi on the right side of the Barca attack and the Spanish under-21 international should have opened the scoring from a well-worked corner only to see his effort brilliantly repelled by Chernik.

The visitors suffered another injury blow on 17 minutes when Roberto hobbled off, but his replacement Rakitic was to have a telling impact. Sergio Busquets was unfortunate to see a shot fly across goal and beyond the far post before Rakitic should have done better when unmarked from Dani Alves's cross as the recently crowned Belarusian champions held out until half-time.

However, it took Barca just three minutes to open the scoring after the break as Neymar teed up Rakitic to fire his first goal of the season into the top corner.

Neymar's search for the goal that his performance deserved continued as he sent a sweetly struck volley inches wide moments later. — AFP



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CBK posts KD 25.4m profits for first 3 months of 2015



KUWAIT: Traders check the price monitors at the Kuwait Stock Exchange. The KSE ended trading yesterday in the green zone, as the weighted index went up by 2.29 points, to stand at 391.52 points, and the price index also gained 20.55 points to reach 5,804.92 points. — KUNA

## OIL DROP TO FUEL FISCAL REFORMS IN GCC: MOODY'S COOPERATION WITH OPEC? NO THANK YOU, SAY EX-SOVIET PRODUCERS

**DUBAI:** A projected long-term drop in oil prices will drive fiscal reforms in energy-dependent Gulf states and spur public borrowing, Moody's Investor Service said yesterday. The ratings agency also revised downward its projections for oil prices from \$65 a barrel to average \$55 this year and \$53 dollars in 2016.

The six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states grouping Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, depend on oil for around 90 percent of their revenues.

"We expect that the impact of lower hydrocarbon revenues on GCC public finances will spur policy adjustments in 2016," said Steffen Dyck, a VP-Senior Analyst at Moody's. "These could include reductions in subsidy spending and measures to broaden the non-oil revenue base," he said. The UAE took the lead in June by liberalising fuel prices. Kuwait lifted subsidies on diesel and kerosene and other states are planning subsidy cuts.

Oil prices have fallen by around 60 percent since June 2014 due to oversupply and weak global demand. As a result, GCC states are expected to lose \$300 billion in oil revenues, said the International Monetary Fund. The oil price drop caused aggregate nominal hydrocar-

bon gross domestic product for the six GCC states to fall by 11 percent between 2012 and last year to \$685 billion, Moody's said.

The combined current account surplus slipped to 14 percent of GDP from almost 25 percent during the same period. "We expect that the GCC region will post a combined fiscal deficit of close to 10 percent of regional GDP in 2015 and 2016, respectively, compared to an average aggregate surplus of almost 9.0 percent in the years 2010 to 2014," Moody's said. That would translate into a deficit of over \$140 billion this year. Moody's expects that all GCC states will borrow to face budgetary shortfalls.

"Overall (GCC) government gross borrowing needs will likely average about 12.5 percent of regional GDP, or around \$180 billion per year in 2015 and 2016," Dyck said.

Saudi Arabia and Qatar have already issued bonds. Some GCC states, mainly Saudi Arabia, have started withdrawing from foreign reserves estimated at \$2.7 trillion by the International Institute of Sovereign Funds.

### Ex-Soviet producers

Meanwhile, ex-Soviet oil producers, led by Russia, are not bowing to pressure to reduce output in order to lift global prices, leaving little

chance of a deal when OPEC experts meet with producers outside the group today. The ex-Soviet oil nations have the financial cushion to weather low prices and some of them, too, find it difficult to cut output amid a battle for market share.

"I think they will not cooperate. They (Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan) are typical non-OPEC countries who simply produce at a maximum they can," said Daniel Yergin, vice-chairman at Washington-based IHS think-tank. OPEC and producers outside the group will attend a technical meeting on Oct. 21 in Vienna, with invitations sent to Azerbaijan, Brazil, Colombia, Kazakhstan, Norway, Mexico, Oman and Russia. Moscow plans to send a senior Energy Ministry official, head of the international cooperation department Ilya Galkin, yet it has already said it sees no point in artificially cutting production.

Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan, the biggest producers among ex-Soviet countries after Russia, can manage with current prices and face a natural decline in output anyway, officials say.

Vladimir Shkolnik, Kazakhstan Energy Minister, told Reuters Kazakhstan planned to send an Energy Ministry official or at least a member of its diplomatic mission to the Vienna meeting. He said Astana has already contributed

as its output has fallen. Azerbaijan has received an invitation but does not plan to attend the meeting in Vienna, Energy Minister Natig Aliyev said. "Azerbaijan has no specific need to take part in the meeting," Aliyev told reporters on Tuesday. "As it is known, oil produced in Azerbaijan belongs to the consortium (ACG) so decisions on this matter could not be taken by the state."

### FINANCIAL CUSHION

Russia, Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan all have safety cushions of income from oil and gas to help in the hard times of benchmark Brent crude under \$50 a barrel. Russia puts aside energy revenues into two sovereign funds which have a combined \$144 billion in savings. Kazakhstan's National Fund has \$68 billion while Baku runs a \$36 billion oil fund.

Kazakhstan plans to produce 79.5 million tons of oil this year (1.6 million bpd), down from 80.8 million tons in 2014, with output seen fluctuating around current levels before new production comes onstream over the next years. Astana is even considering tax breaks for some of its mature fields to maintain output, which contrasts with its earlier forecasts that production may fall by a tenth next year if prices drop to \$30 per barrel. "This (cut by a tenth) is one of the

worst forecasts... Oil is unlikely to go that low and stay there for long," said a senior government official. Oil production in Azerbaijan is expected at 40.7 million tons this year, down 3 percent year-on-year, and falling further to 40 million tons in 2016. Over 75 percent of Azeri oil output comes from BP-led Caspian offshore fields Azeri, Chirag and Guneshli (ACG), where output has been volatile. Helped by the weak rouble, Russian oil output is staying near its post-Soviet highs of around 10.7 million barrels per day (bpd), with Moscow ready to defend its market share as rival Saudi and Kurdish oil reaches Europe. Rakhman Gurbanov, vice-president for Azeri state energy company SOCAR's oil-gas production and transportation, said that output may be regulated by mothballing wells.

However, Russia cannot sharply cut output as wells will freeze if they stop pumping, and it cannot store the output it would otherwise export. For Kazakhstan, a sharp output cut is close to impossible due to similar technical reasons, industry sources say.

"You can stop adding new wells, lower the pressure or mothball a well - but restoring it will be more costly (than keeping oil flowing) - here things are largely like in Russia," a source at state energy firm KazMunaiGaz said. — Agencies

## TOUGHER TIMES AHEAD FOR ISLAMIC FINANCE

**DUBAI:** A decision by DBS Bank to wind down a joint venture with Gulf investors is more than a setback for Singapore's biggest lender - it's a sign that tougher times lie ahead for Islamic finance worldwide.

The industry grew at double-digit annual rates for much of the past decade, faster than conventional finance. Economic booms in its core markets, the Muslim-majority nations of the Gulf and southeast Asia, fuelled the gains. As Islamic financial assets came to exceed \$2 trillion, the industry started expanding beyond its historical borders. Banks and governments in nations without Muslim majorities, from Britain to South Africa, scrambled to grab some of the market by issuing sharia-compliant debt. But plunging oil and commodity prices since last year mean the Gulf and Malaysia may be in for years of slower growth. That will make it harder for Islamic banks and insurers, which remain smaller than their conventional competitors, to invest in developing products and expertise needed to narrow the gap.

Customers and investors may be less willing to tolerate the higher costs which Islamic products often carry because of their complexity and lack of standardization. And with less money sloshing around the Gulf and southeast Asia, banks and governments outside the Muslim world may see less need to court Islamic investors.

Credit rating agency Standard & Poor's, which estimates Islamic finance grew 10 to 15 percent annually over the past decade, thinks growth will drop to single digits in 2016.

"There has been a positive impact from the high economic performance of countries where Islamic banking has been developing," said Mohamed Damak, S&P's global head of Islamic Finance. "But now growth is expected to go down."

### SLOWDOWN

Born in its modern form in the 1970s, Islamic finance - which obeys religious principles such as bans on interest payments and monetary speculation - was advertised during the global credit crisis as a safe alternative to conventional finance. It became mainstream in Gulf Arab countries and Malaysia, accounting for around a quarter of banking assets. But even before this year, signs were appearing in some countries that its period of easiest growth was ending. Banks and insurers had already signed up most customers who had purely religious motives; to continue growing, they had to compete more directly on price and service with conventional finance.

Annual growth of Islamic bank assets in Indonesia, home to the world's biggest Muslim population, dropped to 8.1 percent in June from 12.4 percent in 2014 and above 20 percent in the previous two years. An economic slowdown may magnify this problem.

Weak growth prospects appear to be behind several corporate decisions in the last few months to cancel expansion plans on the periphery of Islamic finance. Last month, DBS said it would wind down Islamic Bank of Asia, a joint venture set up in 2007 alongside Gulf investors with \$500 million in paid-up capital; it said it had failed to reach economies of scale.

In Turkey, state-run Halkbank said this month it was cancelling plans to set up an Islamic unit.

International Bank of Azerbaijan, the country's largest bank, closed its Islamic banking department this month. Behnam Gurbanzade, its former head of Islamic banking, cited lack of support from local regulators and other industry bodies.

"During the crisis we raised funds from Dubai,

Qatar etc., so the interest from Islamic investors is there," said Gurbanzade, now deputy chief executive at rival Amrahbank. But he added that expansion of the industry was hurt by Islamic banks' emphasis on short-term profits rather than long-term growth.

### VULNERABILITY

In some ways, Islamic finance is better prepared than before to weather a slowdown. Islamic bonds - sukuk - have become less complex and expensive for borrowers as the market gradually standardises. Issues by Britain, Luxembourg and South Africa in the past year used similar structures and documentation, Damak said. Geographical expansion will continue in some areas. After the Arab Spring uprisings, some Muslim countries such as Tunisia and Morocco intend to develop the industry, after previously neglecting it for ideological reasons.

The industry still enjoys support from regulators in populous countries such as Pakistan and Indonesia. On the other hand, its dependence on official support can make it vulnerable.

Global sukuk issuance in the first nine months of this year totalled \$48.8 billion, down 40 percent from a year earlier after Malaysia's central bank - the single largest issuer - decided to use other funding tools. "That is the biggest hit that the sukuk market is going to take. New sovereigns might issue, but it will by no means replace what BNM (Bank Negara Malaysia) was issuing," said Monem Salam, president of investment firm Saturna in Malaysia.

"In the first six months to a year there might not be new money coming in, but old money staying in," Salam said. If economic growth remains slow over the long term, he said, Islamic finance could come under further pressure. — Reuters

## OIL DAMPENS SAUDI, GULF REMAIN SLUGGISH

### MIDEAST STOCK MARKETS

**DUBAI:** Saudi Arabia's stock market fell yesterday in response to weak oil prices while real estate developer Emaar Misr, seen as a hedge against currency depreciation, boosted Egypt's index. Gulf markets in general remained sluggish. Brent crude sank nearly 4 percent overnight and remained under pressure in Asian trade yesterday. This helped to push the Saudi stock index down 1.0 percent at the close.

Some shares tumbled in response to poor third-quarter earnings, with Saudi International Petrochemical Co (Sipchem) down 8.4 percent after it reported a 55.4 percent slump in net profit to 71.6 million riyals (\$19.1 million). Analysts had forecast 122.9 million riyals.

Mouwasat Medical Services, one of Saudi Arabia's largest listed healthcare providers, dropped 2.0 percent after reporting a 40.3 percent fall in profit to 43 million riyals; analysts had forecast 64 million riyals. Savola Group, Saudi Arabia's largest food products company, slipped 1.3 percent after reporting a 47 percent fall in profit to 371.6 million riyals; analysts had forecast on average 411 million riyals. The company also cut its third-quarter dividend. However, real estate shares reacted calmly to news that the cabinet had submitted a proposal to the advisory Shura Council to

impose a fee of up to 100 riyals per square metre on undeveloped land. The council is expected to complete its study of the proposal within 30 days, though it is not clear when the tax would actually be imposed.

The stock market's property sector index dropped about 10 percent in late March after the cabinet decided in principle to impose such a tax, because of a belief that the value of real estate developers' land banks would shrink. But real estate blue chip Dar Al Arkan fell only 0.7 percent yesterday, suggesting investors have now largely factored in the expected tax. Telecommunications firm Mobily added 3.6 percent to 31.90 riyals, bringing its rebound from its August low to 47 percent. The stock has almost regained the 33.80 riyal level where it closed in June just before it was suspended for two months because of the market regulator's investigation of its earnings restatements.

Dubai's stock index fell 0.6 percent while Abu Dhabi and Qatar were almost flat. However, Qatar Gas Transport (Nakilat) rose 4.1 percent and was its market's most heavily traded stock after the firm decided to raise its foreign ownership limit to 49 percent from 25 percent. Foreigners currently hold about 8.8 percent of the company, according to exchange data. —Reuters



## AVAYA DEMONSTRATES DEPTH AND BREADTH OF EXPERTISE

### GITEX 2015

**DUBAI:** Avaya, the leading global provider of networking and engagement solutions, is marking GITEX Technology Week 2015 with a focus on iconic customer engagements and technology innovation relevant to multiple industry verticals and business sizes.

Avaya has implemented its SDN Fx networking technology in Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest building. A mixed-use tower, Burj Khalifa requires a networking platform that is secure, flexible, scalable and robust. With Avaya's SDN Fx networking technology, Burj Khalifa will also benefit from effortless and efficient network roll-out, while ensuring reliability in service delivery and network access. From Wi-Fi accessibility to allowing access to personal devices, Avaya's SDN Fx allows these to be managed and provisioned quickly, leading to happier tenants and visitors, and more efficient network management.

Next-generation technology is transforming how emergency-response services are deployed. Avaya's 'Guardian Angel' incorporates networking technology, collaboration solutions, and a development platform, enabling emergency services to respond to a crisis quickly, receive more accurate feedback on events, and deploy resources more effectively.



**Mohammed Areff, Vice President, Middle East, Africa, and Turkey, Avaya.**

tively - ultimately saving lives. With drones and droids equipped with remote video surveillance, authorities can respond to emergency calls placed by members of the public, use an SMS link to geo-locate a crisis, and deploy relevant staff quickly. Additionally, as responders on the ground navigate the crisis area, the control center can provide a birds-eye-view through video feeds, and remotely direct operations more effectively.

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) and Emirates-NBD are joining hands with Avaya at GITEX 2015 to showcase the

'Digital Customer Experience'. This innovative solution blends 'smart' communication and computing devices, video-enabled ATMs, and customer service applications, to enable customers to engage with these organizations on the device and platform of their choice. Combining data analytics, multi-channel call center capabilities, video-conferencing and online and mobile applications, the 'Digital Customer Journey' transforms traditional call center operations to deliver digitally-enabled customer experiences, higher loyalty, and business growth.

A key component of Dubai's transformation to a 'Smart City' is Avaya's Smart Office solution, which transforms the way enterprises engage with employees. Employees can enter an office and be identified by the location of their phone and their card ID, use self-service kiosks to be assigned a desk or workspace, automatically configured to their profile and preferences. With organizations in the Middle East facing unprecedented challenges to evolve digitally in the era of Smart Cities, mobility, Big Data, Cloud, and the Internet of Things, Avaya is demonstrating real-world customer deployments of its cutting-edge solutions on its stand at GITEX 2015.

Outstanding engagement solutions aren't just for enterprises. Avaya will also showcase



how it can deliver the same agility, mobility, security and seamless integration of communications channels for organizations of different sizes at the right budget, with demonstrations of contact center and collaboration solutions aimed at the mid-market (SME).

For those outside Dubai, Avaya is enabling an immersive web experience through AvayaLive Engage, allowing IT and business professionals from anywhere in the

world to explore GITEX as if they were at the event. Avaya's virtual stand will be accessible from any Internet connection or browser, allowing web visitors to use custom avatars to move around the stand and the wider area. Visitors can interact in real time with Avaya experts via voice, video or IM, view and share files, presentations, demonstrations and videos, and even hold private conversations.

## CBK POSTS KD 25.4M PROFITS FOR FIRST 3 MONTHS OF 2015

**KUWAIT:** The Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK) announced that it made net profits of KD 25.4 million over the first three quarters of 2015 compared to only KD 25.3 million for the same period last year. The bank's operational profits were KD 74 million compared to KD 73.5 for the same period last year.

CBK's official spokesperson, Yaqoub Al-Ibrahim said that the bank's total assets as per the end of September was KD 4 million compared to KD 4.2 million by the end of September 2014. "The slight difference was the result of positive implementation of the bank's new liquidity management strategy", he explained. The bank's strategy aims at diversifying revenue sources and decreasing risks through adapting a teamwork policy.



**Yaqoub Al-Ibrahim**

## SHRIAN DHAFER SHRIAN AL-DOSARI, NEW WINNER OF AL-THURAYA DRAW

**KUWAIT:** Burgan Bank recently announced its Al-Thuraya Account winner of the Audi R8 sports car. The winner Shrian Dhafer Shrian Al-Dosari expressed his excitement for being the new winner of the Audi R8 with Al-Thuraya Salary Account from Burgan Bank.

Al-Thuraya Account is the only salary account in Kuwait that provides its customers with the chance to win Audi R8 Cars

on a quarterly basis. The account aims at raising the frequency of customers winning one of the world's most admired sports cars.

Opening an Al-Thuraya account is simple; customers are required to visit their nearest Burgan Bank branch and obtain all the necessary details, or simply call the bank's Call Center 1804080. For further information, customers can visit the bank's website on [www.burgan.com](http://www.burgan.com).

## UK STEEL MAKER TO LAY OFF 1,200 AMID CHEAP CHINESE IMPORTS

**LONDON:** Manufacturer Tata Steel announced 1,200 job cuts in the UK yesterday, underscoring the damage caused by cheap Chinese imports and throwing a shroud over a state visit by Chinese President Xi Jinping designed to usher in a "golden era" of relations between the countries.

Tata blamed the layoffs in northern England and Scotland on a "flood of cheap imports, particularly from China," along with high electricity costs and the strong pound. Though the cuts had been rumored for days, the timing of the announcement - on the first full day of Xi's visit - seemed designed to win maximum attention. "The UK steel industry is struggling for survival in the face of extremely challenging market conditions," Karl Koehler, chief executive of Tata's European operations, said in a statement. "This industry has a crucial role to play in rebalancing the UK economy, but we need a fairer system to encourage growth."

The British government is under pressure to raise the issue of China selling steel at a loss on world markets. Tata's decision comes only weeks after Sahaviriya Steel Industries announced the closure of its plant in Redcar, costing 2,200 jobs. Another firm, Caparo Industries, went into partial administration on Monday, threatening hundreds more jobs.

China's steel exports are "certainly one of the things we'll be talking about," Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond told the BBC yesterday while stressing that increased Chinese investment will stimulate the British economy and create jobs. The oversupply of steel on the world market has

led to lower prices, and the European Union is trying to ensure that Chinese steel is fairly priced by imposing anti-dumping duties, Hammond said.

But Koehler called on the European Commission, the EU's governing body, to do "much, much more to deal with unfairly traded imports." "Inaction threatens the future of the entire European steel industry," he said. Tata, whose European operations include plants in the UK, the Netherlands, Germany, France and Belgium, said that in the past two years, imports of steel plate from China have quadrupled.

A stronger pound has also undermined the competitiveness of products made in Britain and shipped to Europe, and high electricity costs have eaten into profits.

Tata Steel, part of a global corporation based in India, previously said it planned to cut costs and focus on higher-valued products. Oversupply is greatest among lower-value products. The company said in August it had spent millions of pounds to improve its manufacturing plants.

"But surging, and often unfairly traded, imports have combined with a strong pound to create a very challenging business environment," Stuart Wilkie, director of Tata's UK strip products business, said at the time. Union leaders were devastated, but not surprised, by the job cuts.

"I've worked here for 40 years and I don't know my future," said Paul McBean, from the Community union at the Scunthorpe plant. "It's the same for a lot of people in there." —AP



**SCUNTHORPE:** The Tata Steel plant in Scunthorpe, northeast England. India's Tata Steel yesterday said it would cut around 1,200 jobs at two plants in Britain, blaming the move in part on cheap imports from China. — AFP

## EURO-ZONE BANK SECTOR ON MEND, SHOWS ECB SURVEY

### BANKS EASING LENDING NORMS TO HELP ENTERPRISES

**FRANKFURT:** Europe's battered financial sector is showing further signs of mending and banks are increasingly competing for custom by easing credit standards, a key European Central Bank survey showed yesterday. The ECB said its quarterly bank lending survey (BLS) showed banks are easing credit standards for loans to enterprises, an encouraging sign, since the chronic weakness of credit activity in the euro area has previously been blamed for the absence of any noticeable recovery in the 19 countries that share the single currency.

"In the October 2015 bank lending survey, euro area banks reported a net easing of credit standards on loans to enterprises in the third quarter of 2015, which was stronger than banks' expectations in the previous survey round," the ECB report said, attributing the development to "competitive pressures".

At the same time, banks reported a net tightening of credit standards on loans to households for house purchases, saying that tighter national regulation was offsetting the easing effect of competition. Demand for loans is also increasing, the ECB found.

"Net demand for loans to enterprises increased, due mainly to the general level of interest rates, as well as to increased needs for fixed investments. Net demand for housing loans continued to increase due to the low lev-

el of interest rates and housing market prospects," the ECB said. The euro-zone central bank has previously complained that its ultra-easy monetary policy had not been feeding through into the real economy, because banks are not passing the money on in loans, particularly to the small and mid-sized enterprises (SMEs) which are the region's economic backbone.

### QE effect

In an attempt to address this, the ECB embarked on a controversial program of sovereign bond purchases, known as quantitative easing or QE. The ECB said the additional liquidity made available to banks via QE was being used to grant loans. "Regarding the impact of the expanded asset purchase program (APP), banks reportedly used additional liquidity from the program to grant loans over the past six months," the ECB wrote.

"The APP had a net easing impact on credit standards and particularly on credit terms and conditions."

The QE program also had a two-fold effect on banks' profitability, boosting the institutes' capital gains, but tightening net interest margins, the ECB said. "Overall, a slightly positive net percentage of banks report an increase in profitability over the past six months, as a result of the APP, though a marginally negative effect is expected over the next six months," it said.

Looking ahead to the fourth quarter, "banks expect a further net easing in credit standards on loans to enterprises," the ECB said. And on the demand side, "banks expect a further considerable increase in demand from enterprises in the fourth quarter of 2015," the ECB said.

### 'QE good news'

Analysts welcomed the results of the bank lending survey. "The loosening of credit standards is encouraging against a backdrop of continued weak lending," said Capital Economics economist Jennifer McKeown. "But the loosening seen so far has been modest compared to the aggressive tightening applied during the previous six years or so, implying that lending criteria are still relatively tight," she cautioned.

The fact that the QE program was also having a positive effect was "good news for the ECB given the importance of bank lending in the euro-zone and it may well encourage the ECB to up the pace of its purchases to try and boost lending growth further," the expert said.

The ECB is scheduled to hold its regular policy meeting in Malta on Thursday and president Mario Draghi could use it to signal an increase in QE, some analysts say. Natixis economist Johannes Gareis said that Draghi could "utilise the survey results to justify a QE extension (if needed)." — AFP



**BEIJING:** A store assistant (right) follows a customer in a fashion outlet in Beijing yesterday. China's economy logged its worst performance since the global financial crisis, official figures showed yesterday with analysts warning it is likely to worsen and the government must do more to avert a sharp slowdown. — AFP

## SWISS WATCH EXPORTS SLIDE AS CHINA, ASIA DEMAND PLUNGES

**ZURICH:** Swiss watch exports posted the biggest quarterly export drop since 2009 in the third quarter as plummeting sales in Hong Kong and China spread to other Asian markets in September.

"After May and July, September is the third month to show a marked decline in Swiss watch exports," the Federation of the Swiss Watch Industry (FH) said yesterday. "This negative change has spread to other, hitherto more robust Asian markets, and casts something of a shadow over prospects for the year 2015." Watch exports were down a real 8.5 percent for the third quarter after falling 9.9 percent in September and 10 percent in July, the Federal Customs Office said on Tuesday.

Sales in Asia declined 12.7 percent in September, as continued drops in Hong Kong, China and Singapore were compounded by sharp turnarounds in Taiwanese and Emirati sales and a dive in South Korean sales from negative 3.7 percent in August to negative 35 percent in September. Analysts at Kepler Cheuvreux said the poor performance could be pegged

to tough comparables in the previous year and continuing effects of a deadly SARS virus outbreak earlier this year.

### APPLE WATCH

At 1.814 billion Swiss francs (\$1.91 billion), September watch sales abroad significantly undershot analysts' expectations, posting declines that were double to triple what analysts had forecast. Timepieces in all price segments were impacted, but watches in the low to mid-segment took the biggest hit. The 200-500 franc export category slipped 14.5 percent, igniting concerns that the Apple Watch could finally be taking a bite out of the Swiss industry's stake.

On Friday, Bank Vontobel released a sector report highlighting Swatch Group's particular smartwatch exposure, with its mid-range brand Tissot and lower range own label, Swatch.

"Swatch Group is the only (Swiss) player which also has a strong position in low to mid-end segments," Vontobel said. "Swatch Group has a market share of 60-65 percent in the low to mid-end (accounting for 25 percent of sales)" — Reuters

## VITOL SEES OIL STRUGGLING TO BREAK ABOVE \$60/BBL

**LONDON:** Vitol, the world's largest oil trader, believes the crude price will struggle to trade above \$60 a barrel next year, as the effects of slowing global demand growth could be compounded by a return of Iranian and maybe even Libyan barrels. The price of oil has halved over the last 12 months, mainly as a result of unprecedented levels of production from some major exporting countries, but also as demand from China and other commodity consumers, such as Brazil and Russia, slackened. Ian Taylor, the chief executive of Vitol, said his company forecast global oil demand growth in 2016 to reach around 1.35 million barrels per day (bpd), slowing from this year's strong expected growth of 1.7 million bpd.

Cheap oil encouraged record refining runs, but even this has not been enough to absorb oversupply and, as such, the price has held below \$50 a barrel for much of the second half of this year.

Taylor said he expected consumption in China to increase next year, but global demand growth would likely still fall short of the levels seen this year. "Will we get 1.7 million barrels a day in 2016? No. I don't think so and that's one of my worries. If we did get 1.7 million bpd in 2016, then we could easily get to \$60, but I don't think we will," Taylor told the

Reuters annual Commodities Summit.

"Can I see a big run next year? No. If we are above \$60 by the end of 2016 I will be a little bit surprised." The International Energy Agency forecasts demand growth of 1.21 million bpd in 2016. Taylor said he did not expect OPEC's meeting in early December to yield any change to the producer group's stance of retaining market share by pumping record amounts of oil. The policy has exacerbated a global glut of crude.

"I don't expect it, but I'm certainly not going to take any big bets, because it still could happen and all we need is 500 (500,000 bpd) less from Saudi to give the market a bit of a serious shock," he said.

### RETURN OF IRAN

One of the big questions for commodity traders is how quickly Iran can return to the global markets once international sanctions against it are lifted. The consensus among industry players is for Iranian exports to rise by around 300,000-500,000 bpd by next spring. "There will be a battle for market share, particularly in Asia and a little bit in the Mediterranean. It will be difficult to place that (Iranian) oil. I think it will depend very much how far US production has gone down by then," Taylor said. — Reuters







Overview

# NISSAN EXHIBIT AT 2015 TOKYO MOTOR SHOW

**YOKOHAMA:** Nissan Motor Co, Ltd yesterday released an overview of its exhibit at the 44th Tokyo Motor Show, which will be held at Tokyo Big Sight and open to the public from October 30 through November 8. Among the exhibits will be Teatro for Dayz, an innovative concept that signals a new direction in mobile technology. Designed especially for the digital native generation, this vision of near-future vehicles departs from convention and marks a shift in perception.

**Major Nissan exhibit components include:**

- \* Nissan Gripz Concept, making its Japan debut following its unveiling at the 2015 Frankfurt Auto Show last month
- \* Upgraded Nissan Leaf with increased battery capacity, resulting in significantly longer driving range
- \* Leading-edge autonomous drive and safety technologies
- \* Nissan Concept 2020 Vision Gran Turismo

A total of 20 vehicles will be on display, including the X-Trail Hybrid Mode Premier and Juke

16GT Four Personalization models; and special-featured models, including the Skyline 350GT Hybrid Type-SP Cool Exclusive, Fuga 370GT Type-S Cool Exclusive and Serena Highway Star V Selection.

The Nissan booth will be in West Exhibition Hall 2.

**Further details of the main featured vehicles: Teatro for Dayz - A new approach to driving the next-generation**

Nissan describes the generation that went straight from the cradle to digital technology as "share natives." This generation will reach driving age in a few years, but has shown little interest in cars so far. What kind of cars will move share natives? Will they even want to drive? Nissan has designed a provocative solution: Teatro for Dayz.

Teatro for Dayz: Its name is drawn from the Italian word for theater and a Nissan minicar. This concept has an innovative design and features that enable share natives to create and share experiences immediately with friends both

onboard and online. Designed under the concept "a clean canvas," its key feature is its smooth white interior that allows the instrument panel, seats and even door trim to serve as a blank canvas for expression.

Built on Nissan's EV technology, Teatro for Dayz is as much a giant mobile battery as four-wheel transportation. To a share native, this is the point: Cars can be mobile devices for occupants interested in creating, connecting and sharing.

What Teatro for Dayz is and how it's used will finally be decided by share natives themselves. At the motor show, you will get a glimpse into the future and see the creativity of the next generation at play.

**Nissan Gripz Concept — EV-based series hybrid sports crossover**

The Nissan Gripz Concept, conceived by designers in Europe and Japan, aims to blend the ability and practicality of a compact crossover with the excitement and performance of a sports car.



Equipped with an EV-technology-based series hybrid system—Pure Drive e-Power—, the Nissan Gripz Concept delivers a smooth, refined and exhilarating driving experience with outstanding fuel efficiency. Within the system, an efficient gasoline engine powers the same electric motor used in the Nissan Leaf.

The exterior of the Nissan Gripz Concept is guided by the "emotional geometry" body sculpting concept which depicts strong contrasts through the dynamic, tensional, yet edgy, surface. The interior has a "gliding wing" instrument panel, with an elegantly thin design that combines strength with simplicity.

**Nissan Concept 2020 Vision Gran Turismo — New color, enhanced presence**

Nissan Concept 2020 Vision Gran Turismo, a concept supercar developed in conjunction with Polyphony Digital Inc., the creators of the racing video game Gran Turismo for PlayStation, is certain to further increase Nissan's sizable presence in the game and beyond.

The latest creation in the Vision Gran Turismo Project was unveiled at Goodwood Festival of Speed 2014 in England. In new Fire Knight red

body color and featuring a new expression of Nissan's signature V-Motion grille, the Nissan Concept 2020 Vision Gran Turismo is a real-world embodiment of a virtual car, through which gamers around the world experience Nissan's dynamic performance and innovation.

Note: "PlayStation" and "Gran Turismo" are trademarks of Sony Computer Entertainment, Inc.

**New Nissan Leaf - longer driving range and Forward Emergency Braking as standard**

Since the Nissan Leaf's launch in 2010, over 180,000 have been sold worldwide, making it the world's best-selling EV. At this year's Tokyo show, Nissan will exhibit a new grade offering a single-charge driving range up to 280 km (Nissan internal measurements based on Japanese driving conditions) and advanced safety technology-standardized across all grades for the Japan market-including Forward Emergency Braking, which is designed to help drivers avoid or mitigate the impact of frontal collisions, and Lane Departure Warning. Nissan plans to announce the latest Nissan Leaf grades for Japan in November and begin sales in December.

## APARTMENTS DRIVE HOME CONSTRUCTION GAINS IN US

**WASHINGTON:** Construction companies built more apartment complexes in September, sparking a temporary rise in housing starts for a real estate market that otherwise appears to have crested during the summer. Housing starts last month rose 6.5 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.21 million homes, the Commerce Department said yesterday. But a 17 percent surge in multi-family housing - which includes apartments - accounts for almost all of that increase.

New construction and sales of existing homes surged in the first half of the year as more Americans found work and the unemployment rate dipped to a solid 5.1 percent. But tight inventories, rising prices and the absence of meaningful wage growth have capped growth as affordability has become an issue - a problem that new construction can help resolve.

"Builders are stepping up to meet that demand but doing so cautiously," said Stephen Stanley, chief economist at Amherst Pierpont Securities.

"So, for beleaguered buyers who can't find what they are looking for because of a dearth of listings, there is a bit of help on the way."

Construction rose last month in the Northeast, South and West, while falling in the Midwest. Housing starts have soared 12 percent in the first nine months of 2015. But the pace of building retreated from its June apex, in part due to the expiration of tax incentives for developers in New York.

Approved permits fell 5 percent in September to an annual rate of 1.1 million, a sign that construction will likely slow in the coming months. Sales of existing homes similarly accelerated through the start of the summer, only to decline in August. The tight inventories - just 5.2 months' supply of homes were listed for sale - have propped up prices, as the median cost to buy a home increased 4.7 percent over the year to \$228,700, according to the National Association of Realtors.

A greater share of the country is also choosing to rent. The percentage of Americans owning homes

has dipped to 63.4 percent, the lowest level in 48 years. The influx of millennials and downsizing baby boomers into the rental market has caused monthly leases to jump 3.8 percent over the past year, according to the real estate firm Zillow.

But price appreciation has also slowed as many Americans lack the income to spend more on housing. Average hourly earnings have increased just 2.2 percent to \$25.09, meaning that home values and rental costs are rising at roughly double the rate of incomes.

There are signs that more Americans are renovating their homes instead of buying new properties. A new index compiled by BuildZoom - which identifies contractors for projects - found that renovations are running 2.8 percent above their 2005 level. Meanwhile, despite the gains of the past year, new home construction remains 57 percent below its 2005 level during the housing bubble. Still, remodeling activity has been flat during the past year as new home construction has advanced. —AP

## DEMAND PUTS FERRARI ON POLE FOR WALL STREET DEBUT

**ROME:** Ferrari makes its stock market debut on Wall Street today with owner Fiat Chrysler hopeful the luxury sports car maker will roar off the starting grid. Against a backdrop of reported strong demand for the stock despite the problems other recent IPOs have encountered, Fiat Chrysler has placed nine percent of Ferrari's capital with investors across the globe.

If underwriters take up their maximum options, the number of shares sold will account for 10 percent of the company, valuing the iconic Italian marque at up to \$9.8 billion. The initial public offering is the first step in a complete spin-off process which is central to Fiat Chrysler's plans to invest \$48 billion to expand its total worldwide sales to seven million vehicles per year, largely through the development of its Jeep, Alfa Romeo and Maserati brands. The final pricing of the Ferrari shares, which were offered in a \$48-\$52 dollar range, was to be announced in New York yesterday evening.

Quoting sources familiar with the progress of the private share placement, Bloomberg reported that demand for a piece of the action had raced ahead of the number of available shares.

That points to a scramble for stock after Ferrari's top executives ring the opening bell on Wall Street on Wednesday morning. But even a company trading under the ticker RACE cannot be sure of getting off to a flier.

These are uncertain times for corporate fundraising and for an automobile industry reeling from the fallout from the Volkswagen pollution-cheating scandal. The most high-profile casualty of recent emerging market turbulence was Caribbean Telecoms group Digicel, which was forced to pull its planned New York listing earlier this month. IPOs in the cash-hungry tech sector are also notably down on last year.

**Formula One factor**

The exact level of demand for the new stock will not be clear until Wednesday but analysts think Fiat Chrysler CEO Sergio Marchionne, who is also chairman of Ferrari, has been astute in bringing a restricted number of shares to market. The strategy mirrors the one Ferrari has deployed with its cars: keeping production tight to preserve their exclusive cachet.

Ferrari shipped 7,255 new cars to its wealthy customers last year and the IPO prospectus envisages only a gradual expansion to around 9,000 a year by 2019. The flotation will not have any impact on Ferrari's involvement in Formula One racing, in which it is reemerging as a force after enduring a lean period in the slipstream of world champion Lewis Hamilton's Mercedes team. Ferrari's status as the longest-established and



**BEVERLY HILLS:** A new Ferrari 348 Spider convertible makes its debut on Rodeo Drive in Beverly Hills, California. Road-worthy vehicles have become the cornerstone of the company ahead of its flotation. In 2014, Ferrari shipped 7,255 cars, helping to generate a net profit of around \$300 million. — AP

most celebrated team in motorsport's elite championship is vital to the value of its brand. It also accounts for more than 10 percent of its revenue through sponsorship and related commercial agreements, including licensing of the company's name and famous prancing stallion logo. — AFP

## 10 DAYS REMAINING TO ENTER GULF BANK'S ANNUAL AL-DANAH MILLIONAIRE DRAW

**KUWAIT:** The countdown to the annual Al-Danah Millionaire draw for 2015 has begun. There are only 10 days remaining for customers to increase their deposits or to open an Al-Danah account by 31 October, to enhance their chances of winning, and be eligible for Al-Danah's biggest draw. The annual draw will be held on 7, January, 2016 in which the winners of, KD50,000, KD250,000 and 1 Million Kuwaiti Dinars will be announced.

Opening an Al-Danah account merely requires a minimum balance of KD 200 to be deposited as to allow active participation in the Al-Danah draws. Minors wishing to open an account require their parents or their legal guardian to open the account on their behalf. Customers are advised to maintain the minimum balance, allowing them to automatically enter the Al-Danah Draws. The Al-Danah account offers the Daily Draw, 3 Quarterly draws as well as an annual draw. The daily draw has two winners drawn for every working day and accordingly up to 10 winners announced the following week with each receiving KD1000. The 3 Quarterly draws take place every 3 months; their cash prizes range from KD25,000 - KD500,000. Finally, the annual draw, offers the biggest single prize in the Middle

East, that being the 1 Million Kuwaiti Dinars cash prize. The more customers save, and the longer the duration, the more chances they have to be one of the lucky winners of Al-Danah's draws.

**Five reasons why the Al-Danah account is the best:**

- 1) Kuwait's single biggest yearly cash prize of KD 1 million
- 2) Kuwait's biggest quarterly cash prizes, up to KD500,000
- 3) Two winners of KD1,000 every working day
- 4) The most opportunities to win (64 draws a year, and up to 532 winners)
- 5) Only bank that transfers your chances to win from year to year

Open an account and deposit now to win big, live big, with Al-Danah 2015. Gulf Bank would like to remind its customers that opening an Al-Danah Account is quick and simple through its 58 branches strategically located throughout Kuwait. Customers are encouraged to go to their nearest Gulf Bank branch or call the Customer Contact Center on 1805 805 and the Customer Care Center representatives will be delighted to assist with any further information or questions on Al-Danah or on any of the Bank's products and services.



**NEW YORK:** A shopper walks past a store with a "Help Wanted" sign in the window, in New York. The Labor Department reports on state unemployment rates for September yesterday. — AP

## MOHAMED NASER AL-SAYER BEGINS THE BIGGEST PROMOTION EVER CELEBRATING TOP RECOGNITION FOR TOYOTA'S SPIRIT TO MAKE EVER BETTER CARS

**KUWAIT:** Toyota's spirit to make ever better cars backed by technology enhancement efforts and "waku-doki", have garnered top recognition, making Toyota the most valuable automotive brand. Celebrating this spirit Mohamed Naser Al-Sayer & Sons, the exclusive distributor for Toyota in Kuwait has announced the "biggest promotion" ever on New Toyota models.

### Toyota committed to make Ever Better Cars

Toyota has made significant progress toward achieving sustainable growth by making ever-better cars. This has required a new approach to manufacturing automobiles, with the core aims being greatly improved product development and more competitive production sites. This work is based on the Toyota New Global Architecture (TNGA) and is supported by the cultivation of a skilled and capable workforce.

Making vehicles that have "Waku-Doki" which translates to

being exciting and fun to drive has been the strong commitment from Toyota and this has also resulted in a quantum jump in customer satisfaction while giving them the peace of mind of Toyota ownership. These results give a good platform to build on in terms of extending robust performance for the future with a



# TOYOTA

great lineup of vehicles that reflect Toyota's ongoing product innovation, quality, durability and reliability.

### Toyota retains the position of most valuable auto brand

Market leading technology and consistent customer satisfaction efforts have helped Toyota garner top honors as the most valuable automotive brand worldwide for the 12th straight year and the sixth important brand across

all business categories in Interbrand's new ranking of the 100 Best Global Brands for 2015. Toyota marked 16% increase in brand value for the year 2015 compared to 2014.

Earlier in the year Toyota had also retained the title of the industry's most valuable brand (in the eight of the ten years the study

has been released) in the BrandZ Top 100 Most Valuable Global Brands Study.

### Greatest Toyota Promotion Ever

Popular Toyota models included in the "biggest promotion" are Yaris and Yaris HB, Corolla, Camry, Aurion, Avalon, RAV4, Fortuner, FJ, Prado, Sequoia and Land Cruiser.

The biggest promotion on Toyota guarantees variety of fabulous prizes totaling to 1 million liters of petrol, 15KG of gold,

extended service packages, canon cameras, Sun Control Protection film during the promotion period.

In addition to this customers will benefit from greatest value offers including 5 years warranty unlimited mileage, 3rd party insurance, 2 years service / 30000km, car registration, T-Connect and GardX protection.

Above all customer will get a chance to enter one of the 3 raffle draws grabbing a chance to win grand prizes - 2016 Land Cruiser V6 or Prado TX. The raffle draws will be held on 5 November, 6 December 2015 and 7 January 2016.

### Be-Reassured with Toyota Al-Sayer

Our "Be-Reassured" campaign has been further strengthened as an assurance of the commitment to best customer care and service making Toyota ownership experience the best more than ever. With Toyota Al Sayer Be Reassured - you are always guaranteed the best products, services and facilities



ties and we are committed to making your journey smoother. Celebrate and live every mile with Toyota.



Huawei anniversary event.

## HUAWEI: MIDDLE EAST DRIVING DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION AGENDA

**KUWAIT:** Looking to the future of the region's connected digital economy, senior executives for across the technology industry have joined Huawei-a leading global information and communications technology (ICT) solutions provider-to commemorate the company's 15 year anniversary of operations in the Middle East. Huawei has hosted a number of commemorative activities over the past week culminating

government bodies, analysts, regulators and the media. The day's honored guest was Sheikh Hasher bin Maktoum Al-Maktoum, Director General of Dubai's Department of Information, with speakers including: Dr Aisha Bin Bishr, Assistant Director General of The Executive Office and Smart Dubai Taskforce Leader, Hatem Bamatraf, Chief Technology Officer at Etisalat Group, Eng Nasser Sulaiman Al-Nasser, Senior

evening gala's entertainment was further ignited by a performance from Huawei brand ambassador Nancy Ajram singing a number of her greatest hits.

"Studies have shown time and again that ICT infrastructure is a powerful engine for social and economic development. The Middle East has in many ways risen to be a global hub for new technology deployments as government leaders recognize the potential of connectivity to create more competitive industries, safer cities and more inspired services for the public," said Charles Yang, President of Huawei Middle East.

Speaking at the event, Hatem Bamatraf, Chief Technology Officer at Etisalat Group, added: "We are working in an industry which is fast and continuously evolving from one generation to the other. It changes lives, enables capabilities, helps economies, and powers entrepreneurship. We believe that there's a lot of value that will be added from a partner like Huawei in pursuing that journey."

Over the last 15 years Huawei Middle East has established an end-to-end portfolio of ICT solutions to serve its growing partner base. It has also been a commercially successful geography for Huawei. The wider Europe, Middle East & Africa (EMEA) region accounted for 35 percent of Huawei's total global revenue in 2014 with the region's revenues up approximately 20 percent year on year.

"Fifteen years ago Huawei's corporate structure looked considerably different than it does today. Nevertheless, our values have largely remained the same. We exist to serve our customers and local communities," adds Yang. "Huawei has done this by delivering exceptional before and after-service support to our partners, respecting local cultures and striving to learn and grow together with our partners."

Today the company's Middle East headquarters is located in Bahrain with offices across 10 countries and around 5,000 employees-of whom over 66 percent are local hires. Founded in 1987, Huawei globally has grown from a \$5,680 small company to a truly international enterprise an annual revenue volume of \$46.5 billion and a business presence in over 170 countries.



Guo Ping, Deputy Chairman of the Board and Rotating CEO, Huawei.



Charles Yang, President of Huawei, Middle East.

in a gala event held recently at the Armani Hotel in Downtown Dubai, UAE.

Driven by a desire to build a better connected world, today Huawei Middle East is a strategic partner to leading telecom operators, governments and enterprises in enabling the Middle East's digital society.

The milestone event was attended by over 300 senior government and business leaders including representatives from top telecom operators, information technology ministries &

Vice President of Technologies & Operations at STC, and Guo Ping, Deputy Chairman of the Board and Rotating CEO of Huawei.

The forum was opened by Charles Yang, President of Huawei Middle East, who touched upon some of the key transformations taking place in the ICT industry over the last 15 years. Guests also engaged with a number of Huawei innovation demos of upcoming ICT application, including 4K video, drones & robotics, wearable devices, and 4.5G & 5G mobile connectivity. The

## AHLI UNITED BANK (UK) APPOINTS NEW NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**KUWAIT:** Ahli United Bank (UK) PLC has announced the appointment of David Hodgkinson as Non-Executive Director in replacement of David Casson who will retire in November after 10 years of valued service.

David Hodgkinson has worked with the HSBC group since 1969. He was Group Chief Operating Officer of HSBC Holdings plc from

May 2006 until his retirement from the company in December 2008. During his time with HSBC he held a number of senior management positions, including Managing Director of the Saudi British Bank, CEO of HSBC Bank Middle East, Chairman of HSBC Bank Middle East Limited and HSBC Bank A S Turkey. He also served as a Director of HSBC Bank

Egypt SAE. More recently David has been Executive Chairman and Non-Executive Chairman of Allied Irish Banks from 2010 to 2014.

The appointment was made with effect from 23 September 2015. Hodgkinson will also sit on the Audit & Compliance Committee of Ahli United Bank (UK) plc. AUB's Chairman, Hamad Al-Humaidhi, commented: "We

are delighted to appoint such a highly experienced individual to join the Board as a Non-Executive Director. He brings a wealth of experience and expertise across numerous and relevant geographies. I am certain David will make an important contribution in the years to come to AUB (UK)'s growth and business developments."



Khaled Al-Mazrouei

Rashed Al-Sharji

Omar Al-Memari

## ETIHAD AIRWAYS APPOINTS 3 UAE NATIONALS AT AIRPORTS IN US, EGYPT

**KUWAIT:** Omar Al-Memari has been named Etihad Airways' Airport Manager at San Francisco Airport and Khaled Al-Mazrouei has been named Assistant Airport Manager at Los Angeles Airport.

Rashed Al-Sharji, has been appointed to the role of Assistant Airport Manager for Etihad Airways in Cairo.

More than 190 UAE nationals now hold airport management roles at Etihad Airways' destinations across the Middle East, Europe, Asia, Australia and the Americas.

Geert Boven, Etihad Airways' Senior Vice President, Airport Services, said: "Etihad Airways is pleased to announce the appointments of Omar, Khaled and Rashed to key positions within the airline in San Francisco, Los Angeles and Cairo. Their appointments will greatly support the continued growth and success of our US and Egypt operations." Prior to his appointment to Airport Manager, Omar Al Memari served as Assistant Airport Manager at San Francisco Airport. He joined Etihad Airways in 2010 where he served as Duty Manager in Sydney, Geneva and Dulles International Airport in Washington, DC.

In his new role, he will be responsible for Etihad's day-to-day operation at San Francisco, ensuring that Etihad guests

receive truly world-class service-from check-in to boarding to arrival.

He will also serve as the airline's key liaison with airport authorities, local government agencies and third-party service providers to ensure Etihad's seamless and efficient operation in the region.

Khaled Al-Mazrouei was appointed Assistant Airport Manager at Los Angeles from his previous role as Graduate Manager, Airport Operations, where he will be responsible for all facets of airport operations and guest services.

He began his career at Etihad Airways in 2013 in the Graduate Management Development Program, now named Future Leaders Program, where he was trained in all aspects of Etihad Airways operational departments from check-in to boarding. Khaled previously served on Etihad Airways' team in Chicago at O'Hare International Airport before being selected to assist the team at San Francisco.

Rashed Al-Sharji joined Etihad Airways in 2009 as a Ground Services Agent looking after VIPs as well as Hajj and Umrah operations at Abu Dhabi airport. He was then assigned as Airport Duty Manager in Incheon in South Korea before moving to Cairo and being appointed to his new post of Assistant Airport Manager.



## TAKAUD INKS AGREEMENT WITH SICURA FORTUNA

**MANAMA/DUBAI:** Takaud, the specialist provider of savings, pension and investment solutions in the MENA region, has appointed Sicura Fortuna, a Dubai-based risk management consultancy firm, as a consultant for Takaud's savings and pension solutions in the UAE.

The consultancy agreement was signed yesterday by Takaud's CEO Luc Metivier and Sicura Fortuna's Managing Director Anthony Cerchai at a special signing ceremony held at the Ritz Carlton DIFC in Dubai.

Headquartered in Bahrain, Takaud provides savings and pensions solutions to individuals and corporations in the local and expatriate communities across the MENA region. With a cutting-edge open architecture investment platform, Takaud also offers wealth management services to the mass affluent and high net worth individuals helping them with financial planning and investment solutions that protect and grow their wealth and achieve their future aspirations.

Sicura Fortuna is a company boasting 30 years of experience in the world of insurance, providing access to risk management solutions to a wide range of

high-profile clients and organizations in the MENA region. Empowered by a global network of insurance providers and professionals able to provide solutions for any risk requirement, Sicura Fortuna excels in providing the most suitable cover for the needs of its members and associates.

Takaud CEO Metivier said, "Takaud has recently become the go-to specialist firm for a variety of savings and pension related solutions to a wide range of market segments in the region. We're expanding our partnerships and business development initiatives as we continue to grow the business".

Cerchai added, "We believe that the pension marketplace is ripe for innovation and differentiation, where technology-driven platforms serve people's needs for long-term financial security. We have been very impressed by the innovative online platform created by Takaud. Our associates, individuals, families, SMEs, large corporations and government entities are sure to be equally impressed by this platform that confers a new flexibility, portability and transparency upon the management of savings and investments."



**LUXEMBOURG:** Austrian activist Max Schrems (left) arriving with his lawyer Herwig Hofmann (right) before a verdict at the European Court of Justice (SCJ) in Luxembourg. Ireland's High Court yesterday ruled that the country's data protection agency should examine whether to suspend the transfer of Facebook users' data from Europe to the United States. — AFP

## IRISH COURT ORDERS PROBE INTO FACEBOOK DATA TRANSFERS

**DUBLIN:** Ireland's High Court yesterday ruled that the country's data protection agency should examine whether to suspend the transfer of Facebook users' data from Europe to the United States.

The Data Protection Commissioner "is obliged now to investigate the complaint", Judge Gerard Hogan said, following a landmark ruling by the European Court of Justice earlier this month.

Commissioner Helen Dixon said in a statement: "I welcome today's ruling from Judge Hogan which brings these proceedings to a conclusion. "My Office will now proceed to investigate the substance of the complaint with all due dil-

gence." Austrian law student Max Schrems had asked the Irish data protection commissioner to investigate the protection afforded to the data transferred to the United States by the social network, Facebook, which has its European headquarters in Ireland.

The then Irish data protection commissioner in 2013 declined to investigate the complaint on the grounds that EU authorities had decided that the US ensures an adequate level of data protection.

In light of the ruling this month by the European Court of Justice ruling the EU-US data transfer agreement known

as "Safe Harbour" invalid, the case returned to the Irish High Court.

"What is clear is that the decision of the commissioner must be quashed," Hogan said. Speaking outside the court after the hearing, Schrems said the "big question is going to be if the Irish DPC is going to do its job." "Basically the law is clear and the facts are rather clear as well so theoretically you could make a decision within weeks," he told reporters.

"But I don't think the DPC is going to go down that road, so very likely we will see a long and deep investigation and long debates with Facebook." — AFP

## HOW TO SPOT A FAKE ONLINE REVIEW

**NEW YORK:** Do you trust online reviews? Now that Amazon is suing more than 1,000 people who allegedly offered to write glowing product reviews for cash, you might reasonably be concerned. Turns out, deceptive reviews are commonplace online - and so are doubts about them. The research organization Mintel found that 57 percent of surveyed consumers are suspicious of companies or products that only have positive online reviews. And 49 percent believe companies probably give incentives for online reviews. Fortunately, there are a few good techniques that can help you tell truth from fiction.

### DON'T TRUST YOURSELF

A team of researchers at Cornell University created a computer algorithm for detecting fake hotel reviews by analyzing the language used in legitimate and phony write-ups. The computer program, Review Skeptic, is accurate about 90 percent of the time, but humans alone performed poorly at determining the truth teller.

"People are terrible," said professor Claire Cardie, who helped develop the system. "I was very surprised. We just cannot tell the difference much more than chance."

### LISTEN TO THE LANGUAGE

Beware of extremes - overly enthusiastic or negative reviews are red flags. False reviews tend to use more extreme language to get their message across. So if someone says "It is the most comfortable bed ever," perhaps in all caps, take pause.

Additionally, the Cornell researchers found that when it comes to hotels, fake reviewers tended not to talk about the spatial details - such as the floor or bathroom. Instead, they focused on the reason they were there, such as describing a recent fake vacation or business trip. In practice,

this makes sense because someone who has never been to a location might have a tough time describing it accurately.

### JUNK THE JARGON

On the flip side, beware of recommendations that read like product manuals. Reviews that repeat the full product name or model number may be an attempt to game the search engine system. And if they use excessive technical or marketing jargon, odds are they aren't providing a genuine review - most real people don't talk like that.

### REVIEW THE REVIEWER

Check out the profile of the person providing the review, said Louis Ramirez, senior features writer with online deal site DealNews. If they only write reviews for a particular company, that's a huge warning sign they could have a vested interest in that business. Some sites let people upload pictures of the item they bought, which can help add credibility.

Amazon verifies some of its reviewers, indicating they actually bought the product (although some of the people it's suing allegedly found ways around that). Some other sites only allow posts from people who've made a purchase there. Look closely on the site for their review policies.

### PAY ATTENTION TO DETAIL

If you think about your own experiences with an unpleasant experience or product, you can probably explain exactly why it was bad. Ramirez suggests if you're unsure about a review, put more stock in someone who provides details of why they didn't like a product ("Oh, the battery only lasted four hours") than in someone who complains more generally ("I hated this laptop. It was horrible!"). — AP



**WASHINGTON:** A forklift operator moves a pallet of goods at an Amazon.com fulfillment center in DuPont, Washington. Amazon said yesterday, it will add 100,000 holiday jobs this season across the country in its fulfillment and sortation centers, so that it can meet increased customer demand. — AP

## AMAZON SUES TO STOP PHONY PRODUCT REVIEWS

AMAZON TO HIRE 100,000 FOR HOLIDAY RUSH

**NEW YORK:** Internet users increasingly rely on online customer reviews when making spending decisions, whether they're buying an iPhone case on Amazon or hiring an Uber ride in their hometown. But just how much can you trust those reviews?

A new lawsuit in which Amazon accuses more than 1,000 people of offering to post bogus glowing write-ups for as little as \$5 apiece might give you pause.

The case, filed in Washington state court Friday by the nation's biggest online retailer, casts light on what appears to be a burgeoning practice: the commissioning of paid, fake reviews that masquerade as testimonials from ordinary people. Fake reviews are nothing new to online retailing, and Amazon is far from the only big company affected. Yelp's restaurant reviews and TripAdvisor's hotel ratings have long been a target of critics who claim that merchants can easily post positive reviews of their own businesses.

Amazon's legal counteroffensive, however, appears to be one of the most aggressive attempts yet by a major US e-commerce company to fight back.

Its lawsuit alleges that individuals would write five-star reviews about products they never even tried, and plotted with product makers to subvert Amazon safeguards that are meant to bolster confidence in the website's reviews. "Suing the reviewers is a way to discourage them from doing it again," said Webdush analyst Michael Pachter. "They're trying to make a statement that you can rely on the integrity of the reviews on the site."

There are powerful incentives to plant fraudulent reviews. About 45 percent of consumers consider

product reviews when weighing an online purchase, according to Forrester Research. Two-thirds of shoppers trust consumer opinions online, according to research by Nielsen. For small businesses, it can be more economical to pay for positive reviews than to buy advertising.

For example, a half-star increase in a restaurant's online rating can increase the likelihood of securing, say, a 7 pm booking by 15 to 20 percent, said Jenny Sussin, a director at Gartner Research. So a restaurateur might be tempted to pay \$250 for 50 positive reviews online in the hopes of raising that rating.

### Fake reviews

Online sites like Amazon, Yelp and TripAdvisor have worked hard to thwart the planting of fake reviews - a practice sometimes called "astroturfing," a reference to the synthetic grass used on sports fields.

They employ computer algorithms and teams of investigators who scour reviews and delete suspicious entries. Often, only people who have paid for a product or service and been verified can post reviews.

Yelp director of business outreach Darnell Holloway said that when suspicious reviews are found, the company puts a "consumer alert" badge on a company's Yelp site for 90 days warning consumers that reviews might be deceptive. If the problem persists, Yelp removes all reviews of the company.

Most recently, Yelp deleted all reviews of a business called Movers Alliance after it found the company was pressuring customers to write positive reviews. TripAdvisor says it has a team of 300 people using fraud detection techniques to weed out fake reviews.

"In the first half of 2015 alone we took action against 29 different optimization companies around the world to put a stop to their activity," said spokesman Kevin Carter.

But in general, experts say, fraudulent reviews aren't going away anytime soon. Gartner estimates that 10 to 15 percent of all online reviews are fake. Legal recourse has been scarce. In 2013, the New York attorney general's office said it had settled cases with 19 companies and secured \$350,000 in penalties for fake reviews.

In April, Amazon sued several websites that offered to produce positive reviews. Now it's targeting the actual writers of the reviews - in this case, those who have accounts at Fiverr.com, a site for freelancers looking for work. In many cases, the writers ask product sellers themselves to write the review, and then they put their name on it, the Amazon lawsuit alleges. At least one would-be reviewer offered to receive an empty envelope from a seller to make it look as if the person had actually bought the product, according to the lawsuit.

The defendants in the lawsuit are identified only by their online handles. Amazon is still working to determine their real names. Amazon is suing for unspecified damages and an order forcing the users to stop writing fake reviews. The Seattle company said the offenders are liable for breach of contract for violating Amazon's terms of service. Forrester analyst Sucharita Mulpuru said that ultimately it's up to the consumer to read and evaluate reviews online carefully. "You never know until the product actually comes to you if a review is real or not," she said. "Online shopping is a leap of faith." — Agencies



**LAGUNA BEACH:** Tim Cook (right), CEO of Apple, responds to questions from interviewer Gerard Baker on Monday in Laguna Beach, California at the opening of the 2015 WSJD Live. The event brings together top CEOs, founders, pioneers, investors and luminaries to explore the most exciting tech opportunities emerging around the world. — AFP

## NSA CHIEF LOOKS TO WIN ALLIES AT ELITE TECH CONFERENCE

**LAGUNA BEACH, US:** The director of the US National Security Agency on Monday sought allies at an elite technology conference amid lingering distrust about widespread online snooping. Admiral Michael Rogers, who heads US Cyber Command as well as directing the NSA, stated his case at the opening of a Wall Street Journal WSJLive conference here.

"We increasingly live in an acrimonious environment where differences in perspective are made almost personal," Rogers said. "Government is largely distrusted. We have got to work our way through things and find out how we are going to work together."

Rogers avoided being pinned down regarding whether he favored having US tech companies install "back doors" that intelligence agents could use to get into systems or devices. Nor did he take a stand supporting or opposing companies providing users with data encryption that would make online communications designed to make email unreadable to snoops.

Rogers held firm that the NSA has followed the law when it comes to seeking information that could provide clues regarding terrorist activity or other threats. "It isn't that one side is good and one side is bad," Rogers said of the debate between online privacy champions and US agents out to defend the nation. "We have got to meet both imperatives. We can't do that in a world where each side castigates the other; I am interested in how we get to solutions."

### Innovation, not compromise

Rogers plea was endorsed, in a way, by Apple chief Tim Cook, during a separate on-stage chat at the conference. "I think that it is a cop-out that there is a compromise," Cook said

of the argument that there must be trade-offs to balance Internet privacy and national security. "We should be smart enough to do both privacy and security," Cook said that Apple strongly opposes back doors in software, and that encryption "is a must" on the Internet today.

"You can't have a back door that is only for the good guys," Cook said. "Any back door is something the bad guys can exploit." Cook was adamant that the answer to the problem of balancing privacy and national security was in innovation, not compromise. "Reasonable people can have discussions and figure out how to go forward," Cook said during a mildly combative point in a wide ranging chat. "We have the responsibility to do everything in our power to make sure we are part of that solution."

Rogers noted the growing list of cyber attacks on companies and expressed certainty that hackers would at some point shift from stealing data to damaging infrastructure.

He suggested there was potential for an extremist group to use the Internet as "a weapons system." "I fully expect it will happen during my time as director," Rogers said. The admiral declined to say what he thought about NSA whistle-blower Edward Snowden being hailed by some as a hero, or whether he thought the man would be brought back to the US for a legal accounting of his actions.

"You cannot divorce standing up for what is right from being accountable for your actions," Rogers said. Former US intelligence contractor Snowden, 32, sought and won asylum in Russia two years ago after Washington filed a warrant for his arrest for having leaked documents that revealed the vast scale of US surveillance programs. — AFP

## GOVT TIGHTENS PAYMENTS TO FOR-PROFIT COLLEGE ITT TECH

**WASHINGTON:** Education officials are placing new limits on federal student aid administered by struggling for-profit college chain ITT Educational Services. The move comes after the government found ITT was failing to comply with previous orders to improve its financial controls.

ITT has not produced proper and timely accounting for the federal grants and loans it distributes to students since at least 2009, the Department of Education says in a letter sent to ITT on Monday. As a result, the letter says, ITT will now be allowed to pay out federal education funds to students only after they have attended classes and been certified as eligible by a school representative.

Along with delaying ITT's receipt of federal funds, the Education Department will also require the company to provide it with additional student information and news about any restrictions placed on it by lenders. In a statement accompanying the letter, Education Undersecretary Ted Mitchell said that the government would take additional actions against ITT if it believed doing so would keep students safe.

ITT - which operates vocational colleges attended by 50,000 students in 27 states - already faces legal challenges from both the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. The SEC alleges that the company and its top executives committed fraud by hiding losses in an ITT student loan program, while the CFPB accused it of pushing students into high-cost, predatory loans.

The Education Department had previously imposed a form of additional financial scrutiny on ITT known as heightened cash flow monitoring, and required ITT to provide a letter of credit for \$79.7 million, roughly 10

percent of the student aid it processes every year. ITT did not immediately respond to phone and email messages left at its corporate headquarters Monday evening. — AP



**SINGAPORE:** This photograph made available from The Straits Times and taken on Monday shows Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong (left) interacting with Olivia the robot (right) at the official opening of Fusionopolis Two, a high-tech research & development hub in Singapore. Olivia, developed by the government's Agency for Science, Technology and Research, can understand commands and can analyse the characteristics of the person it is dealing with. — AFP

## MOM'S WEIGHT GAIN AFTER GIVING BIRTH MAY INCREASE CHILD'S OBESITY RISK

**NEW YORK:** (Maternal weight gain after giving birth, not just during pregnancy, increases a child's risk of being overweight, according to a new study. "We already know that women who gain a lot of weight during pregnancy are more likely to have overweight children, but it is surprising that women who gain relatively much weight after pregnancy are more likely to have overweight children as well," said lead author Lenie van Rossem of University Medical Center Utrecht in The Netherlands.

Excess weight gain during pregnancy is also linked with a higher risk of Cesarean sections, spontaneous early delivery and babies who are larger than is healthy at birth, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Ideal weight gain during pregnancy varies by individual, but most women at a healthy weight before pregnancy should gain between 25 and 35 pounds while pregnant, based on Institute of Medicine guidelines.

In a group of 3,367 children born in or after 1996 in The Netherlands, those whose mothers gained too much weight in pregnancy were more likely to be overweight themselves, researchers found. In addition, those whose mothers gained at least one kilogram (about two pounds) per year after giving birth also tended to be heavier for their heights than other children, the researchers found.

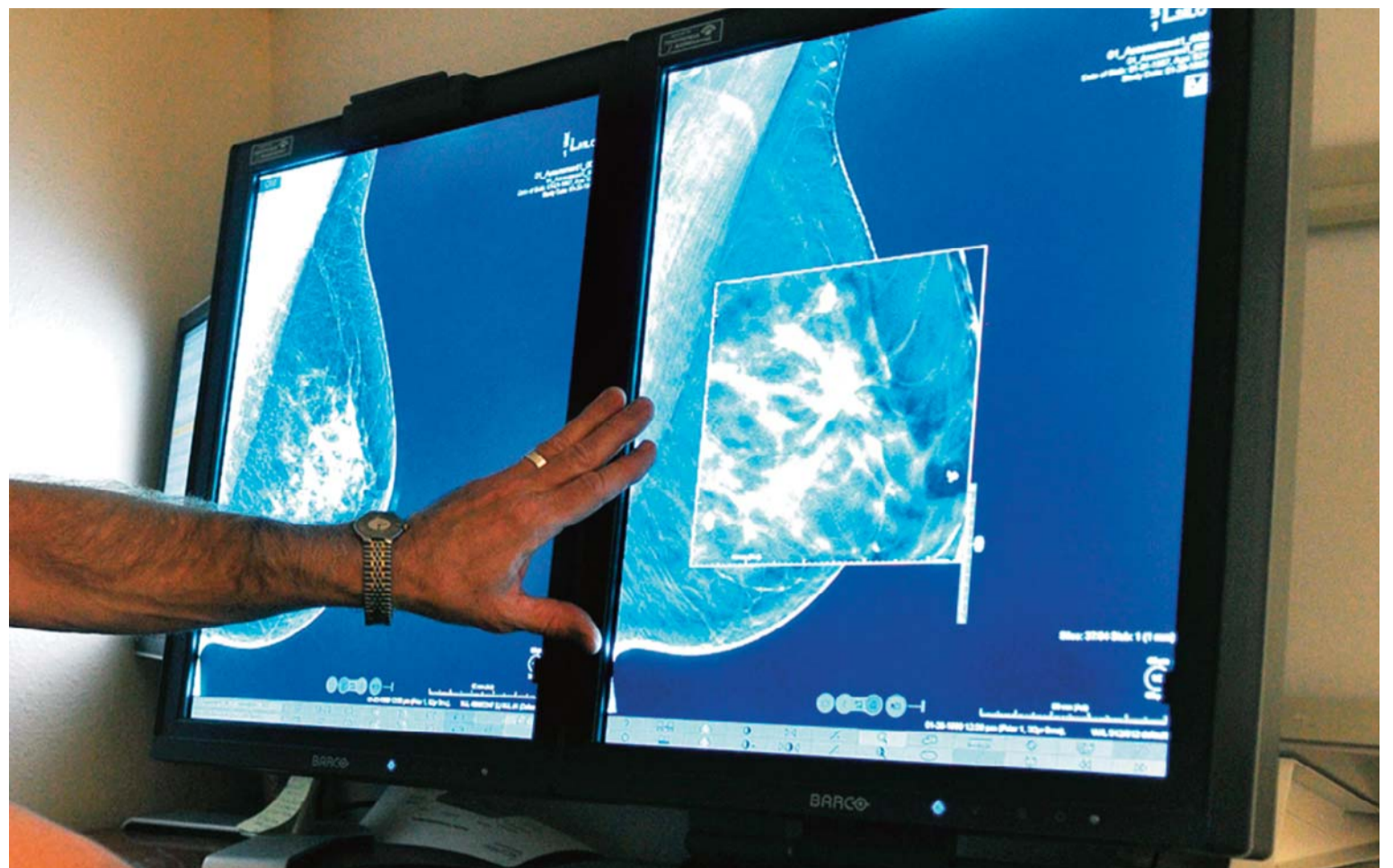
At age 14, children of mothers with high weight gain both during pregnancy and afterward had the highest risk of being overweight, the researchers reported in Pediatrics. The mothers reported their own weight gain and their child's height and weight via questionnaires starting during pregnancy and continuing until the child

was 14. Mothers gained an average of 13.7 kilograms, or about 30 pounds, during pregnancy, and almost a third experienced "excessive" weight gain. There are three plausible explanations for the link between pregnancy weight gain and childhood weight: genes, lifestyle and "intra-uterine programming," van Rossem told Reuters Health by email. "As the prevalence of childhood overweight increased very fast over the last decades, genetics can hardly be the only explanation," she said.

### Post delivery weight

"If (the mother) eats a lot of sugar for example, this passes through the placenta and the fetus' metabolism responds to this diet," she said. "After birth, the child is programmed with a certain metabolism." It is still not clear whether post delivery weight gain has an independent effect on child's weight or if weight gain during pregnancy drives most of the child's risk, and also happens to coincide with post pregnancy weight gain, according to Jihong Liu of the Arnold School of Public Health at the University of South Carolina in Columbia.

"Weight management is very important for women before, during and after pregnancy," Liu told Reuters Health by email. "It has the potential to break the vicious cycle of weight-related health issues in women and their offspring." Liu was not involved in the new study. Pregnant women don't need to "eat for two," but they also do not need to stick to a restrictive diet, van Rossem said. "Physical activity is - for most pregnant women - feasible until delivery," she said. "You don't have to run marathons, but a short walk or swimming are activities that certainly contribute." — Reuters



TEXAS: A radiologist compares an image from earlier, 2-D technology mammogram to the new 3-D Digital Breast Tomosynthesis mammography in Wichita Falls, Texas. — AP

## AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY SAYS START MAMMOGRAMS AT 45, NOT 40

'AT AGE 40, BREAST CANCER IS UNCOMMON AND FALSE ALARMS ARE MORE LIKELY'

**CHICAGO:** New mammogram advice from the American Cancer Society says most women should start annual screenings at age 45 instead of 40, a change that moves the group closer to guidelines from an influential advisory task force. The cancer group also now advises switching to screening to every other year at 55. The task force recommends starting routine screening for breast cancer at age 50, then every other year. It's not a one-size-fits-all recommendation; both groups say women's preferences for when to be scanned should be considered.

The advice is for women at average risk for breast cancer. Doctors generally recommend more intensive screening for higher-risk women. "The most important message of all is that a mammogram is the most effective thing that a woman can do to reduce her chance of dying from breast cancer," said Dr Richard Wender, the cancer society's cancer control chief. "It's not that mammograms are ineffective in younger women," he said, but at age 40, breast cancer is uncommon and false alarms are more likely.

Concern about false alarms contributed to the cancer society's new guidance. These lead to worry and more testing - they mean an initial result was suspicious but that cancer was ruled out by additional scans and sometimes biopsies. The latest guidelines acknowledge that some younger women are willing to accept that, and that for them starting annual exams at age 40 is fine, as long as they know the risks.

The guidelines were developed by experts who reviewed dozens of studies including research published since 1997 - the year the trusted medical group recommended yearly mammograms starting at age 40, and since 2003, when it stopped recom-

mending monthly breast self-exams. The update also drops a recommendation for routine physical breast exams by doctors, saying there's no evidence that these save lives. The Rev Jennifer Munroe-Nathans, a church pastor in Millis, Massachusetts, said she hasn't paid attention to guidelines and started getting annual scans around age 40 on her doctor's advice. Her mother had breast cancer; so have some of her congregants and Munroe-Nathans said she has no plans to change course when she gets older.

### Updated guidelines

"For my own peace of mind I intend to continue yearly mammograms," she said. "I've seen the impact of breast cancer - perhaps that makes me a little more hyper-vigilant." The society's updated guidelines say switching to every other year at age 55 makes sense because tumors in women after menopause tend to grow more slowly. Also, older women's breasts are usually less dense so cancer is more visible on mammograms, said Dr Kevin Oeffinger, chairman of the society's breast cancer guideline panel and director of the cancer survivorship center at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York. The guidelines were published Tuesday in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

More than 200,000 women in the US are diagnosed each year with breast cancer and about 40,000 die from the disease. Overall, 1 in 8 women will be diagnosed with the disease at some point and chances increase with age. Oeffinger said women need to be familiar with their breasts and aware of any changes, which should be evaluated by their doctors.

### Draft recommendations

The US Preventive Services Task Force, whose guidelines have historically influenced Medicare coverage, made waves in 2009 when it recommended mammograms every other year starting at age 50, to age 74. In draft recommendations released earlier this year, the group said mammograms for women in their 40s should be an individual decision based on preferences and health history, and that more research is needed to determine potential benefits or harms for scans for women aged 75 and older. That panel also questioned the value of breast exams by doctors, citing a lack of evidence for any benefit or harm. It will examine the cancer society's evidence review in finalizing its update, said Dr. Kirsten Bibbins-Domingo, the task force's vice chair and a professor at the University of California, San Francisco. Most health plans are required to cover screening mammograms free of charge as part of preventive care mandated by the Affordable Care Act, and many insurers cover the screenings starting at age 40. Several doctor groups still recommend mammograms starting at age 40, including those representing radiologists and gynecologists, but the American Cancer Society's breast cancer guidelines are the most widely followed, said Dr Kenneth Lin, a family medicine physician at Georgetown University School of Medicine.

Lin said he supports the new guidance but that it will make his job more challenging at first, trying to explain to patients the changes and differences with other groups. Lin said he - and probably many other doctors - will likely continue doing physical breast exams, out of habit and because they consider the exams to be an important part of doctor-patient interactions. — AP



## MORE EVIDENCE MARRIAGE MAY BE BAD FOR YOUR WAISTLINE

**NEW YORK:** Need another reason to blame weight gain on your marriage? When one spouse becomes obese, the other's risk of obesity almost doubles, a US study suggests. "Normal weight people whose spouses went from being normal weight to obese were more likely to become obese," said Laura Cobb, who led the study as a researcher at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore.

"This suggests that changes in one spouse are likely to also be reflected in the other spouse, likely because of similar changes in diet, physical activity or other behaviors that impact obesity," Cobb said by email. Plenty of research already links marriage and weight gain, and scientists have firmly established the connection between obesity and heart disease, diabetes, and certain cancers.

What the current study adds is a fresh take on how couples may gain weight in tandem, insight that might help shape more effective obesity prevention and treatment efforts targeting couples, Cobb and colleagues note in the American Journal of Epidemiology. Researchers followed almost 4,000 couples for up to 25 years, starting between 1987 and 1989. After an initial exam, they had three follow-up visits roughly three years apart, followed by a fifth exam between 2011 and 2013.

At the start of the study, 23 percent of the men and 25 percent of the women were obese. Non-obese men whose wives became obese between visits in the study were 78 percent more likely to become obese during that period than they would have been had their wives not gained so much weight, the study found. Having a husband become obese was linked to an

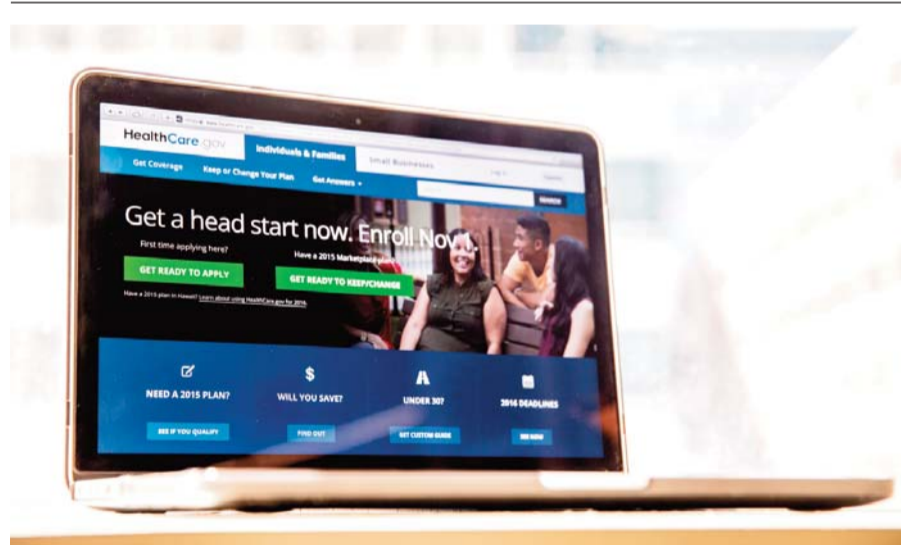
89 percent increased risk of developing obesity for their wives.

Not many people who started out obese lost enough weight to be considered no longer obese, but when they did, their spouse was also more likely to become non-obese. Shortcomings of the study include the long stretch of time that elapsed between the fourth and fifth exams and the large proportion of people who died or left the study before the final visit, the authors acknowledge.

### Health knowledge

It's not unusual for married couples to forge common habits over time that influence their weight, said Ivanka Prichard, a weight loss researcher at Flinders University in Adelaide, Australia. "Over time, similarities in diet, particularly any unhealthy aspects, may lead to weight changes," Prichard, who wasn't involved in the study, said by email. "There are also a range of pressures in life that could impact this such as having children, work, shared health knowledge, time or finances."

Like unhealthy habits, though, positive lifestyle choices can also be contagious in a marriage, said Debra Umberson, director of the Population Research Center at the University of Texas at Austin. "When married people get in shape or lose weight, it's often because one spouse takes the lead and urges the other spouse along," Umberson, who wasn't involved in the study, said by email. "Even if the person not taking the lead is resistant, over time they will probably be influenced by the kinds of food and activities their spouse is involved with - especially if the person taking the lead is the one who purchases groceries or prepares meals." — Reuters



WASHINGTON: In this Oct 6, 2015, file photo, the HealthCare.gov website, where people can buy health insurance, is displayed on a laptop screen. — AP

## POTENTIAL DELAY ON SOME UPGRADES TO GOVT INSURANCE SITE

**WASHINGTON:** With sign-up season starting in just two weeks, the Obama administration is indicating on Monday that some long-awaited upgrades to the government's health insurance website could take more time. At issue is a new doctor look-up tool for HealthCare.gov, as well as another feature that would allow consumers to find out whether a particular health plan covers their prescription drugs.

Spokeswoman Lori Lodes (LOW-dess) says those online improvements will be ready to launch when the administration is confident that data provided by health insurers is accurate and validated. She would not commit to a specific date, saying only it will happen soon. The insurance industry says testing has uncovered some problems with accuracy of those features. Open enrollment runs from Nov 1 to Jan 31. — AP

## GLOBAL PHYSICIANS GROUP PROMISES TO TREAT TRANSGENDERS WITH RESPECT

**NEW YORK:** The World Medical Association, representing more than ten million physicians, has adopted guidelines to treat transgender people in ways that respect their choices and rights and do not question their sexuality, the global group said. Delegates in the group from nearly 60 national medical associations adopted a blueprint on how to treat transgender people at a meeting on Sunday in Moscow, the WMA said in a statement. The guidelines recognize that being transgender is not a disorder and explicitly reject "coercive treatment or forced behavior modification," the statement said.

The move responds to a need to provide transgender people with healthcare that accounts for their individual choices and rights, WMA Secretary General Otmar Kloiber told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. In the past, some treatment of transgender people has occurred with disregard for their unique needs "and often this has happened with the participation of the physician," he said. Based in France, the WMA represents 112 member associations worldwide from Nigeria to Cuba and the United States.

Earlier this year, the Council of Europe, a human rights watchdog, called on 47 countries to protect the rights of transgender people, abolish medical procedures needed to change legal gender and make transgender-specific healthcare accessible. In order to have desired gender legally recognized by the government, most countries in Europe require transgender people to undergo genital removal surgery and sterilization, be diagnosed with a mental disorder and get divorced if married.

Worldwide, transgender people comprise about one in every 30,000 people, according to an estimate cited by the Center for Excellence for Transgender Health at the University of California, San Francisco. A 2014 Amnesty International estimate tallied up to 1.5 million transgender people across the European Union. — Reuters

## CANCER DRUG SHOWS PROMISE AGAINST PARKINSON'S DISEASE

**WASHINGTON:** A cancer drug may be helpful in improving memory and motor skills in patients with Parkinson's disease, according to preliminary research presented at a US medical conference this weekend. The trial at Georgetown University involved 12 people who had Parkinson's or a related condition called Lewy body dementia. All 11 who completed the trial using the drug nilotinib-marketed by Novartis as Tasigna, which has been approved by the US Food and Drug Administration for leukemia-showed improvements in movement and mental function by the end of the study, according to the findings presented at the Society for Neuroscience meeting in Chicago.

For some, the gains were dramatic, particularly those who were treated early in the course of their disease. One person who had been confined to a wheelchair was able to walk again, researchers said. Three others regained their ability to speak and hold conversations. "To my knowledge, this study represents the first time a therapy appears to reverse-to a greater or lesser degree depending on stage of disease-cognitive and motor decline in patients with these neurodegenerative disorders," said a statement by researcher Fernando Pagan, a Georgetown University associate professor of neurology.

"But it is critical to conduct larger and more comprehensive studies before determining the drug's true impact." The drug

appears to work by clearing toxic proteins in the brain. Patients were given nilotinib, a treatment for chronic myelogenous leukemia (CML), in escalating doses of 150 to 300 milligrams over the course of six months. The doses used were much smaller than the amount used to treat cancer-which is up to 800 mg daily-and patients experienced no major side effects.

The study was designed to test safety, and did not compare the drug to other treatments or to a placebo. The drug is costly, however. The 800 mg daily dose used for cancer treatment costs \$10,360 per month, according to the researchers. Larger clinical trials with nilotinib for patients with Parkinson's and Alzheimer's could begin as early as 2016. — AFP

## AFTER 100 YEARS, EINSTEIN'S THEORY STANDS TEST OF TIME

**WASHINGTON:** Albert Einstein's general theory of relativity is about to celebrate its 100th anniversary and his revolutionary hypothesis has withstood the test of time, despite numerous expert attempts to find flaws. "Einstein changed the way we think about the most basic things, which are space and time. And that opened our eyes to the universe, and how the most interesting things in it work, like black holes," said David Kaiser, professor of the history of science, technology and society at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Einstein, a celebrated German-born theoretical physicist who spent the final years of his life at Princeton University in the northeastern United States, presented his theory on November 25, 1915 before the Prussian Academy of Science. The document was published in March 1916 in a journal called *Annalen der Physik*. The general theory of relativity was among the most revolutionary in history; it marked a major leap from the law of universal gravitation put forth by Sir Isaac Newton in 1687. Einstein believed that "space and time are not fixed, which was what others had thought, but are flexible, dynamic phenomena like other processes of the universe," said Michael Turner, director of the Kavli Institute for Cosmological Physics.

"So space bends and time warps, and it was a whole new way at looking at gravity," Einstein had put forth a more restrained version of his theory in 1905, the special theory of relativity, which left out gravity but described the relationship between space and time. It held that the speed of light is the same in a vacuum, and the laws of physics do not change regarding inert objects. He also came up with his famous equation,  $E=mc^2$ , which says that energy equals mass times the speed of light in a vacuum, squared. In other words, mass and energy are the same but in different forms.

### Precursor to GPS

Ten years later, the general theory of relativity offered a larger and more explanatory vision, adding gravity's role in the space-time continuum. Therefore, time would move more slowly in proximity to a powerful gravitational field, such as that of a planet in the void of space. This relationship has been verified by comparing two atomic clocks, one on Earth and the other in a high-altitude airplane where it shows a slight delay. Global positioning systems (GPS) are an application of this phenomenon. Satellites have clocks that are precisely adjusted to account for

this time difference, otherwise GPS would not be able to function.

According to the theory of general relativity, light is also warped by powerful gravitational fields, which British astronomer Arthur Eddington confirmed with his observations on the deflections of starlight by the Sun in 1919. Einstein also predicted that stars at the end of their lives would collapse under their own gravity. Their external envelope would explode in a supernova while their heart would form a very dense object known as a neutron star, or a rapidly spinning pulsar.

They could also transform into a black hole, which such a huge gravitational field that space and time could not escape. According to Einstein, these celestial bodies, given their masses, should provoke waves in space time much like a thrown stone causes ripples in water. These are the gravitational waves that astronomers hope to observe first-hand. This would "confirm one of the last great but as yet untested predictions from Einstein, equation that space and time are not really dynamical but they can ripple, like the surface of a pond," said Kaiser. Instruments have been designed to capture this phenomenon, including the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO) in the

United States and VIRGO, a gravitational wave detector in Italy in Europe.

### String theory

An enormous challenge remains to reconcile the general theory of relativity with quantum physics, the two big pillars of modern physics. Quantum physics, contrary to relativity, perfectly describes phenomena on an atomic level and has numerous applications, from transistors to computers. Turner said the most popular theory for reconciling the two is string theory, which holds that particles are not the fundamental building blocks of matter but are elastic strings that vibrate at different frequencies. "String theory might answer that deep question of what space and time are," Turner told AFP.

"It suggests it could be extra dimensions and that the number of dimensions of space and time could change," he added. "And if you take the most extravagant view of that, maybe space and time did not exist and they emerged from something else." Turner described string theory as an "empty vessel," and added: "the great thing about an empty vessel is that we can put our hopes and dreams in it." "We are now ready for the next Einstein to open our eyes a little more."—AFP



**REDLAND, United States:** A pamphlet describing the Oriental fruit fly (pictured at top) is handed out at an information booth.



**REDLAND, United States:** South Florida farmer Victoria Barnes holds an avocado from one of her trees in Redland, Florida. — AFP photos



**REDLAND, United States:** Noel Ruiz stands at his empty fruit stand.

## TINY ASIAN PEST PUTS SQUEEZE ON FLORIDA FRUIT GROWERS

**REDLAND, United States:** Victoria Barnes was about to harvest her early season avocados when the Oriental fruit fly reared its tiny head and all but shut down south Florida's \$1.6 billion agriculture industry. Barnes owns two avocado groves in Redland, just south of Miami, where authorities have quarantined 97 square miles (25,122 hectares) of farmland—an area twice the size of Paris—over the fly invasion.

"Everything came to a standstill," she said. None of the 165 fruit flies trapped since August have been found on her property, yet the farmer estimates she has already lost 12,000 pounds (5,440 kilograms) of fruit.

"We have over a thousand trees and since the last days of August, nothing has been picked. Nothing has gone out of this farm." In Florida, a land where invasive creatures are a constant threat to the natural balance—from giant African snails to Burmese pythons to Argentine tegu lizards—the Oriental fruit fly is considered among the most dangerous. Barnes called the invasive pest "probably the most devastating insect that we could have." Known formally as *Bactrocera dorsalis*, the fly can travel long distances and feeds on 432 different kinds of plants, including mangoes, bananas, tomatoes, figs, watermelon, cucumbers, potatoes, green beans, lemons and lychees.

Its common range is from southern China to northern India, and US officials say they do not know how the fly got here this time. "Countries with established Oriental fruit fly populations have typical crop losses of 25-50 percent," warned a Florida Department of Agriculture leaflet being handed out at a gas station in the quarantine zone. "If it becomes established in the continental United States, it will ravage commercial agriculture."

### 'Don't move fruit'

Along the main road into Redland, a large traffic sign warns drivers, in both English and Spanish, not to move fruit, due to the risk of spreading the fruit fly. Hundreds of growers of tropical delicacies are on lockdown. Some are entirely out of business, others restricted to a small percentage of their typical output. Salvador Fernandez of J&C Tropicals estimates that his business lost about a million dollars in sales in just five weeks. "Pretty much every single fruit in the Florida tropical season is under quarantine right now," he told AFP. Officials have fought off the Oriental fruit fly in Florida and California before, but never has Florida seen an invasion of this scale.

The 165 flies found so far represent "by far the largest outbreak we've had in this state's history," said agriculture commissioner Adam Putnam. Oriental fruit flies may live only 30 to 45 days during warm seasons, but the females can produce up to 1,500 eggs in that time span. The female injects up to 20 eggs at a time into the pulp of a fruit. The larvae damages the fruit from the inside and causes it to drop from the tree, rendering it unsellable.

Under an agricultural state of emergency issued by Putnam, the quarantine will last at least until the end of February, or three life cycles since the last fly was found on October 10. "Before, it was found mostly in urban areas where eradication is much easier," said entomologist Daniel Carrillo, who is working with farmers and government officials to eradicate the fly. "This time it is a little bit more problematic because the fruit fly is present in an agricultural area where there are multiple potential hosts."

### Higher prices

In order to ship produce, growers must sign a compliance agreement and follow a strict regimen of pesticide applications and inspections. But the task is daunting, said one agriculture official speaking on condition of anonymity. "There are eight of us inspectors for 800 farmers," he told AFP. A spokeswoman for the Florida Department of Agriculture declined to give specifics on staffing for the eradication effort, saying only that "numerous employees" were working on the task alongside the US Department of Agriculture. "The department has entered more than 1,200 compliance agreements with growers, packers and others within the industry in order to conduct pre- and post-harvest treatment that would allow the products to be moved into the marketplace," communications director Jennifer Meale wrote in an email to AFP.

For Noel Ruiz, who sells tropical trees and runs a fruit stand in Redland that used to bring in sales of up to \$700 per day, the requirements were just too much. His display boxes—once filled with avocados, mameys, sweet potatoes, onions and bananas—are empty. For consumers, the fly invasion means higher prices and harder-to-find produce, particularly passion fruit, dragon fruit and bright green Florida avocados. Produce that does reach the marketplace will have been treated with more pesticides, though officials say the tools they are using have been proven safe. "If before, a box of avocado cost 10 dollars, now it is 40 dollars. Everything is more expensive," said Ruiz, standing beside a deserted outdoor picnic area. "We have not been able to sell anything since the problem with the fly began."—AFP

## ABANDONED SEAL PUP, NOW HEALTHY, RELEASED BACK TO WILD

**JUNEAU, Alaska:** A seal pup found abandoned and sickly on a Juneau-area beach this summer has been released back to the wild after undergoing rehabilitative care. Heli was released off Douglas Island Monday. A small crowd that included children watched as she poked her head from an animal carrier and undulated down the beach to the waiting, cool water.

When the pup was found in July, she had puncture wounds and was dehydrated. She was taken to the non-profit Alaska Sealife Center, where she was treated for conditions that included lungworms and pneumonia and learned to catch live fish. Halley Werner, with the Alaska Sealife Center, says Heli is healthy and weighs about 45 pounds. Heli has a tracking device glued to her fur that will allow her movements to be tracked. — AP

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**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

**Birthday greetings**



**H**urray! David and Divine are one today. Happy birthday to our prince and princess - may God continue to bless and guide you. May His face shine upon you all the days of your lives. Greetings from dad, mom, aunty, friend and well-wishers.



**MESSAGE FROM INDIA EMBASSY**

The Embassy will be closed on the occasion of Vijay Dashmi (Dussehra) on Thursday, 22 October 2015. However, the Embassy will continue to provide emergency Consular, Labor, Attestation and E-migrate services to the service seekers on Thursday, 22 October 2015.

**DUBAI CROWN PRINCE VISITS VIVA IN GITEX**



**KUWAIT:** HH Sheikh Hamdan Bin Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, has officially opened the 35th GITEX Technology Week, the leading ICT event in the Middle East, Africa and South Asia at the Dubai World Trade Centre (DWTC). The event attracted 3900 exhibitors from across the world. Dr Khaled Al-Bayari, CEO of STC Group, received His Highness, along with executives from STC, VIVA Kuwait and VIVA Bahrain. Al-Bayari presented a brief about the STC business growth and progress in the Gulf region and beyond, its latest and comprehensive range of technical solutions. In addition, he explained the company's plans to further expand data reach and penetration in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the services provided by VIVA Kuwait and VIVA Bahrain.

The participation of VIVA and STC Group in Gitex drew large numbers of visitors and industry experts.

The Companies' management held several important meetings with a large number of delegates representing major international

telecom and IT companies to discuss the latest developments in the telecom business and find new means of collaboration to increase their client database and further improve their offerings. To find out

more about VIVA's latest competitive promotions, products and packages, please visit one of the 69 VIVA branches, or the VIVA website at [www.viva.com.kw](http://www.viva.com.kw), or call VIVA's 24 hour call center on 102.



**LINDEN US UNIVERSITY FAIR**

The Linden US University Fair will be held at the Marina Hotel in Salmiya tomorrow October 22, 2015 at 6:00 pm. Ambassador Douglas A Silliman will provide opening remarks. It is organized by Linden Educational Tours in conjunction with the US Embassy. The fair will host representatives from several universities throughout the US. Embassy consular officials will be available to answer questions about the student visa process. At 5:30 pm, university representatives will present a session open to the public entitled 'Overview of US Education and Application Process'.

Participating universities include: Fairfield University, Farleigh Dickinson University, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Iowa State University of Science and Technology, Loyola Marymount University, Loyola University Chicago, Middle Tennessee State University, State University of New York- University at Buffalo, University of California-San Diego, University of Minnesota, University of Missouri-St Louis, University of Pittsburgh, University of Rhode Island and University of South Florida. The Linden US University Fair gives students a chance to meet with representatives from accredited US institutions so that they can explore the possibilities of higher education in the United States.

**KOREAN CULTURAL PERFORMANCES**

The Embassy of the Republic of Korea (South Korea) is organizing the Korean Cultural Event in cooperation with the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters as a follow-up of the State Visit of HE Park Geun-hye, President of the Republic of Korea to the State of Kuwait in March 2015. The time is 8 pm on October 23 (Fri), 2015; Venue - Abdullhussain Abduredha Theater in Salmiya (Previously Salmiya Theater). The Program includes: Fusion Korean music; Traditional music and dance; B-Boy dance.

In this event, the performances will feature the following: - Fusion Korean Music by the Performing Art Group Gong Myoung which is well known for combining traditional and modern traits of Korean music. - Dance by the Korean B-Boy team - Gorilla Crew Pansori (traditional vocal and percussion music) and Cheoyongmu (traditional masked dance), which express key emotions that have grown out of the Korean experience such as sadness, a heaviness in the heart and joy. Please come and enjoy the various Korean traditional and modern cultural performances! Admission : Free

**'BEAT DIABETES' WALKATHON**

Landmark Group, the region's leading retail and hospitality conglomerate, has teamed up with the Ministry of Health and Dasman Diabetes Institute once again this year, to launch the sixth edition of the 'Beat Diabetes' walkathon in Kuwait. The walkathon will take place on Saturday, November 14, 2015. The group encourages Kuwait to register and participate in the walk which will flag off from the Yacht Club and end at Green Island.

Open to all age groups, the 3.2km walk is organized to raise awareness about Diabetes. Participation in the walkathon is free of charge

and all registered participants are given a walkathon kit. Qualified trainers from Fitness First will lead a mass warm-up session prior to the walk. Commenting on the occasion, Saibal



Basu, Chief Operating Officer, Landmark Group, Kuwait said, "We are very happy to launch the walkathon again this year and spread awareness about both type 1 and type 2 diabetes. Throughout the last five years, our Walkathon has garnered huge success and has become one of the much awaited public activities.

This has been reflected through the consistent increase in number of participants from different age-groups. We are amazed with the year-to-year increase of participants which is evidence of the huge public recognition being

given to this social and health event to promote awareness about diabetes. Through the Beat Diabetes campaign, we aim to encourage people to eat healthy, exercise frequently and regularly take the blood glucose test. We urge everyone in the community to come forward on 14th November to support this cause."

The Beat Diabetes initiative encourages people to monitor blood glucose levels through regular screening. It makes people aware of what diabetes is all about, its prevention and cure and also through educative information driven activities inspire people to

eat healthy and stay active. Under the Landmark Group's Beat Diabetes initiative, the walkathon is held across seven countries over the months of November and December as a culmination of a year-long calendar of activities. Individuals, groups and organizations can register for the walk at all Centrepoint stores and through the Beat Diabetes website [www.beatdiabetes.me](http://www.beatdiabetes.me) or the Landmark Group Kuwait's facebook page. Further details about the sixth edition of the walkathon will be shared in the weeks preceding the event and on [www.facebook.com/beatdiabetesme](http://www.facebook.com/beatdiabetesme).



**MONUMENT CO, INDO KUWAIT FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY PROMOTING TOURISM IN KUWAIT**



Indo-Kuwait Friendship Society, a non-profit socio cultural NRI association in Kuwait will now collaborate with Kuwait based 'Monument Co' for promoting Kuwait Tourism. Arranging trips to various tourism destinations such as heritage areas in the deserts, Failaka Islands, free entry to Kuwait Museum and other various attractive monuments in Kuwait.

This is the first time Monument Co along with IKFS is initiating for the promotion of tourism especially for expatriate communities in Kuwait. HE Sheikh Hamad Fahad Al Sabah, The Founding Chairman of Monument Company quoted while saying that "I am very much delighted to receive support from Dr Ghalib Al-Mashoor, The President of Indo-Kuwait Friendship Society for promoting Kuwait

Tourism and looking forward more cooperation in the future from the expatriate communities".

The Monument Co, the country's best inbound tour operator totally dedicated to promote tourism into Kuwait. Monument runs tours around the various city sights. It will cater large and small tour groups, but can also arrange similar tours for individuals. Excursions include half- and full-day city, coastline, and Gulf cruising tours. Monument Co. has already offered a luxury sightseeing bus with comfort table and free snack on board. IKFS is inviting family, children, and all interested parties to register their name as soon as possible. The first Luxury bus trip will start on 30th October, and have only limited seats. The tickets will be issued the "First come first serve base".

**MARKAZ RAISES COOPERATION WITH KUWAIT RED CRESCENT SOCIETY**

Kuwait Financial Centre "Markaz" announced raising the level of its cooperation with Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS). The cooperation focused on supporting KRCS's efforts in alleviating the humanitarian crisis of Syrian people. To this end, Markaz launched an internal fundraising campaign among its board of directors and employees, and submitted the donations to KRCS who will deliver it to affected Syrian families.

Dr Hilal Al-Sayer, Kuwait Red Crescent Society's Chairman, thanked Markaz on behalf of the Society's Board and volunteers. He said that funds raised by Markaz would bring much needed help to those affected by the Syrian crisis, which left thousands of refugees in neighboring countries. He added: "The Kuwaiti private sector has consistently supported humanitarian relief efforts and reacted

immediately in times of disaster to extend their support.

Markaz's donation is yet another valuable contribution to alleviate the suffering of Syrian refugees. The initiative is a testimony of Markaz employees' compassion and sense of humanitarian duty."

Dr Al-Sayer explained that KRCS is contributing to refugees by providing them with urgent humanitarian relief supplies, meeting their needs and supporting them. He also stressed on the significant role of the State of Kuwait in leading humanitarian initiatives in the world, noting that extending a helping hand to those in distress has always been an integral value in the Kuwaiti culture.

Alrazi Al-Budaiwi, Assistant Vice President -Media and Communications at Markaz, said: "Syrian people are living one of the most distressing humanitarian crises in modern

history. Therefore, we decided to partner with KRCS as the society is well-positioned to efficiently deliver the donations of our board members and employees to Syrian refugees and distributing them to those in need."

Al-Budaiwi added: "We are committed at Markaz to continue cooperating with Kuwaiti non-profit and humanitarian organizations such as Kuwait Red Crescent Society, which enjoys credibility and maintain a strong track-record in humanitarian work in Kuwait and around the world. We also strive to strengthen this cooperation within our corporate social responsibility strategy, which is built on three pillars: a) Human capacity building, b) Adapting our broader business environment to the best practices of investment and corporate governance, c) and introducing principles of good governance in the business environment."





### AFM, SLOAN'S ICE CREAM SEAL DEAL

**A**FM establishment, that owns and manages many retail and real estate companies in Kuwait, announced signing a franchise contract with Sloan's Ice Cream - a well-known trade mark headquartered in West Palm Beach, Florida, USA that has been famous for mixing ice cream flavors with creative pinkish and greenish colors as well as a variety of kids' candy and toys. AFM co-owner Ali Al-Mutawa said at the moment he entered Sloan's in South Florida, he knew there was the chances of success as he was overwhelmed by Sloan's creativity in serving absolutely magnificent Ice Cream. Al-Mutawa added that AFM intends to open five branches in Kuwait soon after launching the prime one at the Promenade Mall in Hawalli.

### ACK HOLDS 'ENGINEERING SEMINAR WEEK'

**T**he Australian College of Kuwait's (ACK) School of Engineering recently held series of Engineering seminars for its staff and students - bringing in industry specialists and utilizing the expertise of ACK faculty to highlight the latest innovations, standards and practices in the field of Engineering. One of the seminars was held under ACK's Civil Construction Design department entitled "Building Information Modeling" (BIM). The seminar revolved around defining BIM, as well as illustrating its uses in design and construction. The seminar presented the extraordinary capabilities of this emerging technique, a revolution that will positively impact the entire civil engineering industry.

The BIM seminar was presented by Eng. Tony Michael, Eng. Ayman Esawy and Engr Salah Omran from "Projacs", a globally-recognized project management firm. Another seminar entitled "Application of Effective Control Systems on a Smart Mechanical Structure", held by the Mechanical Engineering department at ACK. Delivered by Dr Nader Ghareeb, from ACK's very own faculty, the seminar addressed the conversion of a smart system, consisting of electro-voltaic ceramic slides into an easy-to-control mathematical model through a computer. The seminar also presented how to expose the mathematical model to concussion as a result of its special frequencies and the method of designing and implementing an active control system to cease vibrations resulting from special frequencies within very short periods.



### NBK CO-SPONSORS KRCS' NEEDY FAMILIES KVIDS' EDUCATION

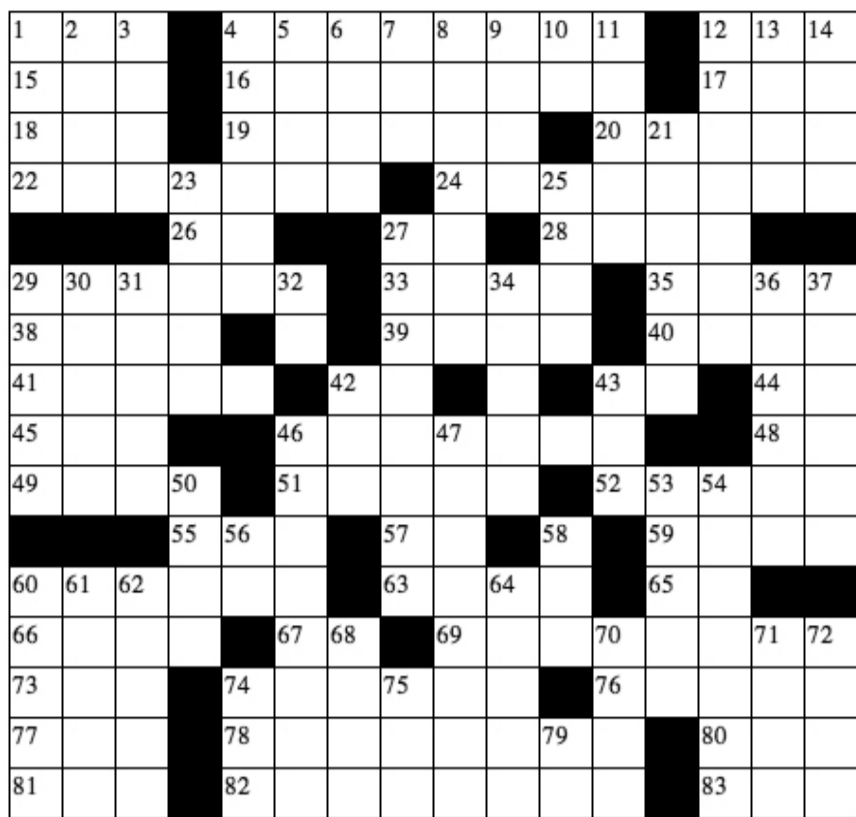
**N**BK sponsored a project to educate needy families' kids. The event was launched by KRCS to provide those kids with educational services. NBK's CEO Essam Al-Sager recently visited KRCS where he was received by chairman Dr Hilal Al-Sayer.







CROSSWORD 1055



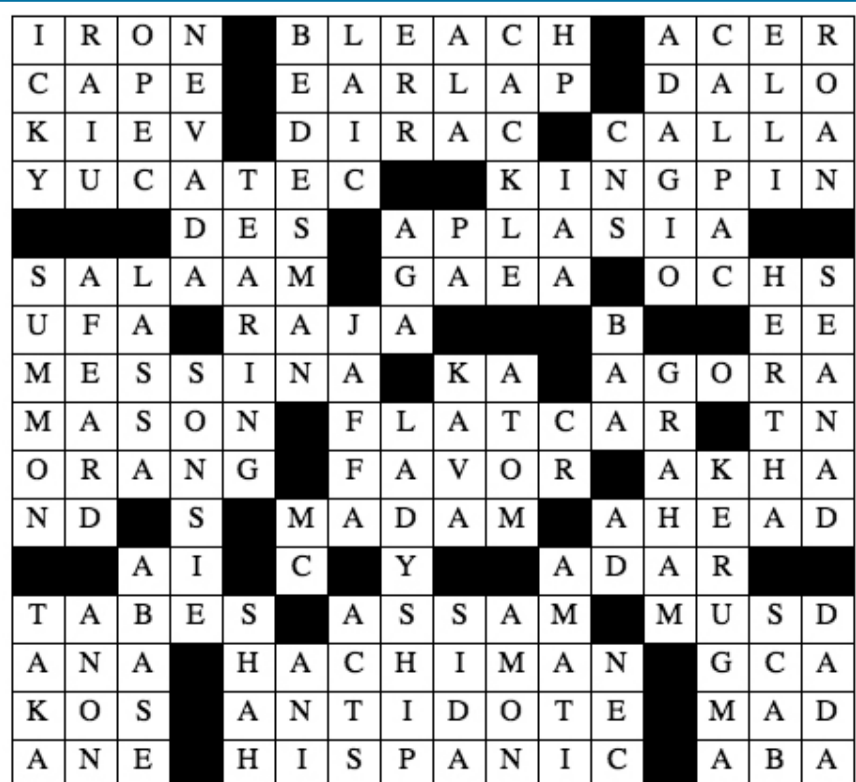
ACROSS

- (computer science) A computer that is running software that allows users to leave messages and access information of general interest.
- A mountainous province of central Sudan.
- An associate degree in applied science.
- A widely distributed system consisting of all the cells able to ingest bacteria or colloidal particles etc, except for certain white blood cells.
- Without obstructions to passage or view.
- A nucleic acid that transmits genetic information from DNA to the cytoplasm.
- A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
- An isolated fact that is considered separately from the whole.
- American professional baseball player who hit more home runs than Babe Ruth (born in 1934).
- A contorted facial expression.
- Pouring from or as if from a sluice.
- A soft white precious univalent metallic element having the highest electrical and thermal conductivity of any metal.
- A master's degree in religion.
- (trade mark) A soft form of cereal for infants.
- A modified bud consisting of a thickened globular underground stem serving as a reproductive structure.
- A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
- Expel, as of gases and odors.
- A genus of European owls.
- A large genus of dicotyledonous trees and shrubs of the family Aquifoliaceae that have small flowers and berries (including hollies).
- Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
- An honorary degree in science.
- A dark-skinned member of a race of people living in Australia when Europeans arrived.
- A Mid-Atlantic state.
- An independent agency of the United States government responsible for aviation and space-flight.
- An independent ruler or chieftain (especially in Africa or Arabia).
- East Indian cereal grass whose seed yield a somewhat bitter flour, a staple in the Orient.
- A compartment in front of a motor vehicle where driver sits.
- A rare heavy polyvalent metallic element that resembles manganese chemically and is used in some alloys.
- Scottish sea captain who was hired to protect British shipping in the Indian Ocean and then was accused of piracy and hanged (1645-1701).
- A Japanese martial art employing principles similar to judo.
- Tropical starchy tuberous root.
- A colorless and odorless inert gas.
- Any of a number of fishes of the family Carangidae.
- A silvery soft waxy metallic element of the alkali metal group.
- Small motorcycle with a low frame and small wheels and elevated handlebars.
- Feline mammal usually having thick soft fur and being unable to roar.
- A river that rises in central Germany and flows north to join the Elbe River.
- South American wood sorrel cultivated for its edible tubers.
- Consisting of or combining two races.
- The month following February and preceding April.
- A prominent rock or pile of rocks on a hill.
- Solitaire with two players using separate packs.
- One or some or every or all without specification.

DOWN

- (informal) Exceptionally good.
- Massive plantigrade carnivorous or omnivorous mammals with long shaggy coats and strong claws.
- An antidepressant drug that acts by blocking the reuptake of serotonin so that more serotonin is available to act on receptors in the brain.
- A member of an aboriginal people living in the hills in southeastern India.
- An organization of countries formed in 1961 to agree on a common policy for the sale of petroleum.
- A network of intersecting blood vessels or intersecting nerves or intersecting lymph vessels.
- A nucleic acid consisting of large molecules shaped like a double helix.
- Type genus of the Oniscidae.
- (of persons or their actions) Able or disposed to inflict pain or suffering.
- A very poisonous metallic element that has three allotropic forms.
- An anti-inflammatory drug that does not contain steroids.
- Accomplishment of an objective.
- Sweet pulpy tropical fruit with thick scaly rind and shiny black seeds.
- North American woodland herb similar to and used as substitute for the Chinese ginseng.
- (chemistry) Being or containing an acid.
- A republic on the island of Malta in the Mediterranean.
- A slight rounded elevation where the malleus attaches to the eardrum.
- A unit of current equal to 10 amperes.
- Naked freshwater or marine or parasitic protozoa that form temporary pseudopods for feeding and locomotion.
- Wild ox.
- A state in New England.
- A prisoner serving a term of life imprisonment.
- (geology) Deposited or arranged in horizontal layers.
- European herb resembling vetch.
- A crystalline rock that can be cut and polished for jewelry.
- The rate at which red blood cells settle out in a tube of blood under standardized conditions.
- Having a sophisticated charm.
- Tall marsh plant with cylindrical seed heads that explode when mature shedding large quantities of down.
- Harsh or corrosive in tone.
- Jordan's port.
- A Bantu language spoken in the coastal regions of eastern Kenya.
- A public promotion of some product or service.
- Airtight sealed metal container for food or drink or paint etc.
- Small tropical American tree bearing edible plumlike fruit.
- An Arab country on the peninsula of Qatar.
- One of the elements that collectively form a system of numbers.
- A city in northern India.
- A small island.
- A secret society of white Southerners to resist Black emancipation.
- Suggestive of the supernatural.
- A mature blood cell that contains hemoglobin to carry oxygen to the bodily tissues.
- (Scotland) A small loaf or roll of soft bread.
- A highly unstable radioactive element (the heaviest of the halogen series).

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

What about your friends? Today's moon in your group-oriented eleventh house forms a helpful trine to chatty Mercury, urging you to check in with your crew. Someone close to you might be in need of your trademark optimism. Offer your encouraging words, book recommendations and inspiring opinions. If you're the one struggling, don't be afraid to lean on your closest confidantes. They'll be happy to advise—or just to listen—so go to dinner or for a long walk to talk this out.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Look for creative places to network today, Taurus. The Aquarius moon is lighting up your ambitious tenth house, linking up with talkative Mercury. Rather than standing stiffly at a manufactured industry mixer, keep it real. Chatting with the person behind you in the latte line or at the dog park, for example, could lead to your next big connection. If you're self-employed or work in sales, you've got to find your own unique leads, so thinking outside the box really pays off. Scour social media and interesting blogs for ideas and some possible people to approach.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Today's moon-Mercury trine awakens your wanderlust...but what will you do about it? Pay attention to little clues from the universe today. For example, the scent of fresh pastries at a cafe could stir up memories of a Paris trip, prompting you to plan your next vacation. A song on Spotify could conjure up nostalgia from your college days, reminding you that you're two semesters shy of your Masters degree. Stay present instead of just going through the motions—valuable guidance is all around you.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

It's hard for you to discuss sensitive matters without getting emotional, but today's intimate moon-Mercury trine helps you express yourself rationally. If you need to get something off your chest, you should be able to have a calm heart-to-heart. You could hear major family news, possibly about an engagement, pregnancy or real estate purchase—and you might have strong feelings about it. Pause before sharing, though, and think through what you'll say. Just because you don't love your sister's new fiancé, for example, doesn't mean you can't congratulate them. Live and let live!



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You're not one to beat around the bush, Leo, but today's stars help you speak your mind tactfully. The moon in your relationship zone is linking up with communicator Mercury, giving you a healthy balance between your head and your heart. If your S.O. has a draining day at work or is dealing with family drama, you'll be able to offer some kind words or to make relaxing social plans. At work, it's a good day to negotiate, both with your boss and professional contacts outside your company. Go over every detail before signing on the dotted line.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Check in with yourself, Virgo. A health-focused moon-Mercury trine helps you analyze your weekly routine and figure out what is and isn't working for you. If you never make it to your morning yoga class, ditch the guilt and sign up for evening sessions instead. If you always get takeout on Tuesdays because your schedule is packed, dedicate Sundays to cooking healthy freezer meals so you'll be prepared. And if you're just not feeling something on your agenda, ditch it entirely and free up time for things that matter.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Live out loud! Today's passionate moon-Mercury trine clarifies your priorities and helps you express your beliefs. You're not afraid to speak up—especially if you witness an injustice—but you'll be able to do so diplomatically under these stars. This is a great time to step up on your soapbox or to advocate for your own advancement. The squeaky wheel gets the oil now. Good news for the special someone in your life, too—this affectionate aspect inspires you to declare your adoration. Go ahead and gush!



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Family matters take center stage in your life today as the moon in your domestic sector forms a trine to communicator Mercury. You might receive some unexpected news about your kin, but a healthy balance between your head and your heart means you'll be able to find the right words to either congratulate or sympathize. Could a move or change in your living situation be on the horizon? Discussing the matter with your partner, family or roommate can help you decide which direction you'd like to take.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Variety is the spice of life, and it's certainly YOUR sign's favorite flavor. If life feels mundane, it's time to mix things up. Today's innovative moon-Mercury trine floods you with ideas for mixing up your daily routine. Travel can hit the reset button, but no need to pack a bag yet. Explore your own neighborhood. Taking a class, experimenting with a new hobby or checking out a new restaurant every week can free you from your rut. Reach out and make plans with a new acquaintance who seems like a potential kindred spirit. Fresh conversations and new friendships can really make your world feel bigger.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Staying grounded is soothing to you, Capricorn, but that doesn't mean you need to dread your daily routine. An optimistic moon-Mercury angle inspires you to add more excitement to your days. This could be as simple as convincing your boss to let you work remotely once a week or treating yourself to a monthly massage. Sticking to a strict schedule helps you stay focused, but having something new and fun to look forward to will keep you from getting burned out. Put it in your schedule or pay upfront so you can't wriggle out of this commitment to yourself.



Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

Be the bright light wherever you go today, Aquarius. The moon in your sign forms positive connection to talkative Mercury, making you social and energetic. Stimulating conversations will help break up a monotonous day, but do your best to avoid too many tempting distractions, or you'll be stuck working late. If you've got a presentation or public speech to deliver, you'll nail it. Save the mundane tasks for another and channel this creative energy into your most visionary projects.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

As the zodiac's most empathic sign, you're a magnet for people who need emotional support. Today's healing moon-Mercury trine practically hangs a "free advice" shingle on you. Friends, co-workers and casual acquaintances alike may approach you for guidance, and you'll have all the right words to soothe them. But make sure to reserve some time for your own self-care, Pisces. Too much listening to other people's problems can be an energy drain.

WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

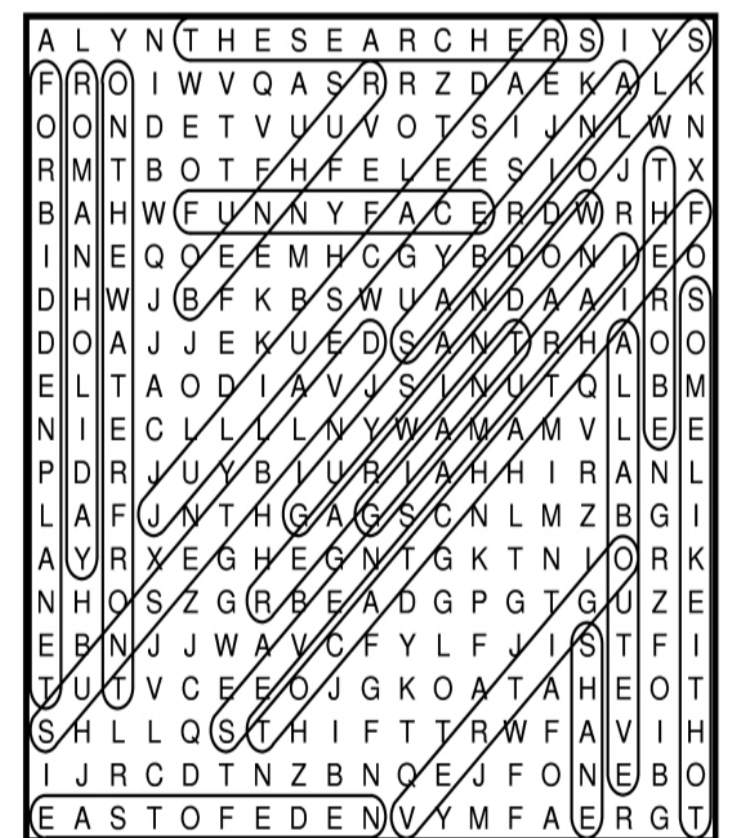
JUKEBOX HITS WORD SEARCH PUZZLE



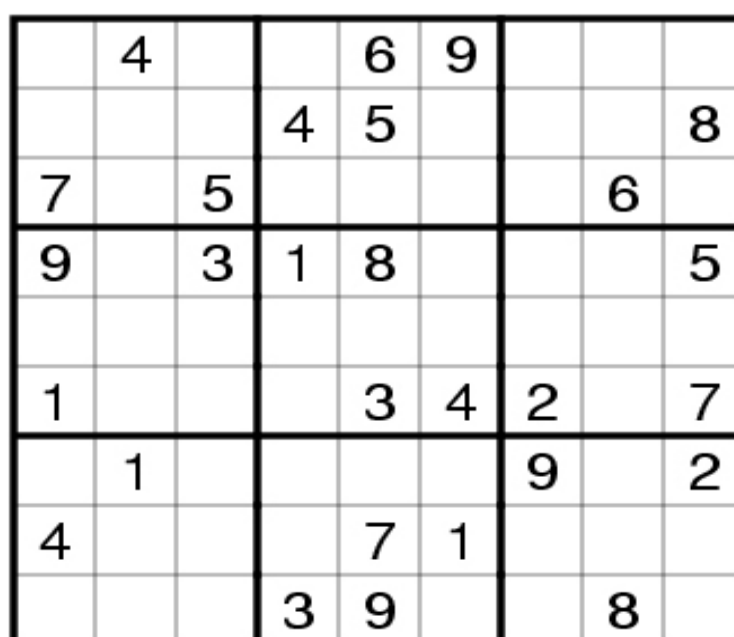
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|----------------|-----------------|---------------|-------------------|
| BABY I'M YOURS | JUST ONE LOOK   | RUNAROUND SUE | TUTTI FRUTTI      |
| BABY I OVE     | LONG TAIL SALLY | SOLDIER BOY   | WILD THING        |
| BLUEBERRY HILL | MR. BIG STUFF   | SPOOKY        | WOOLY BULLY       |
| HE'S SO FINE   | MY SHARONA      | STORMY        | YAKETY YAK        |
| I GOT RHYTHM   | RESCUE ME       | THE WANDERER  | YOU REALLY GOT ME |

Yesterday's Solution

SOLUTION TO 1950'S MOVIES PUZZLE

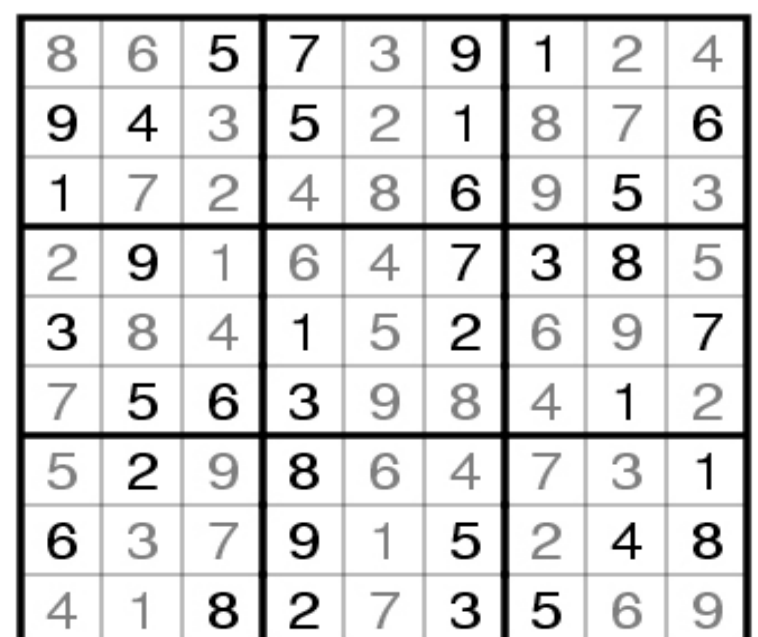


Daily SuDoku



very hard

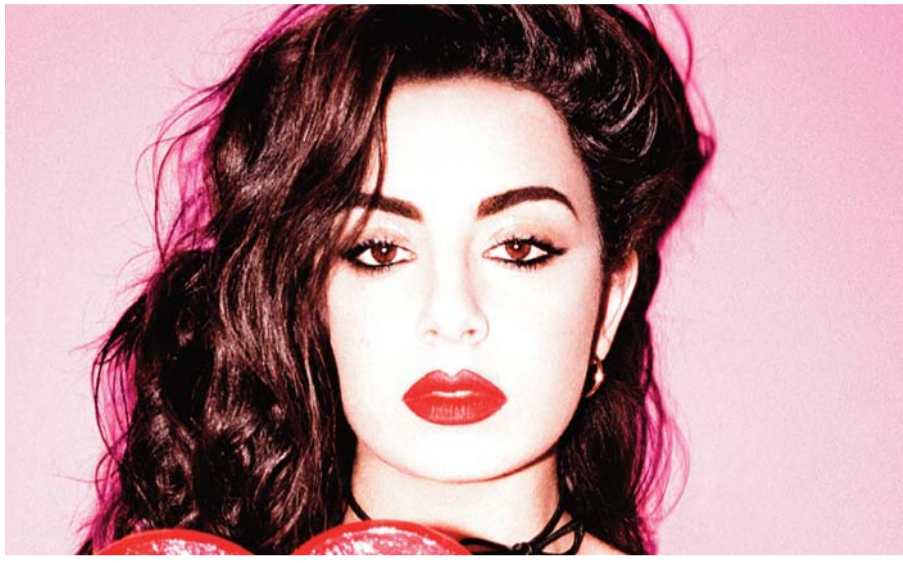
Yesterday's Solution



easy



# Charli XCX is done with collaborations



Charli XCX is done with collaborations. The 'Boom Clap' singer is currently working on her new album - the follow-up to 2014's 'Sucker' - but there won't be any special guests on it because Charli is getting "selfish" with her music. Charli has enjoyed working with artists like Iggy Azalea and Rita Ora but she's ridding herself of her pop pals and going it alone on her new LP. Speaking to BANG Showbiz at the Q Awards in London on Monday, she revealed: "I feel like I've done my fair share of collaborations for life now! I'm going to take some time for

myself. "Maybe I will do another collaboration in the future but right now I want to be quite selfish and work on my own." Charli admits the early studio session are going well and has revealed the record will contain lots of big pop songs. She said: "I'm not giving too much away yet, it's still at the ideas stage but it's going very well, it's very pop. I was really struggling on tour so I'm really happy to be back in the studio being creative." Charli caused a stir when she walked the red carpet at the star-studded event in a sheep skin coat covering her racy silk dress and

claimed she wasn't wearing a bra as a feminist statement. When asked if she was a feminist, the 23-year-old brunette beauty exclaimed: "Yes! And I'm not wearing a bra today!" Other stars at the ceremony, which was held at The Grosvenor House Hotel, included Noel Gallagher, Duran Duran's Simon Le Bon, Chris Martin, Jess Glynne and Mark Ronson.

## Iron Maiden to headline Download

Iron Maiden will headline Download in 2016. The band will perform on the final day of the rock festival on Sunday 12 June at Donington Park, Leicestershire, their only UK show in 2016. The band will fly in to East Midlands Airport on their Boeing 747-400 jumbo jet Ed Force One, piloted by Bruce Dickinson and carrying band, crew, stage production and equipment over 55,000 miles around the world, visiting 35 countries on 'The Book Of Souls World Tour'. Bruce said: "Download is a very special place for us. Not just because it's always great to play on home turf but because there's a truly unique vibe there, it's the very heart of England and of Metal, so a fitting place for Iron Maiden! "The crowd is always fiercely passionate and the whole band feeds off that famous Donington energy. We aim to deliver a really memorable show for our fans to close the 2016 Festival. Although this is our sixth time

headlining at Castle Donington, it's the first time we've been able to land Ed Force One right on the doorstep of the Festival site!" And he insisted that fans are in for a treat with a mix of new songs and classics. He added: "We haven't decided on the set list as yet and won't until we start rehearsing but we really look forward to playing a number of new songs live, especially as the recording was so much live. However, as it's been a while since we saw you all, I am sure we will include plenty of older songs too. I think the fans will be delighted by what we have in mind. We are also in the middle of creating the new show and rest assured we are working hard to bring you all something spectacular, something with a lot of heart!!! You certainly deserve it for your patience."



## Smith wins BMI Song of the Year

Sam Smith won the Song of the Year award at the 2015 BMI London Awards on Monday. The 23-year-old singer picked up the prestigious Robert S Musel award for 'Stay With Me', beating off stiff competition from Ed Sheeran and Hozier. The gong is given to the most-performed song of the previous year by UK or European writers in the BMI catalogue on US radio and television. He also received four Pop Awards for 'Stay With Me', 'I'm Not The Only One', 'Latch' and his contribution to 'La La La'. John Newman was presented with Pop Awards for BRIT Award nominated 'Love Me Again' and 'Blame' and revealed he is currently working on some exciting new collaborations. Speaking at the ceremony at London's Dorchester Hotel, he told BANG Showbiz: "I've got some really exciting collaborations, I think it's now a time when I can really open up a bit. We're gonna extend this campaign as well and have a long second album. I was actually in the studio with Diplo yesterday which was really exciting and I'm working with Major Lazer and Calvin Harris and I just got out of the studio with Rudimental. I've got fingers in all the pies." Referring to his good friend Calvin, John added: "We're very, very close friends. We spend a lot of

time together and I made this whole new record in America and I was literally three doors down from Calvin and he was so brilliant through that time. I mean we've known each other for two years now." Meanwhile, Graham Gouldman was named BMI Icon because of his "unique and indelible influence on generations of music makers". Mick Jagger and Keith Richards received the BMI Million-Air Award for the nine million combined radio plays of '(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction'. Other writers receiving awards for five million plays include The Bee Gees for 'Islands In The Stream', Sting for 'Roxanne' and Des'ree for 'You Gotta Be'. Celebrating 75 years of service to songwriters, composers, music publishers and businesses, Broadcast Music, Inc. (BMI) is a global leader in music rights management, serving as an advocate for the value of music.

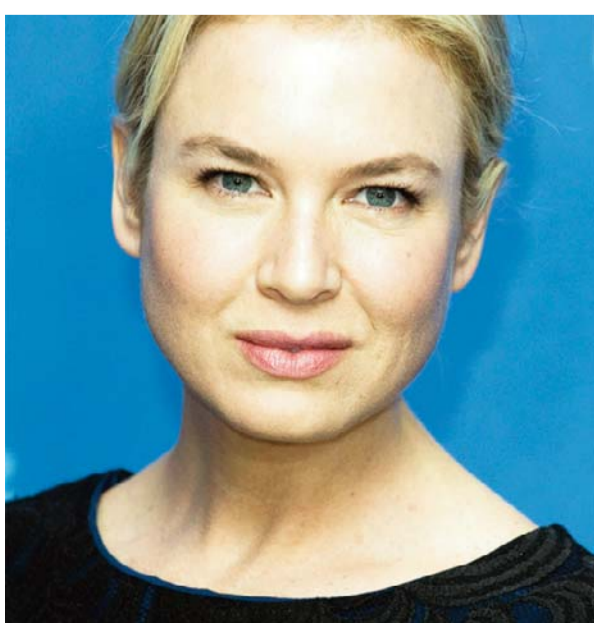
## Taylor Swift feels lucky to be liked

Taylor Swift feels "lucky" to be liked by the public. The 'Bad Blood' hitmaker - who earns \$1 million a day - considers herself fortunate that people like her songs but believes her good luck could change at any time. She told Australia's VOGUE magazine: "Things are good right now but I'm never going to be stupid, foolish or ignorant enough to think I have control over the public. All I can control is making good music. "I am so lucky that people seem to like me right now, but in no way, shape or form is it a permanent thing. And I think being aware of that is what keeps you smart and is what keeps you on the game." The 25-year-old star added that if people get sick of her, she has no problem with taking some time off to. She explained: "Then I'll feel like I'll need to give people a breather." Taylor also believes it's good to be aware that fans and critics could turn against her at any time. She added: "The public could change their minds about me tomorrow. If they decided that I was annoying tomorrow, they would use that angle and then a few other writers would use that and it would catch on."



## Zellweger excited by Bridget Jones return

Renee Zellweger is relishing the chance to make a new 'Bridget Jones' movie. The 46-year-old actress has reprised the iconic role for the new movie, 'Bridget Jones's Baby', and has revealed she's loved reuniting with the cast, which includes Oscar-winning star Colin Firth. Renee - who appeared in the two earlier movies, in 2001 and 2004 - shared: "It's really a nice reunion with old friends. And it's always wonderful to be back in London and I love this character so it's been a real treat to get to revisit it again." The American star also revealed she never thought a third 'Bridget Jones' movie would come to fruition. But she told E! Online: "I'm really glad to be doing it." Meanwhile, it was recently reported that Renee had been enjoying a high-calorie diet of chips and liquid shakes in a bid to pile on the pounds in order to play the titular heroine once more. An insider previously said: "She knows she can't play Bridget with her naturally skinny frame." Renee gained approximately two stone to play Bridget in the first two movies, both of which featured Colin Firth as Mark Darcy.



## Duran Duran dream of winning Q Emoticon Award

Duran Duran want to win the Q Emoticon Award in 2016. The British band were named the Q Icon award winners at the event at the Grosvenor House Hotel in London earlier today and have revealed they've set their sights even higher for 12 months' time. Nick Rhodes, who founded the group in 1978, told BANG Showbiz: "I thought icons were things on computers, like small symbols." To which band-mate Simon Le Bon shot back, jokingly: "No that's emoticons! We're going to come back and win the emoticon award next year, you get presented with a small smiley face." Meanwhile, the band members also revealed they keep their accolades in some rather unusual places. Asked where he keeps his awards, Nick said: "In a cardboard box in a garden shed. So no one will steal them of course." By contrast, Simon said he keeps his prizes with family members, revealing: "My mum has

got some [and] my dad has got some." What's more, Nick revealed he was surprised to have been handed the Icon Award, having previously won a Lifetime Achievement Award. The 53-year-old star said: "You know the funny thing is the last time we won a Q Award, I think it was a Lifetime Achievement Award, we sort of thought they were trying to tell us something at the time. At least the Icon Award shows that there's life after a Lifetime Achievement Award. "It's a good awards ceremony it's lunchtime, there was a great crowd in I saw Gary Numan, Jean Michelle Jarre, Tony lommi - who is from Birmingham like me - and of course New Order."

## Bryce Dallas Howard 'loved' running in heels in Jurassic World

Bryce Dallas Howard is proud of herself for running from dinosaurs in high-heeled shoes. The 34-year-old star admitted she wasn't prepared for people to pay more notice to her footwear than the jaw-dropping reptiles in 'Jurassic World', but she "loved" the attention. She explained: "If too much attention is called to it, it's like, 'Oh, man - maybe I did something wrong, because they're paying attention to the thing that they really shouldn't be paying attention to', but in this case, I loved it because I was like, 'Yeah! Damn right I ran in heels!'" However, the flame-haired actress gave herself an extra pat on the back because she found practicing for the role hard work, especially wearing heels. She told PEOPLE magazine: "Yeah, that was very tricky." Meanwhile, Bryce revealed she was shocked when the blockbuster's director Colin Trevorrow told her she had the lead part in the movie. She added: "When he first told me about the movie, he was like, 'she's the lead', and I was like, 'Yeah, I'll believe it when I see it.' "He was like, 'No, no, no. She's the lead. She's the one that changes. She's the one who you meet in the beginning, and you are with at the end.'"





## Jaime King's giant Halloween outfit error

**J**aime King accidentally dressed as the "jolly green giant" for Seth Rogen's Halloween party. The model-and-actress intended to look like Peter Pan when she was invited to the 'Knocked Up' star's bash but it went horribly wrong and she ended up looking like the Green Giant frozen and canned vegetable company's advertising mascot. Jaime confessed: "I remember going to Seth Rogen's Halloween party once, and it was like the year of Marie Antoinette. Everyone had these decadent costumes ... and I dressed up like Peter Pan. All I had on was a pair of opaque green tights, shoes with bells and a felt costume with a felt hat. I had no make-up on and my hair was tied back in a bun ... I honestly looked like the Jolly Green Giant and not Peter Pan."

I legitimately looked like I could've been on a can of beans, but I was comfy so I wasn't mad at it." Jaime has also revealed her "lower middle class" upbringing and having "no money" to splash out on clothes has provided her with a more creative fashion sense. Speaking to E!, the 36-year-old star said: "As a kid from Omaha that had no money to buy anything, I do have to say I'm really glad that I came from a lower middle class family because that really inspired me to think outside of the box with fashion. Because I didn't have the money to just buy what everyone was after, it really gave me my own sense of style. My mom was a seamstress, and she would make so many of my clothes. We would go to the fabric store and come up with ideas."

## Rousteing praises H & M

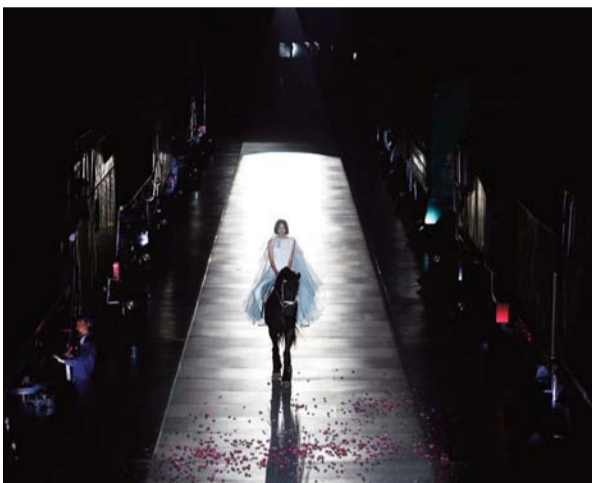


Olivier Rousteing

**O**livier Rousteing says H&M "understand" him. The designer - who is creative director at Balmain and has dressed stars including Justin Bieber and Kim Kardashian West - has teamed up with the high street clothing store to create an affordable collection titled Balmain x H&M and is thrilled that the brand appreciates his relationship with social media. He revealed: "H&M really understand how important social media is to me. We created the new hashtag, #H&MBalmaination, to stand for this new H&M Balmain world."

And to push the collection - which is modelled by stars including Kendall Jenner and Gigi Hadid - the 29-year-old fashion icon has called on fans to take selfies with the hashtag. In a video posted on Vogue's website, Olivier teaches Alexa Chung the steps that are necessary to create the perfect snap. Olivier explains: "Look at the camera. Take the picture. And after you use great filters. Actually it takes more time to put on the filter. I have so many, it depends on the light. And use a great app to photo shop it. Facetune. Everybody thinks I woke up like this. Really?"

# Train journey back to nature



Models display creations from the Pierre Cardin Spring/Summer 2016 collection during a fashion show at the China Railway Museum in Beijing yesterday. The show, with the theme of 'Train Journey Back to Nature', featured 80 models and over 100 outfits sent from France. — AFP



Models present creations by Ronaldo Fraga during the 2016 winter collection of the Sao Paulo Fashion Week in Sao Paulo, Brazil. — AFP

## Happy 50th anniversary Aigner!



**R**adiance and elegance were on call for Aigner's Fall/Winter '15 revelation of timepieces and jewelry at The Avenues in Kuwait City. Fashionistas attend a four-day preview of brilliance, where everything from sheen to pearls was showcased. The new collection resonated chic and bespoke crafting in all its motifs. "It is with great pleasure that we bring AIGNER'S F/W'15 collection of watches and jewelry to the fashion shores of Kuwait. The year 2015 has been an extremely important year for AIGNER as it marks our 50th anniversary milestone. The fall line will be the last collection to carry limited edition novelties from the celebratory year. This season is an ode to beauty, grace and charm and is synonymous with exactly the same poise and confidence that AIGNER is famed for," said Tanveer Bashir, Brand Spokesperson for AIGNER watches and jewelry.



Kylie Jenner

## Jenner showcases new bob haircut

**K**ylie Jenner has showcased yet another new haircut. The 'Keeping Up With the Kardashians' star shared a video of her new short bob on picture sharing app Instagram over the weekend. She wrote alongside the video: "thanks for the dope blunt haircut @priscillavalles (sic)" However, it doesn't look like she will be keeping the style for very long as she later posted a throwback of her green hair, which she said will be making a "come back".

Hours later she wrote alongside a photo of her green locks: "green has been my favorite so far. Def making a come back in the next few weeks(sic)." The change to her hair comes as Kylie previously shared she is unable to dye her hair back to its natural color. She previously shared with her 11.7 million followers: "I really wanted to wear my natural hair but the front is so damaged now ... Should I stay black or go back to green or baby blue? ... I see a lot of baby blue (sic)" The 18-year-old star clearly went against the idea of dying her hair baby blue and opted for staying black, and her ever-changing hair could soon go back to green. -Bang Showbiz

# 'Star Wars' fans crash ticket sites as new trailer premieres



This undated photo provided by Disney shows the poster for the new film, 'Star Wars: The Force Awakens.' — AP

The Force is calling to moviegoers, and they are eager to let it in. "Star Wars" mania reached a new high Monday as fans overwhelmed cinema websites selling advance tickets for the next installment in the blockbuster intergalactic saga, and the new trailer for the film instantly went viral. The huge demand from keen fans in the United States and Britain seeking to secure their seats for the first screenings of "The Force Awakens"—which hits US screens on December 18—led to site crashes and loading issues.

"Certain cinemas are being overwhelmed with requests," said Odeon, a leading cinema chain in Britain. "The website has taken a battering today. We're trying to fix the problem as quickly as possible. Please bear with us as we summon the Force." US sites Fandango and MovieTickets.com also experienced problems as fans rushed to purchase tickets. Vue Cinemas in Britain said Jedi fans snapped up 10,000 tickets in the first 90 minutes of tickets going on sale. "Star Wars: Episode VII-The Force Awakens" is one of the most eagerly awaited films of the year, and the first in the series in a decade.

The trailer, which premiered during Monday Night Football on Disney-owned ESPN, quickly set Twitter—which even created special emojis for certain "Star Wars" hashtags—and other social media sites alight. The preview—which runs about two and a half minutes—features black-clad villain Kylo Ren looking

at a crushed mask of Darth Vader and vowing: "Nothing will stand in our way. I will finish what you started." A damaged Tie-Fighter spins through space. The Millennium Falcon and X-Wing Fighters zoom through the air. Epic battle scenes erupt on a desert planet and over snowy mountains. The trailer ends with a female voice—possibly Princess Leia (Carrie Fisher), who appears for the first time in this preview—saying, "The Force it's calling to you. Just let it in."

### New faces, old favorites

Disney had previously released two "teaser" trailers for the film and on Sunday released the poster. Monday's trailer is the last before the film comes out. "The Force Awakens" takes place 30 years after "Return of the Jedi". In the trailer, the events of the original films seem to have become the stuff of legend. Han Solo (Harrison Ford) tells some of the new characters, "It's true... all of it." The new film will feature some new faces but also several members of the original cast including Fisher, Ford and Mark Hamill (Luke Skywalker). The two beloved droids, C-3PO and R2-D2, will be back, as will Chewbacca, Han Solo's co-pilot.

The absence of Skywalker from the movie's poster has fueled speculation as to what role he will play in the new movie. Many on Twitter suggested Monday that he is the

cloaked figure with a robotic hand touching R2-D2 in the trailer. "Star Wars" has attracted generations of loyal fans ever since the first film arrived nearly 40 years ago, creating a signature moment in the history of popular culture and launching one of the biggest movie franchises ever. Walt Disney Company bought the rights to the saga created by George Lucas when it purchased Lucasfilm three years ago for \$4 billion. Disney soon announced plans for a new trilogy in the series, with acclaimed Hollywood director J.J. Abrams being entrusted with "The Force Awakens." Other standalone films are also planned—"Rogue One" is due in December 2016.

The company has launched a carefully orchestrated mega-marketing campaign for "The Force Awakens." Analysts expect merchandise sales to reach up to \$5 billion this year, with everything from light sabers to action figures and even pet gear on offer. Super fans of the saga will also be able to book tickets for marathon viewing of the first six installments in the series before Episode VII. The entertainment site Deadline has predicted that the movie could rake in a record-setting \$615 million when it opens during the busy Christmas season. — AFP

# Apple Music boasts 6.5m subscribers

Apple chief executive Tim Cook said Monday the technology giant's new music service has some 6.5 million subscribers. "It is going really well," Cook said during an on-stage chat on the opening evening of a Wall Street Journal technology forum on the Southern California coast. "Lots of people are liking it." People have begun ending free trials of the music service, which launched at the end of June in more than 100 countries. More than eight million people are still in the free trial of Apple Music, pushing the total number of users above 15 million, according to Cook.

He credited a human curation element—actual people who fashion playlists for creating listening experiences superior to that delivered by "zeros and ones" of computer algorithms. "We have music experts just like the DJs when we were growing up," Cook said, setting the service apart from entrenched rivals such as Spotify and Pandora which use software to tailor tunes to peo-

ple's tastes. Apple Music, the tech giant's new streaming service, went live at the end of June as the company behind iTunes looks to dominate the fast-growing sector.

Apple Service began with the launch of Beats 1, an international radio station that will feature shows by high-profile artists, and offered streaming for the first time of Taylor Swift's blockbuster "1989" album. To edge its way into the streaming music market, Apple has offered a three-month trial period to new subscribers, after which subscriptions cost \$9.99 per month.

### Apple TV turned on

On another entertainment front, Apple will begin taking orders for new Apple TV hardware beginning on October 26 and shipments will start by the end of that week, according to Cook. "I think it will be disruptive of the TV watching experience," Cook said. "This is the foundation of the future of TV." The new Apple TV unveiled last

month has the potential to do for television what iPhone did to mobile phones, while claiming a starring role in home entertainment. Updated Apple TV hardware was not expected to revolutionize the television industry, but it could strike a blow to cable companies that have been in a power seat when it comes to delivering shows and other content.

The new Apple TV will have a version of the App Store that has been a hit on iPhones. Siri virtual assistant software built in Apple TV allowed for natural language searches for shows, such as asking for something funny or a certain actor by name. People should also be able to see what they want on-demand instead of being at the mercy of cable broadcast schedules. These options can spur a trend of "cord cutting" or ending the subscription "bundles" offered by cable and satellite TV firms. By letting media companies keep control of their content in apps, Apple could find new money-making models while sidestepping worries stu-

dios might have about distribution rights.

"What has to happen in the TV land is it has to be brought up and modernized," Cook said. "It is almost as though you step into a time capsule when you step into your living room." The new Apple TV will launch with a starting price of \$149. Apple TV has lagged behind rivals such as Roku and Google Chromecast. Cook declined to provide figures regarding Apple Watch sales, but said the California company shipped "a lot" in the first quarter they were released and that number has ramped each subsequent quarter. He dodged questions regarding what kind of plans, if any, Apple had for making a car. Rumors have abounded in recent months of Apple working on a self-driving car, in its own spin on work being done by Google and Tesla. — AFP



# Kanye West surprises with two newly released songs

Rap superstar Kanye West, who has drawn more attention recently for non-musical pursuits from fashion to the presidency, on Monday unexpectedly released two songs. West, without comment, put two tracks on SoundCloud, his first postings on the free sharing website frequently used by little-known bands to promote their work. One track is a new version of "Say You Will," the opening song on his chart-topping 2008 album "808s & Heartbreak," but the other is a new song, entitled "When I See It."

The new song starts with the same smooth R&B beat of "Tell Your Friends," a track by fast-rising Canadian singer The Weeknd that was co-produced by West. "When I See It," which the rapper apparently posted two weeks ago before it went live on Monday, features a mellow West singing of his recollections of a drive on a Los Angeles highway. The release immediately sparked speculation on social media that the song will appear on the next West album, which he says will be called "Swish."

West himself has played down expectations of an imminent album, recently telling Vanity Fair magazine that "Swish" was like a complicated painting and could take him another year. West, who has likened himself to Michelangelo with his diverse talents, last released an album in 2013, but has remained constantly in the public eye since. In recent months, the husband of reality television star Kim Kardashian scheduled a surprise show at New York Fashion Week and announced—with an uncertain degree of seriousness—that he will run for president in 2020. — AFP



In this June 8, 2015 file, Beats co-founder and Apple employee Jimmy Iovine speaks at the Apple Worldwide Developers Conference in San Francisco.



Apple CEO Tim Cook, center, poses for photos after speaking at the Apple Worldwide Developers Conference in San Francisco. — AP photos

# Gomez tops Billboard 200 chart, The Game drops to No 2

Pop star Selena Gomez edged out rapper The Game for the top spot on the weekly US Billboard 200 album chart on Monday. "Revival," the second record from 23-year-old Gomez, sold 85,000 albums and 198,000 songs, and was streamed 18.5 million times in the week ending Oct 15, totaling 117,000 units, according to figures from Nielsen SoundScan.

The Billboard 200 chart tallies units from album sales, song sales (10 songs equal one album) and streaming activity (1,500 streams equal one album). The Game, a native of Compton, Southern California, came in at No 2 with "Documentary 2," which sold 95,000 units, while rapper The Weeknd dropped one spot to No 3 as "Beauty Behind the Madness" sold 77,000 units. Last week's chart-topper, Janet Jackson's "Unbreakable," dropped to No 8 this week. The only other new entry in the top 10 this week was actress and country singer Jana Kramer's "Thirty-One," at the bottom of the group.—Reuters



# Blake Shelton sues In Touch Weekly over rehab story

Blake Shelton sued the tabloid magazine In Touch Weekly on Monday over a cover story claiming heavy drinking by the country music star contributed to his divorce from Miranda Lambert and that he was headed to rehab. Shelton's defamation lawsuit filed in Los Angeles County Superior Court seeks more than \$1 million in damages over the story that his lawyers say is false. The lawsuit against In Touch publisher, Bauer Publishing Co., contends the tabloid has repeatedly published false information about the singer and his breakup with Lambert.

"Blake Shelton has had enough," the lawsuit begins before refuting claims made in the

article and laying out the Grammy-nominated singer's busy schedule. "Mr Shelton is not in rehab and has no plans to go to rehab." An email sent to publicists for In Touch was not immediately returned. The lawsuit points out that Shelton continues to work as a judge on NBC's "The Voice" and on an upcoming greatest hits album. In Touch published the story in late September that alleged Shelton was drinking heavily and that his actions contributed to the end of his marriage to Lambert. It previously published a story claiming Shelton had cheated on Lambert and that contributed to their divorce.

The rehab cover story also proclaimed

that Shelton had hit "rock bottom." "To be clear: Mr Shelton has not hit rock bottom," the lawsuit states. It accuses In Touch of publishing the story without reaching out to the singer's lawyers or other representatives. The lawsuit states Shelton, 39, has sought a retraction of the story but received no response. In addition to monetary damages, Shelton is seeking an injunction that would prevent In Touch from repeating allegations in the disputed story. — AP

# Sophia Loren: Retire? Never!

Some things about the film business have changed for actresses in the more than five decades since Sophia Loren was first discovered, and some things have stayed exactly the same. Take pay equity, for instance, and the reality that worthy actresses sometimes make less than their male counterparts. "It never changed. It's always the same. It's always the same like before, but not only in the movies. Even in life sometimes, unfortunately," Loren said on the red carpet Monday night before the nonprofit Americans for the Arts honored her at its National Arts Awards.

Loren received the Carolyn Clark Powers Lifetime Achievement Award, presented to her by director and choreographer Rob Marshall before a star-studded crowd that included Tony Bennett, Lady Gaga and artists Chuck Close and Jeff Koons. Herbie Hancock and Gaga were also among the honorees, but it was Loren who stole hearts in a black evening gown, accompanied by son Edoardo Ponti and daughter-in-law Sasha Alexander. At 81, Loren still works when the mood strikes. The word retirement is not in her vocabulary.

"That's terrible, the word retire. Never," she said. "We start always like it was the beginning of a long career." With the onslaught of technology and the speed at which the world turns today, Loren said she enjoys embracing the "new" in life.



Sophia Loren attends the Americans for the Arts 2015 National Arts Awards at Cipriani 42nd Street on Monday.

"Well I think you have to get accustomed to the new things that come out and try to run after them and try to be always living in a world that belongs to you, even though you have to learn many things more," she explained. What is Loren's best advice for young actresses today? "To take life seriously," she said, "to do the right things and not to take life easily, as sometimes the



Tony Bennett and Lady Gaga attend the Americans for the Arts 2015 National Arts Awards. — AP photos

girls, they do because they don't have experience." She added: "They need good mothers, good parents." — AP



Photo shows Książ Castle in Walbrzych, southwestern Poland.

## Książ Castle in Poland links WWII secrets, treasure, ghost



Photo shows a reinforced tunnel and an unfinished lift shaft under Książ Castle.



Photo shows the grounds of Książ Castle in Walbrzych, southwestern Poland.



Photo shows the view from the porch of Książ Castle.

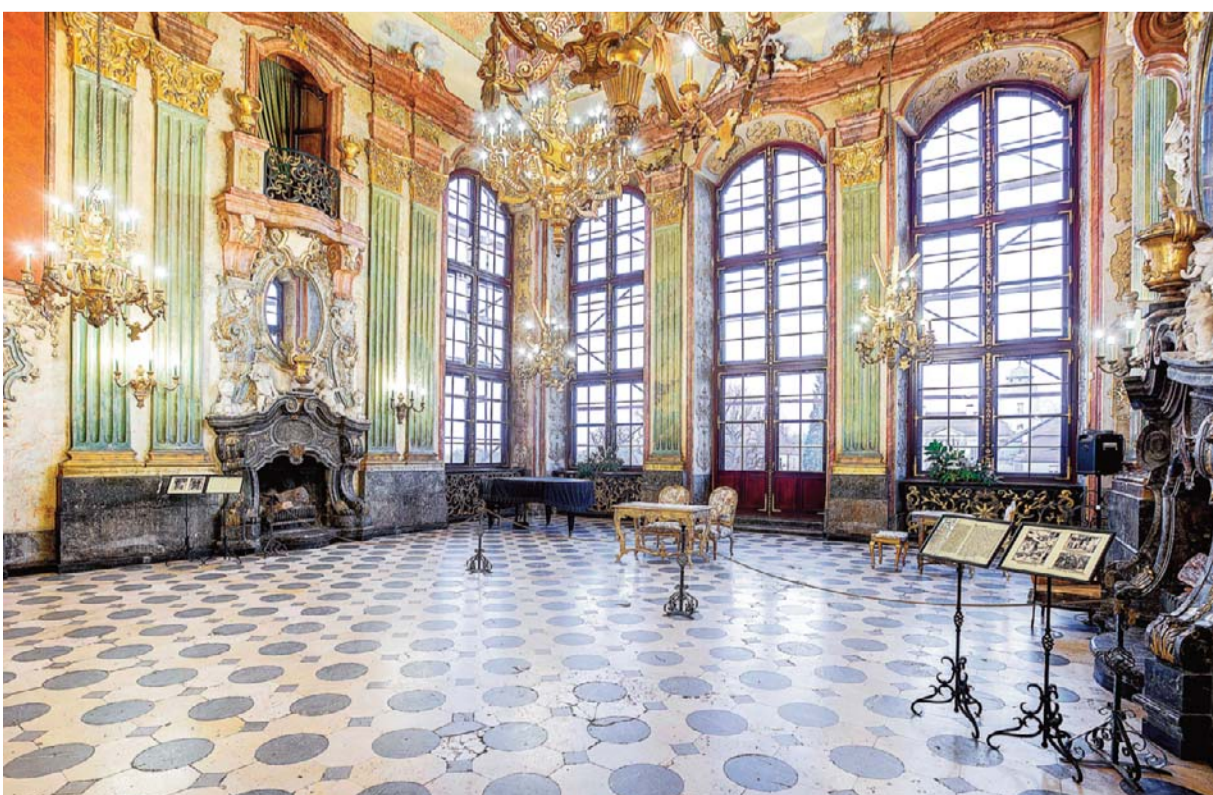


Photo shows the ballroom at the Książ Castle in Walbrzych.

If you are fascinated by World War II secrets, treasures and ghosts, then Książ Castle is the place for you. A breathtaking site, it sits on a wooded hilltop in the city of Walbrzych, in southwestern Poland. The area drew worldwide attention recently, when two explorers announced they had located a secret tunnel that hides a wartime armored train with precious load. The news revived a local legend of a train laden with gold and valuables that the Nazis reportedly hid from the Red Army in the mountains in 1945.

The authorities are taking steps to verify the explorers' claim, but the former coal mining center of Walbrzych (known as Waldenburg in its German era) and the castle are already the richer for the tourists and reporters whose numbers soared after the news of the alleged find broke.

Even without the train and the gold, visitors will enjoy the beauty of the Owl Mountains in the Sudeten Range, the area's rich and dramatic history and a visit to the magnificent Książ Castle. The castle was seized by the Nazis in 1941 as a future residence for Hitler. Many of the historic interiors were torn down in a misconceived drive for modesty. The Nazis then began to build a bunker some 50 meters beneath the castle to protect Hitler from Allied bombs.

### Nuclear weapons laboratory

Eventually a labyrinth of tunnels and bunkers was built using forced labor from the nearby Gross-Rosen concentration camp, but the complex was not completed by the war's end and its true purpose remains a mystery 70 years after the war. Some historians say the complex was to become Nazi command headquarters, others believe the tunnels were to house an armaments factory or a nuclear weapons laboratory. Some of the tall, damp tunnels can be visited by tourists, but many remain unexplored. The legend of a hidden gold train was first brought to light by a retired coal miner, Tadeusz Slowikowski, in the 1970s, but it's been kept alive by the mysteries surrounding the complex.

The massive gray and pink castle links many architectural styles, dating back to the 13th century and to Slavic rulers. It passed into Austrian and then Prussian hands and was known as Schloss Furstenstein, while repeatedly being expanded, the last time in the early 20th century. It was private property of the aristocratic Hochberg family since the early 16th century, until the Nazis seized it in order to punish the Hochbergs who did not support Hitler. When borders shifted after



Książ Castle in Walbrzych, southwestern Poland. — AP photos

World War II, this Lower Silesia region became part of Poland.

### Second husband

The castle's last owner, evicted by the Nazis, was Wales-born Mary Theresa Olivia Cornwallis-West, first wife of Prince Hans Heinrich XV. Bearing the title of the Princess of Pless, but popularly known as Daisy, she was a great beauty, a socialite, and related by marriage to Winston Churchill. Her brother George was the second husband of Churchill's mother, Jennie. The princess died in 1943 and was buried in the Hochberg Mausoleum near the castle, but her servants moved the body a number of times to protect the grave from plunder by Soviet troops, who occupied the area from May 1945 until the end of 1946. As a result, Princess Daisy's resting place remains unknown. It's another castle mystery with its own legend - that her spirit comes back to visit. — AP

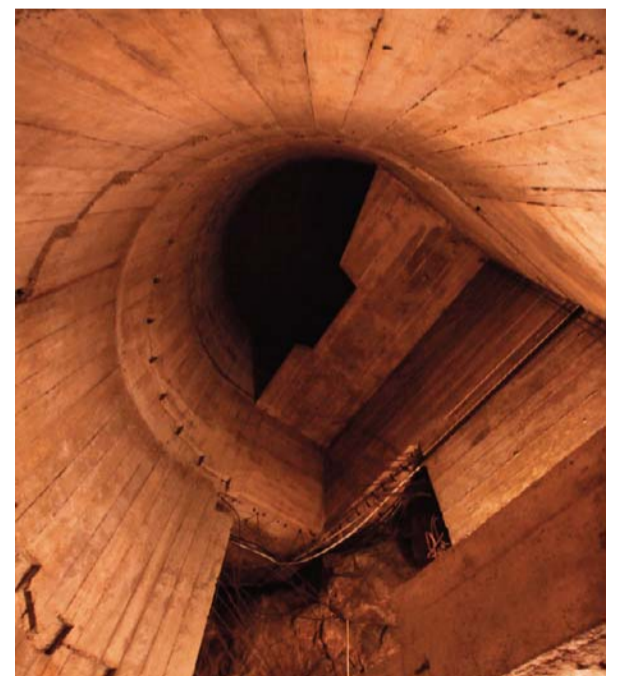


Photo shows an unfinished staircase leading to a bunker under Książ Castle.



Photo shows a room with maps and documents and an original inmate uniform, at the Książ Castle.



Indian Bollywood actor Salman Khan (front) performs with actress Sonam Kapoor (center) during a promotional event for the forthcoming Hindi film 'Prem Ratan Dhan Payo' in Mumbai. — AFP

## Haunted houses, creepy mazes and other Halloween attractions

Escape rooms, zombie fights and carnival sideshow freaks are a few of the themes popping up at this year's Halloween attractions. But if you're not up for extreme frights offered by hard-core haunted houses and nighttime theme park events, there are lots of low-key alternatives, with some venues avoiding scary stuff altogether. Disney World in Florida hosts Mickey's Not-So-Scary Halloween Party, with a similar Mickey's Halloween Party at Disneyland in Anaheim, California. Holiday World in Santa Claus, Indiana, offers 12 acres of corn mazes, a talking pumpkin, a

laser light show and more. An overnight stay at Great Wolf lodges includes Howl-O-Ween activities like trick-or-treat trails and a Monster Bash dance party. SeaWorld San Diego's Halloween Spooktacular includes "Sesame Street's Who Said Boo?"

Some theme parks host family friendly activities on Saturdays and Sundays, then ramp up thrills and chills at night on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Many Six Flags parks have child-friendly activities during the day, then transition to nighttime Fright Fests, with creepy roaming creatures, haunted houses and scare zones. At Cedar Point in Sandusky, Ohio, HalloWeekends include daytime family friendly activities like the Great Pumpkin Fest, a parade and hay-bale mazes. On Friday, Saturday and Sunday

Carowinds park in Charlotte, North Carolina, recommends its Scarowinds extravaganza - including a homecoming at Zombie High - for guests age 13 and older. Busch Gardens Tampa partnered with Robin Cowie, producer of "The Blair Witch Project," to

name America's scariest display by ABC's "The Great Halloween Fright Fight."

The other 14 listed by HauntWorld are Headless Horseman, in Ulster Park, New York; The 13th Gate in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; the Dent Schoolhouse in Cincinnati; Netherworld in Atlanta; 13th Floor, San Antonio, Texas; Bennett's Curse, Baltimore; Erebus, Pontiac, Michigan; Bates Motel, Philadelphia; The Darkness, St Louis; Cutting Edge, Dallas; Spookywoods, Greensboro, North Carolina; House of Torment in Chicago; Hex House, Tulsa,

period in which crime is legal. There are also six themed mazes based on movies and TV shows: The Walking Dead, Insidious, Crimson Peak, Halloween, This Is The End and Alien vs. Predator. Crimson Peak, for example, is inspired by a horror movie being released in mid-October by director Guillermo del Toro, taking visitors on a journey with the main character, Edith Cushing, to a haunted estate in the English countryside. The Walking Dead maze is based on season five of the AMC series.

Universal Orlando, which is marking its 25th year of Halloween Horror Nights, has nine haunted houses, including "Freddy vs. Jason," "The Purge," "An American Werewolf in London" and "The Walking Dead." The Florida park also has five scare zones.

**Regional**  
Eastern State Penitentiary, the historic former prison in Philadelphia, is celebrating its 25th season hosting Halloween madness. Its massive haunted house, "Terror Behind the Walls," has been redesigned for the anniversary. In Reading, Pennsylvania, Shocktoberfest offers Zombie World and Prison of the Dead Escape, which requires guests to escape from multiple rooms. Because November's calendar has a Friday the 13th in it, the attraction will stay open through that date.

In Pittsburgh, ScareHouse attractions include The Summoning, a haunted attraction set in October 1932 that tells a story of secret societies, rituals and demonic inhabitants. Sixteen miles west of Detroit, the Hush Haunted Attraction's Detroit Experiment Facility brings visitors through the collapsed ceilings, overgrown greenery and flickering dungeons of a science facility where experiments have gone wrong. Freakshow in Wabash Valley, Illinois, introduces guests to sideshow freaks including evil magicians, mimes and clowns. Wisconsin FearGrounds in Waukesha, Wisconsin, just outside Milwaukee, offers three haunted houses. At Lookout Mountain in Ruby Falls, Tennessee, Haunted Cavern includes one haunt in the mind of a madman and one in a cave featuring creepy night creatures.

Enigma Haunt in Boca Raton, Florida, includes a blackout maze, The Abyss, and themed chambers in the Realms of Terror. Attractions at Spooky World Presents Nightmare New England in Litchfield, New Hampshire, include a tractor ride through the woods to a spider-infested campground, plane crash scene and torture compound, along with a showcase of "rejected carnival misfits ... clowns to demented sideshow freaks." Finally, the annual New Hampshire Pumpkin Festival isn't supposed to be scary, but last year's was marred by alcohol-fueled parties and 100 arrests. It's relocating this year from Keene to Laconia. — AP

**Universal's Halloween horror nights**  
At Universal theme parks in Orlando, Florida, and Los Angeles, Halloween Horror Nights draw thousands of visitors, ranking among the parks' busiest times of year. The experience is worthy of Hollywood, inspired by famous horror films, sci-fi shows and stories, with movie-quality special effects, technology, sets, costumes and makeup.

At Universal Hollywood in Los Angeles, the extravaganza includes a new "terror tram" experience through Universal's film studio back lot themed on "The Purge," a film about a 12-hour

Oklahoma; and Fear Experience in Cleveland.

**Hauntworld's top 15**  
HauntWorld.com's list of top 15 haunted houses is topped by Haunted Overload, in Lee, New Hampshire, described by HauntWorld as "an original outdoor haunt in a class of its own" with "handmade sets, gigantic monsters and spellbinding costumes with spectacular sound and lighting ... set in an eerie dark New England forest." Haunted Overload also won a \$50,000 prize,

create "Unearthed," about a woman named Scarlett who comes back to life after a construction crew digs too far. Busch Gardens Williamsburg gets scary with five Terror-tories and seven haunted houses.

and has a neurodevelopmental disorder called Rett syndrome. She was with him almost every night as he tended to his patch, he said. He purchased the unique seed from which he grew the pumpkin from the Make-a-Wish Foundation, a charity that arranges joyful experiences for children with life-threatening conditions.

"She knows what it's all about," he said. "It makes her really happy." The winning pumpkin beat last year's monster pumpkin, which weighed in at 1,584 pounds. But no one came close to beating the current national record for heaviest pumpkin - 2,154 pounds. — AP

**In this Saturday, Oct 3, 2015, photo, the grand prize-winning pumpkin weighing in at 1,806 pounds is displayed at the Elk Grove Giant Pumpkin Festival in Elk Grove, Calif. — AP**



This undated photo provided by Universal Hollywood theme park in Los Angeles shows visitors at the park encountering a creepy character, part of Universal's Hollywood Horror Nights extravaganza. — AP photos



This undated image provided by Haunted Overload shows a scene from the attraction in Lee, N H Haunted Overload tops this year's list of best attractions published by HauntWorld.com.

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Oklahoma; and Fear Experience in Cleveland.

## Napa farmer wins Northern California giant pumpkin contest

A Napa farmer won a Northern California contest with a record-setting 1,806-pound pumpkin that judges nicknamed "The Flying Saucer" because of its wide and flat shape. Grower Tim Mathison was one of about 50 big pumpkin farmers to haul their heaviest crops to the annual weigh-in at the Elk Grove Giant Pumpkin & Harvest Festival, the Sacramento Bee reported Sunday.

Most of the pumpkins entered in Saturday's contest were grown in about 90 days, sometimes growing as fast as 30 pounds per day, said Brian Myers, chairman of the California Pumpkin Growers Association. There were about half as many pumpkins entered this year than in previous years, largely due to what farmers said were overly hot and suboptimal growing conditions.

Mathison collected \$12,000 in prize money but he says the most important part of Saturday's event was sharing it with his 28-year-old daughter Tara, who uses a wheelchair

and has a neurodevelopmental disorder called Rett syndrome. She was with him almost every night as he tended to his patch, he said. He purchased the unique seed from which he grew the pumpkin from the Make-a-Wish Foundation, a charity that arranges joyful experiences for children with life-threatening conditions.

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