

SUBSCRIPTION

# Kuwait Times



THE FIRST DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2015

MUHARRAM 13, 1437 AH

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**Project 189:**  
Reflecting aspirations of domestic helpers



**Assad: Syria must 'eradicate terror' for political deal**



**Working kids given a path off Lebanon's streets**



**Manchester rivals draw 0-0 in derby lacking attacking edge**



## MOSQUE BOMBERS RETRACT CONFESSIONS, DENY CHARGES

AMIR LAUDS SECURITY OPERATIONS • SPEAKER HOSTS MPs, MINISTERS



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KUWAIT: National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem hosts a traditional dinner banquet for members of parliament and the Cabinet yesterday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

By B Izzak and Agencies

**KUWAIT:** Suspects in the bombing of the Imam Al-Sadeq Mosque yesterday told the appeals court that they were not guilty and retracted their confessions made in the criminal court, which sentenced seven of them to death. The top suspect, Abdulrahman Sabah, the alleged driver of the bomber, told the appeals court in the first hearing that the confessions they made were extracted from them under torture.

Sabah also said that he had not seen the explosives belt although he had told the criminal court that he had brought it from near the Saudi border and given it to the Saudi bomber who blew himself in the mosque, killing 26 people and wounding 227 others. Sabah also retracted that he had driven the bomber to the mosque to carry out the suicide attack.

The criminal court had sentenced Sabah and six others to death, five of them in absentia. The court also sentenced eight other suspects to jail terms ranging from two to 15 years. They include five of the seven women involved in the case. The remaining 14 other suspects were acquitted. The other suspect who received the death sentence, Fahd Faraj, described as the leader of the Islamic State in Kuwait, also denied that he had any links with the terrorist group which claimed responsibility for the suicide bombing. The court set Oct 29 for the next session and summoned the investigating officer to hear his testimony.

Meanwhile, HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received yesterday at Bayan Palace

Continued on Page 13

## CHEAP OIL PUSHES STATE FIRMS TO MARKET

**DUBAI:** The Gulf's state-linked firms are being forced to wean themselves off direct government funding, and focus more on capital markets and private investment, to push ahead with projects in an era of cheap oil. In the previous several years of high oil prices, building projects from universities to soccer stadiums were funded entirely by the public purse. That is changing as governments scale back non-essential

plans and look to markets to share the financial burden.

"The future, as we see it, are projects that connect to private investment," Abdullah bin Mohammed Al-Nuaimi, the United Arab Emirates' Minister of Public Works, told Reuters. This could be a boon for bankers, who have long wanted to play a bigger role in arranging financing packages for Gulf governments. "Projects that do come to

fruition will have the most coherent economic justification and be more likely to require standalone financing. This points to a greater need for project finance," said Andy Cairns, global head of debt origination and distribution at National Bank of Abu Dhabi.

So far the shift is most evident in the smaller Gulf Arab nations which lack huge cash reserves but have big projects in the pipeline: Oman and Bahrain.

Oman Electricity Transmission Co issued a \$1 billion debut bond in May, while Aluminium Bahrain will use the capital markets to part-fund its \$3.5 billion smelter expansion. But the change is also occurring at some of the region's largest enterprises. In the past, utility Saudi Electricity Co used the market to fund power plant construction but also received regular contributions from the

Continued on Page 13



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**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives Chairman of the Public Anti-Corruption Authority Abdulrahman Al-Nimash at Bayan Palace yesterday who presented His Highness with a copy of the bi-annual report on fighting corruption since issuance of its executive legislations on 29/3/2015. —KUNA



**KUWAIT:** HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanim at Bayan Palace yesterday. —KUNA

## AMIR, CROWN PRINCE RECEIVE TOP OFFICIALS

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received yesterday at Bayan Palace His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. HH the Amir also received National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanim and First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah met National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanim at Bayan Palace yesterday. HH the Crown Prince also received HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah who had just returned home from France following an official visit.

He then met First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Premier and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Premier and Defense Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah and Deputy Premier and Finance Minister Anas Al-Saleh.

The Crown Prince also received Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Minister of Electricity and Water Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah.

HH the Crown Prince also met Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Planning and Development Hind Al-Sabeeh. —KUNA



**KUWAIT:** HH the Crown Prince receives Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah yesterday. — KUNA

## PAKISTAN SCHOOL DENIES PNEUMONIA DEATH

By Meshal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** The principal of Pakistan National English School in Hawally strongly denied that any student of the school died of pneumonia. He said two of the school kids had died of other causes. He explained that one of the kids had just returned from Pakistan as he was sick while the second, the son of a teacher of another school, was reported dead by his own mother.

The principal also explained that MOH had examined the school kids and denied the spread of any epidemic amongst them. Notably, a number of parents had gathered outside the school inquiring about rumors in this regard. The school administration stressed that the school was safe and that tomorrow would be a normal school day.

### Welfare of SMEs

The acting manpower authority manager, Abdullah Al-Motoutah said ever since its establishment in 2013, the authority had been concerned with the owners of small and medium projects and that Mubarak Al-Kabeer labor department had been allocated to serve them.



**KUWAIT:** Anxious parents arrive at the Pakistan National English School office.

## PM'S VISIT WILL FURTHER CEMENT KUWAIT-FRENCH TIES: LEGISLATOR

By Ahmad Al-Mazyad

**PARIS:** Chairman of the parliamentary French-Kuwaiti Friendship Committee Axel Poniatowski has lauded the outcome of the recent visit by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah to France, noting that it would further cement the distinctive partnership between the two friendly countries in various areas.

In an interview, the leading French legislator said the visit by HH the Premier, who was accompanied by a high-level delegation grouping political and economic leaders, depicted the solid and excellent relations between Kuwait and France. Moreover, it was of particular significance for it coincided with the 50th anniversary of the Kuwait-France diplomatic relations.

There is a consensus between the two sides regarding issues that "concern us under current conditions in the Middle East; such crises warrant that states closely coordinate among themselves," Poniatowski said. He lauded the Kuwait-France cooperation against the militant group, the so-called "Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant" (ISIL) and terrorism in general.

The Prime Minister's mission in France was an opportunity for "us to re-affirm our support for the Kuwaiti authorities in our joint conflict against this peril," he said, alluding to the June terrorist bombing of Imam Al-Sadiq mosque in the Kuwaiti capital, which "was the bloodiest attack in Kuwait's history; such acts should prompt us to seek further rapprochement and act together in combating terrorism robustly and that should be explicitly by backing the international coalition against Daesh (the ISIL Arabic acronym)."

Labeling the bilateral ties as excellent, Poniatowski, who had formerly served as head of the French National Assembly's

Foreign Affairs Committee, indicated that dynamic interaction between the two countries had begun in the cultural realm, namely with establishment of the Kuwait-France Cultural Institute, in 2012.

Such dynamism continued in the educational field, with establishment of the independent French department at Kuwait University in 2014, in addition to including, on testing basis, the French language in the Kuwaiti teaching curriculum beginning this year, as well as the plan to build a branch of the renowned French University, the Sorbonne, in Kuwait.

### Business ties

At the economic level, Poniatowski called for increasing commercial exchanges between the two sides, noting existing investment opportunities in the two countries.

Affirming the approach to lure foreign entrepreneurs, including Kuwaitis, to launch businesses in the European nation, he underscored the recently-signed taxation accord, intended to serve this purpose. The "French investments' week," organized by the French Embassy in Kuwait in October, was part of such efforts. In turn, His Highness the Premier's visit helped in encouraging the Kuwaiti businessmen to explore investment opportunities in the European country.

Moreover, he lauded the two countries' initial agreement to establish a joint fund to finance small and medium French companies in the strategic industries. He turned to the French-Kuwaiti Friendship Society, set up in October 2014, saying that it plays a role in enhancing the mutual cooperation at the cultural, humanitarian and economic levels. He also expressed hope that establishment of the France Business Bureau in Kuwait, in February, would also contribute to the efforts for boosting the French businesses in the country. —KUNA



Axel Poniatowski

## INFO MINISTER URGES STRATEGY TO PROMOTE KUWAITI THEATER

**KUWAIT:** Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah, who is also Chairman of the National Council of Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL), has called for further work to promote the theatrical movement in Kuwait.

Presiding over a meeting for the Higher Committee for Theater Arts yesterday, Sheikh Salman stressed the need for launching a competition for writing for the theater to support the national theatrical views and explore young talents, in a serious bid to enrich the movement, the Ministry of Information said in a statement. In addition, he demanded setting a clear timetable on the goals the committee will

work to achieve. According to the statement, the meeting agreed on introducing the repertory theater, and capitalizing on the national high-value theatrical heritage, in line with the state strategy backing cultural and artistic activities.

This can be realized through a roadmap for the committee for future, laying the basis for a theatrical renaissance to restore the leading role of the Kuwaiti theater in the Gulf region.

During the meeting with Sheikh Salman, the committee reiterated the necessity of supporting educational theater that plays a vital role in forming young generation thinking against thoughts of extremism and terrorism. —KUNA

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KUWAIT: Minister of Information and State Minister for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Al-Homoud Al-Sabah, Chairman of Commercial Real Estate Co Abdulfattah Marafi and dignitaries during the opening of the Lobby Project. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

## GALA EVENT MARKS OPENING OF AL-TIJARIA'S 'LOBBY PROJECT'

### MARAFI BECKONS YOUNG KUWAITI ENTREPRENEURS

By Nawara Fattahova

**KUWAIT:** The Commercial Real Estate Co held the opening ceremony of the Lobby Project at the Al-Tijaria Tower on Wednesday under the auspices of Minister of Information and State Minister for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Al-Homoud Al-Sabah. Chairman of Commercial

Real Estate Co Abdulfattah Marafi said that the idea of Lobby Project reflects the role of Al-Tijaria in terms of social responsibility. "As part of our national duty, we are keen to encourage young people who have started small projects and businesses. We also aim to provide investment opportunities offering facilities for young Kuwaitis to start their own projects and

achieve their career ambitions," he noted during the launch ceremony. Through this project, young entrepreneurs can conduct various business activities. "We provide them stores and spaces at the mall that suits their business for nominal rent to save them paying additional high charges," added Marafi. Due to the success of Lobby project, a second phase of this

project will be executed. "After the noticeable success of Lobby and witnessing its development, we are planning to launch the second phase very soon through another project in Symphony Style Mall. We aim to continue supporting small projects and provide new opportunities for our youth, so they can prove their abilities," Marafi said. During the launch

ceremony, the Commercial Real Estate Co feted Sheikh Salman for his systematic efforts in supporting the activities of Kuwaiti youth, wishing him prosperity. A raffle draw for the latest smartphone was held for the attendees of the ceremony, and one lucky winner won it. A fashion show was also held, displaying some outfits from the stores of the Lobby Project.



KUWAIT: The arrested Egyptians and Syrians for beating a man in Shuwaikh industrial area.

KUWAIT: The leader of the human trafficking network and the victims.

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING RACKET BUSTED, WOMEN RESCUED

### EGYPTIAN-SYRIAN GANG ARRESTED FOR BEATING UP MAN

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** Detectives arrested a trafficker who detained and forced women to work temporarily in houses, which is a clear violation of the law. The suspect held several Asian women in a flat and forced them to work in houses, while holding all their belongings including passports, mobiles and money. He also raped most of them while threatening to kill them.

Meanwhile, the domestic help department of the residency affairs general department raided bogus offices that traded in absconding domestic helpers, as they harbored absconding maids and 'sold' them to others. Investigations revealed that an expat used to make an agreement with maids to escape from their sponsors, then made them work on a temporary basis. Separately, detectives are

reviewing a video clip that was shown on Sri Lankan TV of workers at a domestic help office beating and torturing a maid. Investigations are underway.

Security sources said a large group of Egyptians and Syrians were arrested for beating a man in Industrial Shuwaikh. Sources said at least 18 persons were involved in the fight, some of whom were arrested and will be deported. Police are hunting the rest.

#### KFSD meeting

Kuwait Fire Services Directorate Public Relations and Information Director Col Khalil Al-Amir met Information Ministry Undersecretary Tariq Al-Mazram. He said the information ministry's support to firemen is unlimited and is an example of partnership between government bodies in order to present the best of service to citizens and expats.



KUWAIT: Kuwait Fire Services Directorate Public Relations and Information Director Col Khalil Al-Amir meets Information Ministry Undersecretary Tariq Al-Mazram.

## KUWAIT PAVILION AT EXPO MILAN BREAKS ANOTHER RECORD

**MILAN:** The Kuwait Pavilion at Expo Milan 2015 has broken another record on the daily number of visitors after it was nominated "the most beautiful pavilion" in the event. Head of Kuwait's Pavilion Mazin Al-Ansari said yesterday the pavilion

broke its daily 11,000 threshold when 12,002 people from all ages visited on Saturday. The total number of visitors surpassed the 1.5 million mark, he added. Al-Ansari expressed his appreciation to the pavilion staff on their efforts to

make Kuwaiti participation in this universal exhibition a success. More than 140 exhibitors are taking part in the event to showcase their creativity and promoting innovation for a sustainable future at the event. —KUNA



KUWAIT: The ambassador of the Czech Republic Martin Vitek hosted a reception recently on the occasion of the National Day of his country. It was attended by diplomats and other dignitaries. —Photos by Joseph Shagra



KUWAIT: Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah visits the Royal Navy of Oman's vessel "Shabab Oman II" at Shuwaikh Port. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Omani folkloric artistes perform onboard Shabab Oman II.

# SHABAB OMAN II LEAVES KUWAIT FOR SAUDI

KUWAIT: The Royal Navy of Oman's vessel "Shabab Oman II" left Shuwaikh Port heading for the Saudi port of King Abdulaziz, the Omani Embassy's Advisor Abdulmohsen Al-Ajjili announced yesterday. Shabab Oman II arrived at Shuwaikh Port on Friday as part of its first journey to the GCC countries, under the theme "Cooperation Sail 2015."

Al-Ajjili pointed out that the purpose of this tour was to shed light on "Sultan Qaboos Sailing Award" that glorifies marine history and enhances bonds of friendship and love among world sailors.

The Omani diplomat expressed appreciation to the Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah, ministries of defense and interior, and envoys for hosting the arrival of the ship.

The original Shabab Oman vessel was first sailed in 1983. It was a barquentine which served as a training ship for the Royal Navy of Oman. Shabab Oman II replaced the original ship in 2014 when it was built in Holland. The new version is equipped with the latest technologies needed for modern day sailing. Shabab Oman II is due to

return home on November 10, in time of National Day celebrations.

Minister of Information Sheikh Salman Al-Sabah said visit of Omani Royal Navy vessel which arrived in Kuwait under directions of Sultan Qaboos bin Said was in recognition of the State of Kuwait, the Kuwaiti Amir and people.

### Cooperation

In a press statement, Sheikh Salman, who is also Minister of State for Youth Affairs, expressed his joy that the ship made its first stop in Kuwait before continuing its world tour themed "Cooperation Sail 2015."

"This embodies cooperation and love among peoples of the Gulf Cooperation Council member states," he said. This is the second version of the Shabab Oman I that visited Kuwait in 1983 when it sailed in the presence of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah when he was acting Minister of Information at that time, he noted.

The minister lauded the decision of Sultan

Qaboos to make Kuwait the first leg of the ship's tour, expressing his admiration at modern technology and Omani identity by which the ship characterized.

He also commended the positive step that helped Gulf youth participate in the ship's tour. Sheikh Salman thanked Omani Ambassador to Kuwait Hamed bin Said Al Ibrahim, the vessel's captain Saif bin Nasser Al-Rahbi and its crew for the warm reception and hospitality, hoping the ship would achieve its goals of spreading love, cooperation and peace among all peoples across the globe.

Ambassador Al-Ibrahim and captain Al-Rahbi thanked Sheikh Salman, who was accompanied by a number of senior officials of the State, for visiting the ship. The second vessel was built in the Netherlands as per the world-class standards to carry on with the peace and cooperation mission.

Kuwait is the first leg of a Gulf tour as the ship will sail to the rest of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, and it is due in Muscat on 10 November. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Shabab Oman II, the 'Sultan Qaboos's Sailing Award,' glorifies marine history and enhances bonds of friendship and love among world sailors. — KUNA

## KEPS LAUNCHES SPECIAL TRAINING COURSES



KUWAIT: Kuwait Environment Protection Society (KEPS) Secretary General Abdulmir Al-Jazzaf during the launch of the training course yesterday. — KUNA

KUWAIT: Kuwait Environment Protection Society (KEPS) has launched training courses aimed to prepare Kuwaiti youth to qualify for environment voluntary work and other environment-related fields.

The first course, which kicked off last week, is concerned with teaching participants the skills of presentations, the society's Secretary General Abdulmir Al-Jazzaf told KUNA yesterday. The society's training center aims to create national manpower capable of resolving any environmental issues that may occur. He added that the programs will also develop the skills of instructors in the environmental field. — KUNA



## ABK'S 17TH GROUP OF PARTICIPANTS GRADUATE FROM 'ABK ACADEMY'

KUWAIT: Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) recently congratulated the 17th group of students who graduated from the 'ABK Academy' after successfully completing a five-week intensive program.

Hamza Enki, General Manager of Human Resources at ABK commented: "ABK Academy has seen a total of 415 candidates graduate. The objective of this academy is to prepare individuals to take on jobs within the bank. This type of involvement and contribution is of tremendous value not only to national youth, who gain a wealth of insight into banking as a profession, but to the Bank and to the sector as a whole."

"Kuwait's youth have always been a primary interest at ABK. The academy covers multiple areas in the banking profession, with particular focus on customer service, which is the backbone of

any successful company. We look forward to witnessing the great results these skilled students can achieve during their time with ABK." The ABK Academy was launched as an educational platform that focuses on training students and individuals seeking job opportunities in the banking sector. By engaging with these participants, the

Bank is able to build on existing potential and talent, and better identify areas in the bank in which they could put this positive energy to work and excel.

For more information about ABK representative via 'Ahli Chat' or contact a customer service agent via 'Ahlan Ahli' at 1899899.



## MINISTRY'S CHARITY REACHED KD18.2M THIS YEAR: KANDARI

KUWAIT: Charity Organizations Department Director at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor Muneera Al-Kandari praised yesterday achievements of the department last year, namely increasing charity donations and establishing philanthropic projects in and outside Kuwait by accredited societies.

She added in press remarks that the ministry tightened the supervision on all charity donations, in order to monitor unauthorized bodies which collect charity donations without accredited permissions offered by the ministry.

The charities showed great commitment in abiding by the laws and regulations during the last period, which contributed in the success of donations collecting campaigns, especially those launched in the fast-

ing month of Ramadan, during which the charity work violations were at their least levels, she said.

The total charity donations this year reached KD 18.2 million compared to KD 14.8 million in 2014, and 5.6 million in 2013, she added. The increasing number of donations value is due to regulations set by the Ministry in collecting them from the charities, besides supervision by people responsible for the collections, she said. The department also suggested safer and easier alternatives for raising donations—like the fixed and mobile phone and electronic devices, she said.

A supervising committee was already formed to oversee financial activity of the charities, and also to be responsible for periodic field inspections on them, she affirmed. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Social Affairs and Labor Minister and Minister of State for Planning and Development Hind Al-Subaih during the celebration of Soroptimist International (SI) Society for Women's Kuwait branch. — KUNA

# PM LIKELY TO REJECT JASSAR RESIGNATION

DOW CHEMICAL MAY RESTRUCTURE ITS JOINT PROJECTS

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Premier Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah is expected to reject the resignation letter submitted by MPW and MEW Minister Ahmed Al-Jassar and ask him to resume his duties, well-informed sources said.

Notably, Jassar had resigned after a court sentenced him to prison along with 15 other senior MEW officials who had been responsible for the 2007 power emergency plan. The sources added that the PM was fully convinced that Jassar is innocent.

### Ambulance exit

Ahamdi governorate's government relations manager Hamed Al-Ibrahim yesterday said the MPW had approved the designs for a new ambulance exit from Adan Hospital to King Fahd bin Abdul Aziz Expressway. Ibrahim stressed that the new gate would be built in response to citizens' complaints in order to facilitate providing emergency medical services within shorter times and thus save many lives.

### Airbus overview

The petroleum and engineering faculty will hold a press conference at noon on Wednesday where Airbus is due to present a complete overview of its operations and future development. The press conference will be held at the faculty's campus at Kuwait University in hall number 119.

### Dow restructuring

Dow Chemical announced it intends to restructure its joint projects in Kuwait by

mid-2016. The company explained that the restructuring process would be done in two phases, adding that the first one was already completed by EQUATE's complete acquisition of MI Global for \$3.2 billion, including Dow's share of \$1.5 billion.

### Pension fund

Wren House Infrastructure Management Company (WHI), a Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA) investor in infrastructure, is scheduled to jointly apply with Ontario Teachers' Pension Fund to purchase London City Airport from American Global Infrastructure Partners Fund.

### Annual campsites

The MoE will move shacks that had been used as extra classrooms in some schools to the ministry's annual campsite in Kabd. Assistant undersecretary for educational development and activities Faisal Al-Maqseed said undersecretary Al-Athari had ordered moving 37 shacks to the campsite after the ones there were damaged by wind, heat and rain.

### Termination issue

MP Faisal Al-Kandari said Minister of Oil and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Ali Al-Omair had promised to solve the problem of the sacking of 80 Kuwaitis who worked for a subcontractor working with the Kuwait Gulf Oil Company.

### Psychiatric clinic

MSAL announced that three psychiatric guidance clinics would be opened within few weeks at the social care hostels.



**KUWAIT:** Minister of Justice and Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Yaqoub Al-Sanea during the signing ceremony of the endowment project of the late Abdulaziz Al-Duaij. —KUNA

# AWQAF MINISTER RECALLS PREDECESSORS' SACRIFICES

**KUWAIT:** Minister of Justice and Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Yaqoub Al-Sanea said that Kuwait's grandfathers had offered major sacrifices and charitable actions. The minister made the statement yesterday on the sidelines of the signing ceremony of the endowment project of the late Abdulaziz Al-Duaij. When the State depended on importing drinking water by traditional and simple ways, the late Al-Duaij worked on providing water for people, Al-Sanea said, noting that the step was highly appreciated by people at that time.

"This is a sign of honorable actions made by Kuwait's grandfathers," he added. On his part, Jamal Al-Duaij, the project's supervisor, said in a similar statement to KUNA that the Secretariat of Awqaf is keen on honoring the endowers during their lifetime and even after their death to immortalize their great actions serving and developing the charitable actions in the society. The project of the late Abdulaziz is an unprecedented one, he said. He added that the



Secretariat shared his family in preparing a project to bear fruit of this endowment so as to benefit the society. The project also aims to help generations be acquainted with their grandfathers by documenting and showing their virtues and biographies for all people, and to honor the endowers through immortalizing their venerable actions and highlighting a wonderful model of social solidarity in tough conditions, he noted. —KUNA

# KOTC FLEET EQUIPPED WITH INTERNET SERVICE

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Oil Tanker Company (KOTC) announced yesterday that it had completed the process of providing all its tankers with high-speed internet service.

KOTC said that it signed a contract with 'Marlink' company to provide the internet to the tankers, adding that this step will develop the fleets' performance and lower performance costs. KOTC owns one of the most modern

and well-developed fleet of 30 oil and natural gas tankers in the world, with the capacity to carry 5,040 million metric tons (about 36,394 million barrel).

The company is especially tasked with transferring the crude oil and other petroleum exports of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC). Moreover, the company received several international awards in maritime transportation safety and quality. —KUNA

# DELAY OF RESULTS FUELS KSE RUMORS: ANALYSTS

**KUWAIT:** Worry that listed companies at the Kuwait Stock Exchange (KSE) have been late in announcing financial results could open the door for rumors and consequently leave negative impact on the market, analysts have agreed. Certain companies "deliberately" defer revealing their results till the end of the 45-day statutory period, out of a belief that this could bring them better trading opportunities, two

analysts told KUNA in separate interviews.

Others are still waiting for auditing and control approvals. Such delay has become a "routine" with the end of a financial season due to certain problems facing companies, analyst Nayef Al-Enezi told KUNA. Al-Enezi said that the 45-day period is "too long" and has to be shortened. He explained that the delay is

sometimes done on purpose as the companies hope this might help them hunt more trading. Shareholders have the right to demand an explanation from a company's general assembly. For his part, Analyst Adnan Al-Delimi, told KUNA that bodies reviewing results prior to announcing them are overburdened, a good reason for a delay. Only four banks have revealed

their results so far this season, he said. Al-Delimi noted that many companies are still at a mess working out their financial results as they are trying hard to meet the requirements of governance. He urged the KSE to provide more reviewers to avoid the problem.

So far, only 10 per cent of the listed companies have announced their results for the season that ended 30 September. —KUNA

# PROJECT 189: REFLECTING HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS OF DOMESTIC WORKERS

## 52PX PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION

By Athoob Al-Shuaibi

**KUWAIT:** In the presence of Philippines Consul General Raul Hora Dado and political officer at the United States Embassy Lloyd Freeman, Project 189 concluded its 52px workshop by exhibiting the photographic work of 23 domestic workers who practiced their new hobby in the last couple of weeks by taking pictures of their surroundings. The photography exhibition was held at Masaha13 on Friday. It included a selection of their best pictures and they were offered for sale.

"This exhibition gives us a wonderful catalogue representing the dreams, hopes and inspirations of domestic workers in our country. It presents images of freedom and opportunities, yet sometimes of a poignant reality," said Lama Ghannam, co-founder of Project 189. The participants came up with clever and interesting captions for their photographs, making them even more meaningful to the spectator. The photographs varied between still-life, nature, documentary and abstract.

A special booklet distributed to



Lama Ghannam



Chay

the attendants contained all the selected works to credit the domestic workers and explained the objectives of this project. "52px (pixels) aims to build an inclusive society in Kuwait between domestic workers and the local society. It aims to change perceptions, cultivate empathy and promote social inclusion whilst empowering domestic workers through art and

space," Ghannam said. Project 189 is an organization aiming to protect, promote and improve the rights of domestic workers in the Middle East. The organization attempts to educate the community about the importance of correcting the situation of domestic workers, bearing the responsibility to deliver their voice to the world.



**KUWAIT:** The domestic workers who displayed their photographic skills at the exhibition 'Project 189' pose for a group photograph.



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Photo

of the day



KUWAIT: A breathtaking view of Mirqab by night as it epitomizes the rapid emergence of new landmarks in downtown Kuwait City. —KUNA

Al-Anbaa

MASSIVE 'HEARTBURN'

By Sami Al-Khorafi

An old man recently visited a doctor telling him that he had a severe heartburn. Amazed with his complaint, the doctor wondered why he had received 10 patients on the same day with the same symptoms. "You must be a follower of Kuwaiti sport," said the doctor, justifying his diagnosis when the old man expressed amazement, adding, "All those before you gave me the same answers and you must be just like them. However, I will give you a good three-day prescription to get rid of this heartburn. You should watch two NBA matches after breakfast, two English league games after lunch and three Spanish league games after dinner. You can also watch some wrestling matches between meals. If this prescription fails to relieve your pain, we will have to resort to a suppository of sumo wrestling, otherwise, go bang your head on a wall as this will probably rid you of your heartburn."

Following this short conversation with the old man, the doctor added: "This is typical of you. Your problems never end. You like too much fuss and action as if you like the folk song that says 'I have created my own wounds and only made them worse by whining about them'. You have created your own problems and are trying to solve them yourselves. And despite all these conflicts, everything is forgotten once you kiss each others' noses as if nothing had happened. I know exactly how things are done. Kissing noses is a tradition after which all old scores are forgotten but only on one condition - you have to prioritize Kuwait's greater good."

"You mean like those fighting in an open yard and making apologies in private?" asked the old man, which made the doctor laugh out loud. "What yard are you talking about, uncle? Solving sports problems is very simple. Just bring closer those who know it better, like veteran players and those who had actually played any game. They are willing to work hard if favoritism and wasta is removed for the greater good of Kuwait. The problems will be solved and fans will go back to singing loudly in stadiums. Conflicts will disappear and all sportspeople will love each other and will, once more, listen to patriotic sports songs. On the other hand, if the current conflicts continue any longer, you will suffer heartburns forever and this year will be described as the 'heartburn' year because of the growing number of people developing it in view of the endless disappointments," the doctor said.

At this point, the old man sighed in relief. "You know what, your words seem to have cured me and I no longer feel any heartburn because I am sure the problem will be solved soon. You must be a psychiatrist rather than a general practitioner!" said the old man, and both laughed before the old man left the clinic. —Translated by Kuwait Times



Al-Anbaa

MAN OF YEAR FOR PEACE

By Sami Abdullatif Al-Nisf

I recently attended the Mediterranean Basin Organization's annual ceremony in Napoli, where the Mediterranean Peace Award was given to Abdul Aziz Al-Babtain and Khalid Al-Malek for their outstanding role in supporting peace causes worldwide. The Mediterranean Awards (with various categories), was launched by the Fondazione Mediterraneo in 1996, and are granted every year to eminent personalities from the worlds of arts and culture, politics and science and social disciplines whose actions have contributed to reducing tensions, breaking down cultural barriers and developing shared values in the Greater Mediterranean. This award is considered one of the most prestigious acknowledgements in the world. Among those who received it are presidents and prime ministers from the US, UK, Italy and France, in addition to world politicians and intellectuals.

This year, Abdul Aziz Al-Babtain was awarded the peace award for his effective role in intercultural dia-

logue, which is the bright alternative to the destructive clash of civilizations our region is suffering until today. For the past four years, the Babtain Foundation has sponsored 14 intercultural dialogue sessions held in major capitals around the world, namely in the West, where a major Western thinker promoted the idea on the grounds that conflicts between civilizations and nations cannot end in wars, bloodshed and destruction.

The Babtain Center for Intercultural Dialogue is hosting over 500 researchers, scientists and thinkers at a two-day session at Oxford University, marking the center's 15th activity held under the title of "One World, Shared Challenges", that will be dedicated to discuss the issues of refugees, international environmental and human development institutions, youth problems, new world challenges and other peace and intercultural dialogue-related concerns.

—Translated by Kuwait Times

Al-Jarida

WHY DO POLITICIANS LIE?

By Prof Ghanim Al-Najjar

Lying is very common in politics. A politician once said: "We do not lie, we only rationalize on saying the truth". Political science professor John J Mearsheimer wrote a book titled 'Why Leaders Lie', which analyzes lying in international politics. The book is very interesting and was published by Knowledge World (Alam Al-Maarifah) after they responded to my request to translate it to Arabic to make it handy for everybody.

Inquiries have been going on in Britain about the volume of lies and media manipulation former PM Tony Blair's government had used to justify participating in the war in Iraq. Pressure groups were formed by the families of soldiers who had fought and were killed or injured there. Such pressure created public opinion against Blair's party and negatively viewed its performance.

As a result of that pressure, an inquiry committee was formed under judge John Chilcot to investigate the circumstances of the March 2003 invasion of Iraq. It is obvious that some fingers are being pointed at Blair and his media advisors and spokesperson Alastair Campbell, accusing them of faking media reports about the war in Iraq politically costing Blair so much.

It seems that the Iraq curse will haunt Blair forever, as a few days ago, the Daily Mail published a US document in which Colin Powell, the former US secretary of state during the George W Bush presidency, talked about Britain's preparations for war in March 2002 - that is one full year before the war. In the document, Powell explained that Blair had volunteered to fabricate some media news to support war plans and that he never had any vision concerning a plan for the aftermath of the war.

So, this was what Blair told Powell, while at the same time, he used to tell the media he was working hard on reaching a diplomatic solution and that Iraq could have avoided the war if all WMDs, that actually never existed except in Blair's and Campbell's propaganda campaigns and media, had been handed over. Naturally enough, this is but one example of lies in politics. However, such practices are very common in our Arab region, especially in the absence of independent media monitoring apparatuses to expose such lies.

So, is lying an integral part of politics? Does every politician have to lie in order to boost his/her political career? Those are just two open-ended and unanswered questions.

—Translated by Kuwait Times

WANTED CRIMINAL ARRESTED IN AHMADI AFTER CHASE

**KUWAIT:** An unemployed citizen in his 30s was arrested following a chase in Ahmadi. The suspect robbed his victims using stolen cars, or by colliding with other cars in order to steal them. He also had 11 weapons and ammunition. The suspect was identified following investigations and was put under surveillance. He was located in Dhafer, but when security men moved in, he attempted to escape, jumping across the roofs of four houses before being caught. He had eight shotguns, three AK-47s and ammunition.

Family rescued

Mangaf firemen rescued a Syrian family trapped in an elevator. Firemen lowered the elevator manually and got the family out unharmed.

Liquor trader arrested

DCGD officers arrested a suspect for trading in liquor and found 180 cases of imported liquor of various types, besides 22 cases of beer. He said he deals with two Syrians who deliver the bottles to customers. —Al-Rai

BURGAN BANK ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF YAWMI ACCOUNT

**KUWAIT:** Burgan Bank announced yesterday the names of the lucky winners of its Yawmi account draw, each taking home a prize of KD 5,000.

The lucky winners for the daily draws took home a cash-prize of KD 5,000 each, and they are:

1. JEHAD SAEED ALHAMOTAH
2. JOURJY EBRAHIM ABRI
3. ANWAR TAHER SWELATI
4. ABDULHAMEED MOHAMMAD ALAJEEL
5. SHEIKHA: NAWAL MOHAMMAD AL-SABAH

To further add to the anticipation of Yawmi account customers, Burgan Bank now offers a Quarterly Draw with more chances to win higher rewards, entitling one lucky customer to win KD

125,000 every three months. The Yawmi Account now offers Daily and quarterly Draws, the Quarterly Draw requires customers to maintain a minimum amount of KD 500 in their account for 2 months prior to draw date. Additionally, every KD 10 in the account, will entitle customers to one chance of winning. If the account balance is KD 500 and above, the account holder will be qualified for both the quarterly and daily draws.

Burgan Bank encourages everyone to open a Yawmi account and/or increase their deposit to maximize their chances of becoming a winner. The more customers deposit, the higher the chances they receive of winning.

For more information on opening a Yawmi account or about the new quarterly draw, customers are urged to visit their nearest Burgan Bank branch and receive all the details, or simply call the bank's Call Center at 1804080 where customer service representatives will be delighted to assist with any questions on the Yawmi account or any of the bank's products and services. Customers can also log on to Burgan Bank's www.burgan.com for further information.

Established in 1977, Burgan Bank is the youngest commercial Bank and second largest by assets in Kuwait, with a significant focus on the corporate and financial institutions sectors, as well as having a growing retail, and private bank customer base.

FRESH VIOLENCE AFTER AL-AQSA MOSQUE MEASURES



**Silencing doubts:  
 Lost Geeta ready  
 for home**



DAMASCUS: A handout picture released by the Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) yesterday shows Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad (center) meeting with a Russian delegation of parliamentarians. —AFP

**ASSAD: SYRIA MUST 'ERADICATE TERROR'**  
 RUSSIA IGNORING REAL FACTS ON THE GROUND

**DAMASCUS:** Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad said yesterday his country must "eradicate terrorism" to find a political solution to its civil war, as he reportedly expressed a willingness to hold new elections. Meeting with a Russian parliamentary delegation as Moscow steps up efforts for a political deal, Assad emphasized the need for greater security.

"The eradication of terrorist organizations will lead to the political solution that Syria and Russia seek and that will satisfy the Syrian people and preserve Syria's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity," state news agency SANA quoted Assad as saying.

The visit by Russian lawmakers came just days after Assad's own surprise trip to Moscow for talks with President Vladimir Putin. That trip and ramped-up Russian diplomacy following it have led to speculation that Moscow is pushing for a new political agreement to end the conflict that began with protests against Assad's rule in March 2011.

But the shape of any such deal remains unclear, with Syria's opposition firmly against Moscow leading peace efforts while pursuing an air campaign it launched in support of Assad on September 30. A member of the Russian delegation said yesterday that Assad had expressed a willingness to hold new parliamentary and presidential elections, and would run again as president.

"He is ready to conduct elections with the participation of all political forces who want Syria to prosper," Russian lawmaker Alexander Yushchenko told AFP by phone from

Damascus. Assad said he was ready to take part in the polls "if the people are not against it," Yushchenko added.

**Opposition dismisses vote**

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Saturday that Syria needed to begin preparing for new elections. Syria last held parliamentary elections in May 2012, and is due to hold its next legislative vote in 2016. But a presidential vote was held just in June last year, with Assad re-elected for a seven-year term with 88.7 percent of the vote.

That election was dismissed as a "farce" by the opposition and its supporters, with voting held only in government-controlled areas and millions of the displaced and refugees unable to vote. It is unclear whether new elections could be held under different circumstances, and Syria's opposition has already said holding a vote now would be absurd.

"The Russians are ignoring the real facts on the ground, with millions who have been displaced inside and outside Syria, where cities are destroyed every day," said Samir Nashar of the Syrian National Coalition opposition group. "What elections are they talking about holding under such circumstances?"

Rebel forces were equally dismissive of Lavrov's offer Saturday of Russian support for "patriotic" opposition forces fighting against the Islamic State group. While Russia says its aerial campaign launched last month is targeting IS and other "terrorists," moderate and Islamist

rebels say they have been the real focus, not the jihadists. "Russia is bombing the Free Syrian Army and now it wants to cooperate with us?" said Lieutenant Colonel Ahmad Saoud, a spokesman for Division 13, a Western-backed rebel group.

**HRW urges Russia investigate raid**

Russia's strikes have allowed Syrian regime forces to launch ground operations in several provinces, including Aleppo, where clashes continued yesterday. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitor said some 43 regime forces and 28 IS fighters had been killed in the last 48 hours in the province, fighting for control of a key government supply route cut by the jihadists on Friday.

Elsewhere, the Observatory said Russian war planes had carried out strikes in Hama province, where Syrian regime forces are trying to secure part of the Aleppo-Damascus highway. Human Rights Watch meanwhile urged Russia yesterday to investigate two air strikes in Homs province that killed 59 civilians earlier this month.

The group said the two strikes on October 15 were believed to be Russian and had killed at least 32 children. And in Israel, the army said an Arab Israeli had crossed into Syria using a paraglider, apparently intending to join opposition forces. The army said the man had taken off from the southern section of the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, adjacent to southern Syria. Some 45 Arab Israelis have joined jihadist forces in Syria, according to Israel's Shin Bet internal security agency. —AFP

**US CUTTING AID TO PALESTINE**

**AMMAN:** United States is cutting economic aid for the Palestinian Authority, partly because of "unhelpful actions" by the Palestinians, a US diplomat said on Saturday. A specialized news site, al-Monitor, earlier said the US State Department intends to reduce aid for the West Bank and Gaza in fiscal 2016 from \$370 million to \$290 million.

A US State Department official, travelling with Secretary of State John Kerry on a trip to Amman, confirmed there would be a cut. "The decision to reduce assistance to the Palestinian Authority was made this past spring," he told reporters. "There were several factors contributing to this decision, including unhelpful actions taken by the Palestinians and constraints on our global assistance budget."

The cut was not directly linked to the wave of violence that is currently gripping Israel and the Palestinian territories, the official said. The source added, however, "we have made clear our concern about inflammatory rhetoric over these past few weeks."

Al-Monitor, which was quoted by the Israeli newspaper Haaretz, said the cut followed mounting criticism in the US Congress about Palestinian "incitement". Kerry was in Amman on Saturday where he held talks with Jordan's King Abdullah II and Palestinian leader Mahmud Abbas on how to brake the latest bloodletting. The visit is part of a diplomatic scramble to defuse tensions many fear could herald a new intifada, or Palestinian uprising. —AFP

**INDONESIA KARAOKE BAR BLAZE KILLS 12**

**MANADO:** Twelve people were killed and dozens injured early yesterday after a fire broke out in a crowded karaoke bar in a city on Indonesia's Sulawesi Island, police said. The blaze was sparked by an electrical short-circuit on the second floor of the three-storey Inul Vizta club in the North Sulawesi provincial capital of Manado after midnight. This caused panic among the customers who were singing in private rooms, provincial police spokesman Wilson Damanik said.

"The fire filled the rooms and corridors with thick black smoke and people started panicking and running helter-skelter in the dark. Some inhaled the smoke while others tried to escape by jumping out of the windows onto the street," he said. "So far, 12 people have died, mostly from smoke inhalation," he said, adding they were Indonesians.

He said "dozens" were injured but Indonesian Red Cross official Mahmud Paputungan estimated the number wounded to be around 70. "Many of them suffered broken bones from jumping from the third storey," Paputungan said. The blaze was put out and people evacuated to nearby hospitals.

Investigations into the cause of the fire were ongoing, Damanik said. "So far we found that there was no emergency staircase, only one common staircase to access every floor," he said. "So that could be why it was difficult for people to get out quickly. But all these (matters) are still being investigated." Police were still checking the soot-blackened premises for more possible victims yesterday evening, as curious onlookers gathered. —AFP



NORTH SULAWESI: People look at the fire-damaged popular three-storey Inul Vizta karaoke club in the provincial capital. —AFP

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## ERDOGAN'S PARTY WORKING OVERTIME AHEAD OF VOTE

**ISTANBUL:** A week ahead of Turkey's second election in five months, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's party is working overtime to try to reclaim its parliamentary majority, in a climate of tension fuelled by the Ankara attacks and the reignited Kurdish conflict.

Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu, leader of the dominant Justice and Development Party (AKP), was holding a mass campaign rally in Istanbul, hoping to drum up enough support to defy the opinion polls that predict a replay of the June vote on November 1. Police and private security teams were out in force, with Turkey still on edge after the October 10 bombings in the heart of the capital, the worst in the country's history.

Adding to the jitters, Turkish security forces are hunting four suspected members of the Islamic State group, including a German woman, who have crossed from Syria, media reports say. The four belong to the same cell behind the Ankara carnage and are feared to be plotting a major attack "such as hijacking a plane or a vessel or detonating suicide bombs in a crowded location," the Anatolia news agency said Saturday.

Although several thousand party faithful turned out in Istanbul yesterday, waving Turkish and AKP flags, numbers were far lower than at previous rallies. "We have no alternative (to the AKP), there can be no stability without them," beautician Makbule Cengiz said.

### 'It's me or chaos'

The outcome of the last election stunned the AKP, which after 13 years dominating the political scene won just 40.6 percent of the vote and lost its absolute control of parliament, partly due to the strong performance of the pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP). The result was also a major personal defeat for Erdogan, seen by critics as increasingly authoritarian as he seeks to expand his role into a powerful US-style executive presidency. After failing to form a government following the June 7 vote, Davutoglu is pounding the election trail once more-but facing a vastly different landscape, with the country more polarized than ever.

Since late July, fierce fighting has erupted between Turkish security forces and the rebels of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), shattering a fragile peace process launched three years ago. Fear is also stalking the streets after the double suicide bombing on a pro-Kurdish peace rally in Ankara that killed 102 people and has been blamed on IS. It followed another deadly bombing in a mainly Kurdish town on the Syrian border in July that thrust Turkey into a "war on terrorism" against both IS extremists and Kurdish rebels.

Latest opinion polls give the AKP between 40 and 43 percent of the vote but under half of the 550 seats in parliament-a result which would again force it to share power or organize yet another election. Erdogan, the long-serving prime minister



**ISTANBUL:** A supporter waves the Turkish national flag during a mass campaign rally of ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP). — AFP

turned president, is now criss-crossing the country, telling the people he is the guarantor of security and unity in Turkey: "It's me or chaos".

"We will not allow this country to be swallowed by the fire raging in the region, we will

not allow it become a country where treachery thrives," he said. The conservative Islamic-rooted party, once credited with rebuilding Turkey after years of political instability and a financial crisis, is now grappling with a security crisis and the fallout from the war in

Syria-including a massive influx of refugees. But analysts say the run-up to the election has been low-key, with few people handing out campaign leaflets on the streets and the fear of attacks curbing major public rallies by the smaller parties. — AFP



**JERUSALEM:** A general view shows Jerusalem's Old City's Al-Aqsa mosque compound with the Dome of the Rock (center), Islam's holiest site. — AFP

## FRESH ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN VIOLENCE AFTER AL-AQSA MOSQUE MEASURES

### PALESTINIAN WOMAN SHOT DEAD BY POLICE

**JERUSALEM:** Fresh violence flared between Israelis and Palestinians yesterday as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu agreed to install more security cameras at the flashpoint Al-Aqsa mosque compound in a bid to defuse tensions. In a spate of incidents in the occupied West Bank a Palestinian woman was shot dead while trying to knife Israeli border police and a Palestinian stabbed and wounded an Israeli man before fleeing, police said.

Meanwhile a Palestinian was seriously wounded after being shot several times by an Israeli settler while picking olives, according to Palestinian security sources. Knife attacks, shootings and protests have become near daily occurrences since October 1 in the latest surge of violence in the decades-old conflict, sparking a diplomatic scramble to avert what many fear heralds a new Palestinian intifada, or uprising.

The focal point of the latest unrest is the Al-Aqsa mosque compound in Jerusalem, which is sacred to both Muslims and Jews, and Netanyahu on Saturday agreed on new measures to allay Palestinian fears that he plans to change longstanding rules governing the site. Netanyahu vowed Jews would continue to be allowed to visit but not pray at the compound and agreed that 24-hour surveillance cameras could be installed, adding these were in Israel's interest.

"Firstly, to refute the claim Israel is violating the status quo. Secondly, to show where the provocations are really coming from, and prevent them in advance," said Netanyahu. Currently cameras film the outside plaza of the compound, but not the inside of holy monuments on the site, Defence Minister Moshe Yaalon said on pub-

lic radio. He said having cameras inside will allow the Jordanian Waqf, which administers the site, "to control things better and not ignore that 30 youths entrenched themselves in the mosque overnight... with rocks, pipe bombs, Molotov cocktails." During riots at the compound in September Palestinian protesters barricaded themselves in the mosque in a bid to disrupt morning visits by Jews to the site. The protesters were angry over an increase in Jewish visitors during the Jewish religious holidays, some of whom secretly pray there.

### 'A game changer'

The Palestinian governor of Jerusalem Adnan Al-Husseini said the cameras were only of use to Israel. "They want to observe whoever comes in and out," he said. "There will not be calm without political prospects to definitively end the occupation," said Nabila Sheath, an official from Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas' West Bank-based Fatah.

US Secretary of State John Kerry said after talks with Jordan's King Abdullah II that security cameras would be a "game changer in discouraging anybody from disturbing the sanctity of the holy site." Jordan's Foreign Minister Nasser Judeh said Jordanian and Israeli technical teams were likely to meet soon "to discuss the implementation of this idea alongside other measures to maintain and enhance public order and calm."

Ties between Israel and Jordan have often been strained by the site in east Jerusalem, a majority Palestinian area that was seized by Israel during the 1967 Six Day War and later annexed in a move never internationally recognized.

### Attackers disguised

Netanyahu has accused Abbas of fanning the flames by claiming that Israel wants to change the status quo. Clashes at Al-Aqsa spiraled into a wave of violence that has seen knife and gun attacks against Israelis. Yesterday a Palestinian woman attempted to knife border police in the West Bank city of Hebron and was shot dead, police said, taking the number of Palestinians killed in attempted attacks and clashes to 53. An Israeli Arab attacker has also been killed.

"A Palestinian woman acting suspiciously approached border police forces. She was requested to identify herself when she suddenly drew a knife and approached the forces yelling. The forces shot at her and neutralised her," a police statement said. Also in the West Bank yesterday an Israeli was stabbed and wounded by "two assailants disguised as ultra Orthodox (Jewish) men" who shot at them before they fled the scene, the army said.

Meanwhile Palestinian police sources said a 20-year-old man was in serious condition after being "shot by a settler while harvesting olives in Sair," nearby where the Israeli was stabbed in the West Bank. The Palestinian health ministry said he had been shot five times. Since the start of this month, eight Israelis have died in attacks. One Israeli Jew and one Eritrean have been killed after being mistaken for attackers. The most recent attempt to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict collapsed in April 2014 amid bitter recriminations on both sides. — AFP

## IRAQ WAR CONTRIBUTED TO THE RISE OF IS: BLAIR

**LONDON:** Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair has said the US-led invasion of Iraq was partly responsible for the emergence of the Islamic State militant group in the Middle East. But he insisted that toppling dictator Saddam Hussein had been the right thing to do.

Blair told CNN that "there are elements of truth" in the assertion that the war caused the rise of IS. "Of course you can't say those of us who removed Saddam in 2003 bear no responsibility for the situation in 2015," he said in the interview to be broadcast today. He added that the Arab Spring had also played a role in creating instability that allowed the Islamic fundamentalist militant group to flourish.

Blair's decision to take Britain into the Iraq war - based on what turned out to be false claims about Saddam's weapons of mass destruction - remains hugely divisive, and contributed to his Labor Party's loss of power in 2010. Blair said he did not believe

the world would be a better place if Saddam were still in power. But he apologized, as he has before, for failures in post-war planning.

"I apologize for the fact that the intelligence we received was wrong," he said in clips released by CNN before the broadcast. "I also apologize for some of the mistakes in planning and, certainly, our mistake in our understanding of what would happen once you removed the regime." Some 179 British personnel died in Iraq between 2003 and 2009. A public inquiry into decisions and mistakes in Britain's planning and execution of the war began in 2009 but has yet to issue its findings. The process has been held up while people criticized in the report are given a chance to respond. Critics of the war hope the inquiry will conclude that Blair was determined to back President George W Bush in his invasion plans, whether or not it was supported by the public, Parliament or legal opinion. — AFP

## SEVERE WEATHER SWEEPS THROUGH MIDDLE EAST

**CAIRO:** Severe weather swept across the Middle East yesterday, pounding Israel with baseball-sized hail, sending torrents of uncollected garbage through the streets of Beirut and killing six people in Egypt, five of whom were electrocuted by a fallen power cable. The cable from a tramway in the coastal city of Alexandria landed in streets flooded with water, electrocuting the five, senior health official Magdy Hegazy said. He said a sixth person, a judge, drowned when he was trapped in his car by the floodwaters.

State news agency MENA reported heavy rains in several other Egyptian governorates, with authorities closing the port of Ain Sokhna near the southern end of the Suez Canal due to high winds and waves. President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi ordered the government to provide aid to the hard-hit Alexandria area, while sandstorms and flash floods hit parts of the Sinai Peninsula. Cairo was also hit by a rare rainstorm.

In neighboring Israel, high winds knocked over cranes while hail the size of baseballs struck cities across the country. Israeli police said they had received reports that one of the cranes struck a man, although his condition was unknown. Elsewhere, trees were

knocked down, including one that hit a bus, seriously injuring a passenger. Israeli media reported wind speeds of 100 kilometers per hour. Rain is expected to continue into today.

Israeli media aired footage of a crane collapsing in central Tel Aviv, cars squashed by trees and pedestrians seeking shelter from the hail. In Lebanon, meanwhile, heavy rains caused floodwaters to mix with mounds of uncollected garbage, raising public health concerns.

The country has been in the grip of a monthslong trash crisis caused by the government shutting down the city's main landfill without finding an alternative. The crisis has ignited mass protests against the government, which has failed to provide a number of basic services and is widely seen as corrupt and dysfunctional.

Activists from the You Stink movement, which has been leading the protests, shared videos on their Facebook page of plastic trash bags and other garbage floating down a narrow street lined with cars. The Beirut River, where garbage had been piling up on the banks for months, resembled an open sewer. Activists volunteered to help clean it, which could revive the anti-government campaign. — AP



**BEIRUT:** A Lebanese couple stand under an umbrella in rainy weather at the Corniche or waterfront promenade. — AP

## ISLAMIST MILITANTS STORM SUPERMARKET IN ADEN

**SANAA:** Islamic militants stormed a supermarket in Yemen's southern city of Aden yesterday, firing into the air and briefly taking hostages, security officials and witnesses said. About 30 militants arrived at the supermarket in four pickup trucks yesterday afternoon, the officials and witnesses said. Shoppers fled when the militants fired in the air, but an unknown number were trapped inside when the gunmen locked the doors. The militants freed the hostages after less than an hour and left the scene.

Some supermarket employees were slightly hurt when the militants kicked and punched them. The witnesses said the militants shouted that they were protesting the mingling of men and women in the supermarket and demanded that female employees cover their faces, in keeping with a strict interpretation of Islamic law. A supermarket worker said the militants told them this was the final warning.

The incident happened in the late afternoon when the Zamaran supermarket, the city's largest, is usually packed with shoppers. It appeared to be intended as a show of force by the militants who have in recent months wielded significant influence in parts of the city overlooking the Arabian Sea.

Aden has been a main battlefield in the conflict between Shiite rebels, known as Houthis, and allied army units against forces loyal to the internationally recognized government as well as southern separatists and other militants. After pro-government forces expelled the Houthis from Aden in July, al-Qaida appears to have taken advantage of the security vacuum as pro-government forces moved on to challenge the Houthis elsewhere in southern Yemen. An official at the University of Aden said Islamic militants have

threatened faculty deans, demanding they ban students of the opposite sex from mixing.

Security officials in the city said on Saturday that mediated talks with al-Qaida to persuade its fighters to surrender their weapons or move out of Aden had failed. Washington considers al-Qaida's Yemen branch to be the most dangerous offshoot of the terror network.

Yesterday's supermarket incident followed the overnight storming of Aden's central prison by suspected al-Qaida gunmen who freed an individual blamed for an August attack on the compound of the city's former governor, according to security officials in Aden. Four people were killed in the August rocket-propelled grenade attack on the former governor's compound. The former governor and other officials who were present at the time were not hurt. — AP



## ARGENTINE PRESIDENTIAL VOTE ENDS KIRCHNER DYNASTY

**BUENOS AIRES:** Voters in Argentina headed to the polls yesterday to choose their next president in an election that will bring an end to 12 years of government under power couple Nestor and Cristina Kirchner.

Their heir apparent, Buenos Aires provincial Governor Daniel Scioli, is poised to win

but may undo parts of their controversial legacy.

The frontrunner has vowed to uphold the core elements of "kirchnerism," a populist creed built around trade protectionism, social welfare and defense of the working classes. But the 58-year-old power boating fanatic-

who lost his right arm in a 1989 racing accident-has also vowed a change in style to attract more investment and increase productivity, and has assembled an economic team of free-marketters.

His top rival is Buenos Aires Mayor Mauricio Macri, the candidate of Argentines fed up with what they see as the Kirchners' heavy-handed economic policy and belligerent politics. Macri, 56, rose to prominence as the boss of Argentina's most popular football club, Boca Juniors, which won a string of titles under his reign.

There may also be a spoiler in the form of Sergio Massa, a former Kirchner ally who fell out with the president and launched a rival party, the Renewal Front, two years ago. Under Argentine electoral law, in order to win outright in the first round, a candidate must claim more than 45 percent of the vote, or at least 40 percent with a margin of 10 points over the runner-up.

Opinion polls have put Scioli at about 40 percent, with Macri at around 30 percent and Massa at around 20 percent-roughly the same scores seen in the August primary. That means the country could be headed for its first-ever run-off election, on November 22. "There's no doubt about who will come in

first and second. The real question is whether there will be a second round," said pollster Ricardo Rouvier.

### End of an era

Nestor Kirchner came to office in 2003, in the aftermath of a devastating economic crisis that triggered what was then the largest sovereign debt default in history and sparked deadly riots in the streets. He presided over a stunning turnaround underpinned by average economic growth of more than eight percent a year, fueled by high prices for Argentina's agricultural exports.

He handed power to his wife in 2007. They were widely expected to continue this term-for-term tango, but Nestor died of a heart attack in 2010. Cristina, a fiery former senator, defended his legacy all the more combatively and won re-election in 2011. But the economic magic of the early Kirchner years has faded.

When Argentina's next president takes office on December 10, he will inherit a country troubled by inflation, an overvalued currency and an economy facing what the International Monetary Fund predicts will be a 0.7 percent contraction next year. Argentina, Latin America's third-largest econ-

omy after Brazil and Mexico, is also still waging a messy legal battle against two American hedge funds that reject its plans to restructure the \$100 billion in debt it defaulted on in 2001.

The firms, which Kirchner condemns as "vulture funds," successfully sued for full payment in US federal court. Kirchner's refusal to pay them pushed Argentina into a new default last year. Her tenure has also been marked by acrimonious battles with big media, the courts and old Falklands War enemy Britain.

"The world is going to watch the new president's first 24 hours very carefully. He'll have to deliver a message to convince people that Argentina is a country where they can invest, with clear rules," said political analyst Pablo Knopoff. Argentina's 32 million voters, who are required to cast ballots, are also electing their representatives in Congress and regional bloc Mercosur. Eleven of the country's 23 provinces are also electing governors and other officials. Polling stations will remain open until 6:00 pm (2100 GMT), and first results are expected around three hours later. But pollsters have warned the numbers are so close that counting could stretch well into the night. — AFP



**BUENOS AIRES:** Lead opposition candidate Mauricio Macri shakes hands with a supporter after casting his vote. — AFP

## HOW DID HURRICANE PATRICIA BECOME A MONSTER SO QUICK?

**WASHINGTON:** Hurricane Patricia zoomed from tropical storm to record-beater in 30 hours flat like a jet-fueled sports car. Why? The Pacific storm had just the right ingredients. Plenty of warm water provided the energy for what meteorologists call explosive intensification. The air was much moister than usual, adding yet more fuel. And at the same time, upper-level crosswinds - called shear - that restrain a hurricane from strengthening were missing for much of Thursday, meteorologists said.

"I was really astounded," said MIT meteorology professor Kerry Emanuel. "It was over the juiciest part of the eastern Pacific." El Nino's fingerprints are all over this, meteorologists agreed. And while it fits perfectly into climate scientists' theories of what a warming world will be like, they say global warming can't quite be blamed - yet. At 10 pm EDT Wednesday, Patricia was a tropical storm off Mexico with 65 mph winds that forecasters expected to intensify rapidly. In fact, one forecast gave it a 97 percent chance of getting stronger fast. But it strengthened so quickly that many were surprised, said Robert Rogers at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Hurricane Research Division.

By 4 am EDT Friday Patricia's winds were a record for hurricanes: 200 mph. "Incredible. You don't see many like this," said former hurricane hunter meteorologist Jeff Masters, meteorology director of the private Weather Underground. "In fact in the Western Hemisphere, we've never seen anything like this." In the Eastern Hemisphere, satellite estimates measured Typhoon Nancy at 215 mph in 1961 and

Typhoon Violet at 205 mph also in 1961, but satellite measurements aren't as precise, Masters said. (Hurricanes, typhoons and cyclones are all the same thing with different names.)

Super Typhoon Haiyan that devastated the Philippines in 2013 was measured at 195 mph via satellite. However, most storms don't have accurate measurements because most don't get planes flown into them unless they are a threat, Emanuel said. He's part of an experiment with the US Navy, dropping measuring devices from planes into Patricia for the past three days.

Worldwide, this is the ninth Category 5 storm this year, which is tied for the second most on record, Masters said. Normal years are around five to six. A Category 5 storm has winds of 157 mph or higher. The eastern and northern Pacific regions have had more tropical storms than usual this season; the Atlantic has had less.

That's a classic signature of the weather pattern called El Nino - with warmer waters to feed storms and favorable winds in the Pacific and unfavorable winds in the Atlantic, Masters and others said. Patricia is being fueled by near-record warm 87-degree Pacific waters at the surface that ran warm unusually deep.

Climate science theory says that as the world warms, the most extreme storms will get even stronger and wetter. Patricia's record strength is "consistent with what we say" but there are too few examples to make a scientifically accurate connection, Emanuel said. Patricia and Haiyan from 2013 may be "warning signs that, hey this could be the future," Masters said. — AP



**JALISCO:** Residents of the Chamela community clear the debris left by Hurricane Patricia. — AFP

## HURRICANE FLATTENS HOMES, BUT NOT A MAJOR DISASTER REGION INCREDIBLY SUFFERED RELATIVELY LITTLE DAMAGE

**CHAMELA:** Patricia flattened a fishing hamlet on Mexico's Pacific coast, but authorities were relieved to see Saturday that the record-breaking hurricane largely spared the country and dissipated as it moved north. The wood and brick homes with tin and palm leaf roofs of 40 families in the village of Chamela were blown away when Patricia made landfall as a Category Five monster in Jalisco state late Friday.

The families survived because they evacuated to a shelter before landfall, which occurred just 20 kilometers to the south. The villagers returned to pick up the pieces on Saturday and complained that the government has not provided any help. "We have nothing. My property's gone," said Griselda Hernandez, looking at the space without walls or roof that used to be her home.

While the residents of Chamela lost nearly everything, most of the region incredibly suffered relatively little damage and the authorities rejoiced that no deaths were reported. President Enrique Pena Nieto lifted the hurricane alert for Jalisco, Colima and Nayarit states as he visited the region, saying that the damage was "smaller than expected." "Maybe (the warnings) were exaggerated, but it's better to be warned," said Ruben Fregoso, a restaurant owner who reopened his business in the popular resort of Puerto Vallarta after the storm.

Seafont hotels were cleared of their guests in Puerto Vallarta before Patricia's arrival, while thousands of tourists were evacuated by bus or plane, many taken to shelters. But the town had little damage in the end. Transport Minister Gerardo Ruiz Esparza said Mexico was saved because the population was well prepared and the hurricane was slowed by the Sierra Madre Occidental mountain range. "We were lucky that the impact was diverted" toward the mountains, he said. "Nature was kind-hearted."

### President lifts emergency

Pena Nieto said around 3,500 homes were "partially or completely affected" while electricity was restored to half of the 235,000 people who lost power. He did not specify how the homes were affected. Patricia tore down trees, triggered some flooding and caused minor landslides elsewhere in Jalisco and neighboring Colima state. But by Saturday regional airports reopened and highways were cleared of obstacles.

"The magnitude and danger of this hurricane threatened to cause more considerable damage, but fortunately this did not happen," he said. But in Chamela and other small villages of the Jalisco coast, tiny homes were damaged by wind and floods. In La Manzanilla, the

storm tossed hundreds of coconuts inside the seafont church as wind and water broke the door.

### Rain threat

Forecasters had warned of a "potential catastrophe" after Patricia's winds peaked at 325 kilometers per hour Friday. That was more powerful than the 315 kilometers per hour winds of Super Typhoon Haiyan, which left more than 7,350 dead or missing when it struck the Philippines in November 2013. But Patricia struck with 270 kilometers per hour winds, slowing as it collided with mountains. Almost 24 hours after Patricia made landfall, the US National Hurricane Center said it degenerated into a remnant low with 45 kilometers per hour winds. But it warned that the "heavy rain threat" will increase Saturday evening across the northeast and into coastal parts of the US state of Texas.

In Manzanilla, soldiers shoveled sand off the main boulevard while residents, some riding around in bicycles, surveyed damage that included uprooted trees and street signs. "For being the most powerful hurricane in the world, I think we came out okay," said Cristian Arias, the 30-year-old owner of the seafood restaurant El Bigotes, whose balcony was broken and garage damaged. — AFP

## NEW YORKER CREATES 'ZAQISTAN', UTAH'S FIRST SOVEREIGN NATION

**SALT LAKE CITY:** A New York man is building his own sovereign nation called Zaqistan on a remote piece of land in Utah. Zaq Landsberg has created a yellow-and-red flag, official-looking passports and a border patrol gate guarded by a giant robot sentry for the realm, KSL-TV reported.

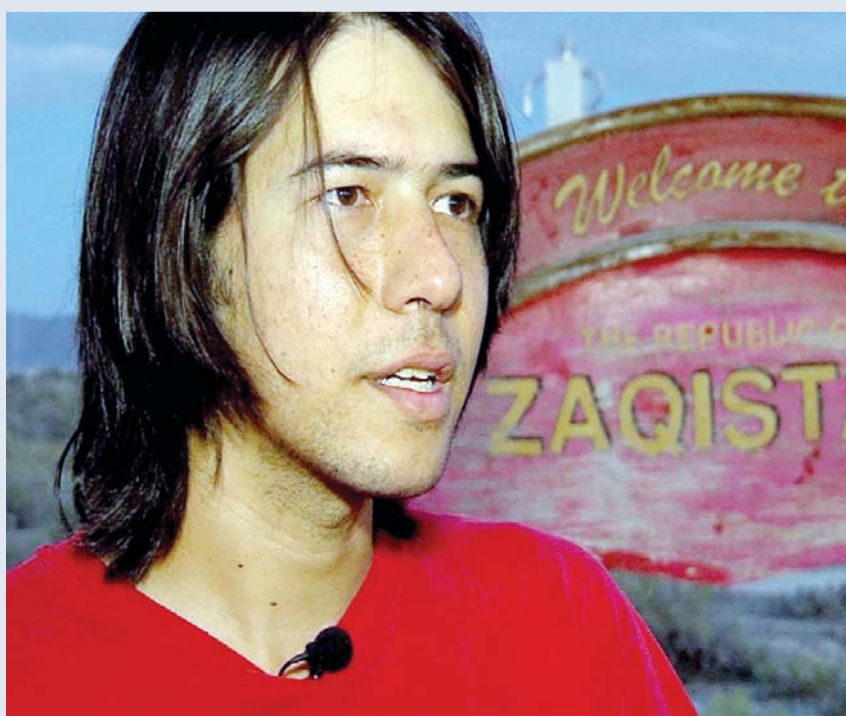
"The conceptual goal is I want it to become a real country," said Landsberg, its president. "I mean, that goal is not going to happen. It's impossible, but going through the motions, (I'm) trying to make that happen." He's even created a motto for the land of Zaqistan: "Something from nothing."

When he bought the sage-brush covered stretch of Utah backcountry a decade ago, the city-dwelling Landsberg was amazed at how removed it was. It's about 60 miles from the nearest town and 15 miles away from a paved road. While he calls the area harsh and desolate, it's also appealing.

"Out here, it's not that crazy of an idea to have your own little spot, and to

do your own thing and to have your own space and the privacy to do that," said Landsberg, who's hesitant to reveal the exact location of Zaqistan for fear of people getting lost trying to find it. While he knows the 4-acre piece of land equipped with a supply bunker won't actually become its own recognized country, Landsberg said building it is an artistic exploration in how far he can push the concepts of land ownership and sovereignty.

"My goal is to, like, probe those little areas," Landsberg said. "To try and find what that does mean." He pays property taxes to Box Elder County, about 160 miles north of Salt Lake City, though he refers to the payments as tributes. He wants to make his little nation look legitimate. The passports look and feel real, and visitors like his friend Mike Abu can get them stamped as they enter and exit the country. "Legitimacy is one of those things that's fairly subjective to begin with," Abu said. "But when we're talking about it, does it exist? There's no question about it." — AP



**UTAH:** In this video frame grab taken on June 29, 2013, Zaq Landsberg stands on acres of land in northwestern Box Elder. — AP

## LOUISIANA GOVERNOR RUNOFF CANDIDATES FOCUS ON JINDAL

**BATON ROUGE:** As the two men vying to be Louisiana's next governor move into the campaign ahead of a Nov 21 runoff, they're asking the state's voters to decide who's more unpopular in the state: term-limited Republican Gov Bobby Jindal or Democratic President Barack Obama.

Republican US Sen David Vitter and Democratic state Rep John Bel Edwards highlighted their strategies Saturday night as the candidate list was whittled to two in the governor's race. Vitter called Edwards a liberal and said supporting the state representative would "be the same as voting to make Barack Obama governor of Louisiana." Edwards said Vitter represents a "third Jindal term" in office.

Obama remains highly unpopular in the conservative state, but so does Jindal. The two-term governor's policies are criticized as causing continued financial problems at home, and his absenteeism while he runs for the GOP presidential nomination has drawn ire. Vitter and Edwards were the top two vote-getters in Saturday's open primary, which pit all candidates regardless of party in a competition against each other.

Edwards always seemed assured of a runoff spot because of his standing as the only major Democratic candidate. Vitter bested two other major Republicans to secure his position on the November ballot, eclipsing Public Service Commissioner Scott Angelle and Lt Gov Jay Dardenne, rivals who called

Vitter's eight-year-old prostitution scandal a stain on Louisiana.

The senator apologized in 2007 for a "very serious sin" after he was linked through phone records to Washington's "DC Madam." The race was tighter than Vitter had hoped, with Edwards taking 40 percent of the primary vote and Vitter advancing with 23 percent, according to unofficial returns. Months ago, Vitter was atop the polls, flush with millions in campaign cash and running like an incumbent. But amid continued talk of the prostitution scandal and a drumbeat of criticism about his attack-heavy campaign tactics, Vitter's negatives spiked among voters. One PAC has been running an "Anybody But Vitter" campaign.

### 'Stark differences'

Vitter, however, maintained a strong conservative base that propelled him into the runoff. The two runoff contenders immediately took swipes at each other, suggesting the themes voters can expect next. Vitter is making the competition a partisan one, which has worked well for other Republican candidates in recent years as Louisiana became an increasingly red state.

"We have a stark difference in this runoff," Vitter said as he described Edwards' votes for Obama. He added: "John Bel Edwards is not a casual supporter of Barack Obama. He is a true believer." While he tied

Vitter to Jindal, Edwards also described the US senator as "Nixonian." "Over the next few weeks David Vitter is going to spend millions of dollars lying about my record, lying about my values, lying about my service to our country and to our state," Edwards said. An Ivy League-educated Rhodes Scholar from the New Orleans suburbs, Vitter has returned to a campaign style that has worked for him in previous races. He's running on conservative values and describing himself as a political outsider.

"The politicians in Baton Rouge have created one heck of a mess. The state budget in disarray, eight years of cuts to higher education, too many of our roads and bridges in complete disrepair and too many of our best and brightest having to leave the state for good opportunity," Vitter told supporters. Edwards is campaigning as a conservative Democrat. He's pro-gun and anti-abortion, and comes from a family of sheriffs. He has a West Point degree and military background.

"I live by the honor code, a cadet will not lie, cheat, steal or tolerate those who do. And David Vitter wouldn't last five minutes at West Point," Edwards said Saturday night. The primary race largely came down to personalities - and a referendum of sorts on whether Vitter's eight-year-old prostitution scandal still resonated with voters. Vitter has dodged talk of the scandal, suggesting he and the voters have moved on. — AP

## ENGLAND CELEBRATES 600TH ANNIVERSARY OF AGINCOURT VICTORY

**LONDON:** England was this week celebrating the 600th anniversary of the Battle of Agincourt, one of its greatest-ever battlefield victories, when king Henry V's longbow archers routed the French nobility. The battle on October 25, 1415 saw a heavily outnumbered English army inflict a catastrophic defeat on the enemy that altered the course of the Hundred Years' War. Commemorative services, Shakespeare performances, anniversary dinners, exhibitions, conferences and archery tournaments are marking the anniversary.

"By defeating the French, Henry V united the English. He was the last great warrior king of the Middle Ages," said Andrew Gimson, author of "Brief Lives of the Monarchs since 1066". King Henry was 28 at the time of the

battle, two years into his nine-year reign. He is buried in London at Westminster Abbey, which is holding a service marking the anniversary on Thursday, six centuries on from the day when news of the victory reached the city.

The abbey holds king Henry's "funerary achievements"—the personal items carried at his funeral, namely his sword, shield, saddle and helmet. King Henry's sword will be paraded through the abbey once again on Thursday and placed on the altar.

### Shakespeare's inspiration

Agincourt was immortalized in William Shakespeare's 1599 play "Henry V", whose stirring battle speeches still resound and feature in popular lexicon, including "Once more unto

the breach, dear friends", "we happy few, we band of brothers", and "Cry 'God for Harry, England, and Saint George!'" The Royal Shakespeare Company is staging the play at its base in the bard's hometown of Stratford-upon-Avon, central England, with Alex Hassell in the title role.

"Henry says that he and his troops shall be remembered because of their actions on St Crispin's Day until the ending of the world," Hassell told AFP. "Well, we may not be there yet but being part of their remembrance 600 years on feels rather wondrous." He added: "There will be an added weight to the notion of dying in battle, of legacy, of being remembered, and of making history." Casualty estimates vary widely, but English losses are thought to have numbered more than 100,

while the French lost thousands, including around 40 percent of the French nobility on some counts.

### London guilds helped victory

The historic Worshipful Company of Bowyers, or bowmakers, held a special Agincourt Dinner on Thursday and hailed the longbowmen who it described as "a key component in a stunning victory". The guild is part of the City of London, the British capital's financial hub, which is keen to recall its part in bankrolling the expedition.

It contributed 10,000 marks — £3 million (\$4.6 million, 4.1 million euros) in today's money. It is putting on show the rarely-seen Crystal Sceptre, the 17-inch long mace given to the City by king Henry to mark his tri-

ade. "Over the last six centuries, only a handful of people have seen or touched the Crystal Sceptre," the City said. It is only removed from the Guildhall vaults for coronations and the ceremonial swearing-in of City of London mayors, who silently place their hands on it. It contains red spinels from Afghanistan, blue sapphires from Sri Lanka and pearls from the Gulf. "The story of Henry V is part of our national consciousness," said Guildhall gallery curator Katy Pearce. The Guildhall exhibition also contains an iron mace used in the battle. The anniversary is, of course, also being remembered in Agincourt, the village in northeastern France where the two armies clashed. A remembrance ceremony will take place on the battlefield, involving French and British troops. — AFP



**BUJANOVAC:** Migrants and refugees dry their clothes on railroad tracks after crossing the Macedonian-Serbian border. — AFP

## EU, BALKANS LEADERS HOLD EMERGENCY REFUGEE TALKS

'EU EXPECTS EVERYONE TO OBEY THE RULES'

**BRUSSELS:** European Union and Balkan leaders hold emergency talks on Europe's refugee crisis yesterday amid threats from three frontline states to close their borders if northern EU countries stop accepting migrants. The mini summit, called by European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, groups the heads of 10 EU nations, including German Chancellor Angela Merkel, plus the leaders of Albania, Serbia and Macedonia.

The meeting comes after Bulgaria, Romania and Serbia on Saturday warned they would not allow themselves to become a "buffer zone" for the tens of thousands of arrivals streaming into Europe. "All three countries... are ready if Germany and Austria and other countries close their borders (...), we will be ready to also close our borders at that very same moment," Bulgarian Prime Minister Boyko Borisov said after talks between the three Balkan leaders in Sofia.

Over past months, non-EU member Serbia has been swamped by migrants on their way from Greece and Macedonia to northern Europe, though Bulgaria and Romania have been much less affected. Juncker's office said yesterday's mini summit was needed to foster greater cooperation "in view of the unfolding emergency". In an interview published yesterday by the German newspaper Bild, Juncker urged countries to stop handing on migrants to

neighboring states in chaotic conditions. States "must take care to uphold orderly procedures and conditions," he said. "The European Commission expects everyone to obey the rules of the game if we don't want to put Schengen at risk," Juncker said, referring to the EU's border-free zone. The EU is facing record arrivals with more than 47,500 people in the last week entering Slovenia, which has a population of just two million, and 48,000 entering Greece, which has a population of 11 million, according to official figures. With winter looming, Amnesty International on Saturday warned of a humanitarian disaster if migrants are stranded at borders.

"Every day counts," Juncker told Bild. Without action, "we will soon witness families dying wretchedly in chilly rivers in the Balkans." Slovenia is seeking help after becoming the main entry point into the Schengen zone when Hungary sealed its southern borders with coils of razor wire. Slovenia has asked Brussels for 140 million euros (\$155 million), in addition to police backup and logistical support. It says that if no help emerges, it may have to build its own border barrier with Croatia.

### Human flow

An unprecedented 670,000 people mainly fleeing conflict in Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan have flooded

into Europe so far this year, in the biggest movement of its kind since World War II. Most are travelling through Turkey, Greece and the western Balkans, seeking new lives in Germany and other northern EU states, creating a huge strain on those countries.

"The only goal of this long journey is to flee the disgusting war so we can start a safe life," Shaker Abara, 37, from the Syrian town of Homs, told AFP at the Berkasovo border area as he was waiting to cross from Serbia into Croatia in chilly temperatures early yesterday. More than 4,000 people arrived there overnight in less than 12 hours, police said.

Since last week's backlogs when thousands of refugees spent nights in the open air defying heavy rain and freezing temperatures, the situation has improved as the authorities of the two countries agreed to speed up the flow. "The most difficult was when we left Turkey on a rubber boat. There were 38 people onboard, including a lot of women and children. Luckily we safely arrived to Greece. Now we are in Europe and we already feel safe somehow," Abara said. The 10 leaders from the 28-nation European Union who are invited to the mini summit are those from Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, The Netherlands, Romania, Slovenia and Sweden. But the meeting has once again highlighted a split in the EU over how to handle the crisis. — AFP

## MODI TO MAKE FIRST UK TRIP ON NOVEMBER 12

**NEW DELHI:** Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said yesterday he was looking forward to visiting Britain next month, his first trip as premier after London lifted a decade-long boycott against the leader. "I will embark on a visit to Britain a day after Diwali," Modi said, referring to the major Hindu festival to be celebrated on November 11. "I am looking forward to my visit," he added, in his monthly radio address. Modi will be in London from November 12 to 14 before heading to Turkey for a G20 summit, an Indian foreign ministry source confirmed to AFP on condition of anonymity.

During the three-day trip, Modi will meet with Britain's leadership and address the country's large Indian diaspora at Wembley Stadium, as well as inaugurate a memorial of India's low-caste icon Bhimrao Ambedkar at his former London house. The trip is Modi's first since London ended its decade-long diplomatic boycott of the Hindu nationalist in 2012 over deadly anti-Muslim riots while he was running his home state of Gujarat. Prime Minister David Cameron invited the premier to visit Britain shortly after Modi's landslide general election victory in May 2014, in a bid to boost trade and diplomatic ties with India. — AFP

## IVORY COAST FACES KEY STABILITY TEST

**ABIDJAN:** Ivory Coast voted in a presidential election yesterday expected to return incumbent Alassane Ouattara to power amid hopes of cementing peace after years of violence and upheaval. More than six million people are eligible to cast ballots but concern is high that the violence sparked by the last election in 2010 will this time render a low voter turnout. "I want a lasting peace and work for my children," said Bintou Coulibaly, a trader casting her ballot in a neighborhood of the commercial capital, Abidjan.

Voting was due to begin at 0700 GMT

IMF was finally inaugurated president in 2011 after weeks of violence that followed then president Gbagbo's refusal to concede defeat in the election. Gbagbo was eventually ousted by French-backed pro-Ouattara forces and is now in a Dutch jail. He goes on trial next month for war crimes at the International Criminal Court in The Hague.

### Vote-rigging claims

Ouattara's main challenger is former prime minister Pascal Affi N'Guessan, who is running on behalf of Gbagbo's Ivorian Popular Front. Former Prime Minister



**ABIDJAN:** Ivory Coast's president Alassane Ouattara (center) watches as his wife, Dominique Ouattara, casts her ballot at a polling station during elections. — AP

but was slow to get underway, with some polling booths still closed two hours later. In Abidjan, many were an hour behind schedule. Polling officially ends at 1700 GMT. The West African state, the world's leading cocoa producer, needs a peaceful and credible election to draw a line under the deadly violence that marked Ouattara's victory five years ago. But opposition figures have cried foul, with three candidates having withdrawn from the race which now leaves Ouattara vying against six others.

### 'Consolidate peace'

"We'll be far, very far from the 80 percent participation at the election in 2010," one observer warned. Around 3,000 died in the violence following the 2010 elections which pitted Ouattara against former strongman leader Laurent Gbagbo. The crisis was a bloody epilogue to a decade of upheaval, splitting west Africa's economic powerhouse between a rebel-held north and a loyalist south.

A top economist, Ouattara, 73, is seeking a solid first-round win to dodge the threat of a run-off against one of the six other presidential contenders. Some 34,000 soldiers are on duty to ensure voting passes off peacefully, and preliminary results are expected early in the week. Ouattara has campaigned on turning around Ivory Coast's economy and securing stability after years of turmoil.

"For the next five years, we will strengthen our institutions to consolidate peace," said Ouattara, rounding off his campaign at a rally of thousands of supporters in Abidjan. The former deputy head of the

Charles Konan Banny dropped out of the running on Friday-becoming the third candidate to do so-citing "grave irregularities" in the organisation of the vote.

Former foreign minister Amara Essy had also withdrawn, along with former national assembly president Mamadou Koulibaly, who condemned the vote as "rigged". The government shrugged off their boycott as a bid to duck out of a competition they were tipped to lose. But Ouattara has come under criticism from Amnesty International for the detention of opponents ahead of the vote, and rights campaigners have said little justice has been meted out to members of his camp over the 2010-11 violence.

In Yopougon, the working class pro-Gbagbo district of Abidjan known for its buzzing nightlife, there was deep gloom on Saturday, with many residents still seeing Gbagbo as the rightful winner of the 2010 vote. "For us, October 25 is a day of mourning in Yopougon," said hairdresser Daniel as he sat outside his salon, adding that he would not be voting yesterday. "Going to vote would be like violating the constitution myself," he said. "Tell me who to vote for while my parents are languishing in Ouattara's prisons," said a woman who gave her family name as Yaba, standing amongst steaming pots at her restaurant.

But in the staunchly pro-Ouattara neighbourhood of Adobo, the mood was upbeat amongst voters cheering on their champion, known as "Ado" after his initials. "Ado will build roads, he's going to bring work for young people," said 19-year-old Ousmane, who lost his mother in the violence sparked by the last election. — AFP

## DECISIVE UKRAINE ELECTION MARRED BY CANCELLATION

**KIEV:** Western-backed Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko's fragile ruling coalition faced a major survival test yesterday in local elections that were instantly marred as voting was cancelled in the strategic port of Mariupol.

Polling stations opened across all Kiev-administered regions except for Mariupol—a southeastern city of nearly 500,000 that provides a land bridge between pro-Moscow rebel regions and Ukraine's Russian-annexed Crimea peninsula. "Polling stations did not open in Mariupol because the ballots were not ready," electoral commission Natalia Kashchiv said. A statement from Poroshenko's Solidarity party said the polls "were aborted... due to the improper preparation of election ballots, the absence of control over their printing and number, and reliable storage." Poroshenko's party said it still hoped to conduct mayoral and regional council votes in the city in the coming weeks.

The combative elections come during a lull in fighting and with worries growing that Ukraine is slipping off the global radar despite just turning into Europe's second-poorest country and still standing as a bulwark against Russia's feared expansion west. But politicians in Ukraine were most concerned about what happens in Mariupol—a vital outlet for the east's industrial output that had militias stationed on its northeastern outskirts throughout most of the war. The devastated city came under a January 24 mortar and rocket attack monitors blamed on the insurgents that killed 31 civilians and wounded more than 100.

### Slipping off global radar

The collapse of Poroshenko's bickering ruling alliance could have grave consequences that could not only result in the eventual dissolution of parliament but also derail Kiev's plans of applying for EU membership by 2020. Twenty months have passed since the ex-Soviet nation sparked the world's imagination through unceasing protests that ultimately toppled a despised Kremlin-backed leader and appeared to anchor Ukraine's future with the West.

But Russia's subsequent seizure of Crimea and the pro-Moscow eastern revolt that followed in which more than 8,000 died have seen the nation of 40 million stripped of its most strategic naval bases and industrial heartland.

The popularity of Poroshenko's government has plunged because of this year's drastic utility bill hikes and other belt-tightening measures prescribed by world lenders under their \$40 billion (36 billion euro) economic rescue loan. And Poroshenko's seeming inability to sideline a handful of influential tycoons has seen his own ratings slip to less than half of what they were when he became president in May 2014.

The party of Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk—a top Poroshenko partner who won October's parlia-

mentary vote—has seen his approval languishing hover near zero and is fielding no candidates. Frustration at the West's refusal to arm Ukrainian forces and only provide tightly-regulated financial help has further bolstered the election odds of the marginalized but militant far right.

Polls show that pro-Russian groups—active in Mariupol—are also gaining momentum because of Kiev's effective economic blockade of rebel-run regions in which an estimated 3.5 million people still live. "As much as we need help from a global coalition and regional unity, we also need a domestic coalition that will ruin Putin's ambition of blowing our country apart from the inside," Poroshenko said on one recent campaign stump. — AFP



**ZANZIBAR:** Tanzanian women queue to cast his ballot at a polling station yesterday. Analysts say the presidential race will pit John Magfuli of the long-ruling Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM), seen as the narrow favorite, against ex-prime minister Edward Lowassa, a CCM stalwart who recently defected to the opposition Chadema, heading a coalition of parties. — AFP

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You will be responsible for reporting to and assisting/ deputizing for the Plant Manager in the operation and maintenance of the facility, establishing a clear understanding and implementation of the O&M contract T&Cs, as well as, establishing and implementing systems to log, track, trend and forecast essential parameters of plant technical and financial performance.

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**Assistant Brand Manager**  
AMS Baeshen & Co.  
KSA

You will be responsible for conducting thorough analysis on the assigned brand(s) on regular basis, including internal and external data and report findings with recommended actions, conducting frequent market visits, and report findings with recommended actions, as well as, initiating and developing ideas to build the business.

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**Area Manager**  
Derwent Yeomans Executive  
JLT - KSA

You will be responsible for ensuring that the store operates at the optimum level in terms of staffing, product, service and staff, ensuring that stores are meeting KPIs and standard operating procedures in order to maintain brand and company standards, as well as, supporting stores in maximizing revenue and driving sales, in order to meet the monthly sales objectives.

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**Spare Parts Manager**  
M. Omer Kabli Trading Est.  
KSA

You will be responsible for directing and controlling the designated brand Spare Parts staff to ensure that they are appropriately motivated and trained and carrying out their responsibilities to the required standards, as well as, contributing to the achievement of the Spare Parts department goals and objective.

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**Development and Marketing Manager** - Burger Nook  
KSA

You will be responsible for developing and implementing marketing and sales strategies and communication for meeting agreed company objectives, actively seeking out new clients and projects, maintaining relationships with current clients, as well as, managing and producing proposal responses for new work.

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**Brand Manager**  
Lunatus Marketing &  
Consultancy - UAE

You will be required to have minimum 3 - 5 years' experience within the UAE market with Medical Background, experience in development and implementation of marketing objectives and strategies and developing promotional plans, as well as, managing, developing, and implementing marketing activities to maximize sales of an assigned brand.

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**Brand Research Manager**  
I-Expatriate  
UAE

You will be responsible for taking the detailed brief we give you and run with it, preparing a plan of approach to each research project individually, identifying priorities and contents inline with our discovery model, as well as, reporting internally at prescribed times throughout the process on your progress.

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**Associate Manager - Brand**  
IFFCO  
UAE

You will be responsible for sales revenue generation across GCC and Levant region, developing the brand in the region from strategic planning to tactical activities, monitoring and analyzing market trends through market research, MIS and other similar platforms, as well as, strategizing and planning the sales process management.

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**Brands & Partnerships Manager** - Mini Exchange  
UAE

You will be responsible for scouting out, securing and maintaining partnerships with brands, retailers and distributors across the UAE and also internationally and you will be required to be ambitious, results driven, organised, as well as, sales/ business development focused and good at managing teams.

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**Marketing Manager - Malls**  
Al Mana  
Qatar

You will be responsible for designing, developing and executing an effective complete marketing plan for a shopping mall complex, increasing national and international PR exposure through the use of digital and non digital marketing channels, developing, nurturing and maintaining partnerships with industry and government bodies, as well as, managing any promotional/ marketing events.

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**Country Manager**  
Human Capital Group Qatar  
Qatar

You will be responsible for all the market activity, managing the Card and SE Business in the country to achieve aggressive profitability and growth targets, handling administrative and legal issues and lead employees, as well as, directing profit and loss responsibility for the business and developing business plans for the Card & Merchant acquisition, NCA, CIF and attrition targets should be achieved.

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**Maintenance and Business Manager** - Michael Page  
International Limited - Qatar

You will be responsible for expanding channel business by sourcing new partners, maintaining efficient business relationships with existing partners to enhance profitability of business operations, undertaking business case assessment to enhance channel sale relations, as well as, assessing and evaluating new vendor products.

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**Store Manager** - H&M  
M.H. Alshaya Co.  
Qatar

You will be responsible for maximising store contribution by proactively driving sales, reducing stock loss and managing controllable costs, motivating and developing your team members will be integral to your role whilst ensuring the store complies with all company regulations and procedures and you will be required to have proven store management experience, as well as, excellent English skills.

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## MALDIVES LEADER SAYS VP'S ARREST 'NOT EASY'

**MALE:** The Maldives' president appealed for calm throughout the island nation yesterday, after his deputy was arrested on suspicion of treason for allegedly plotting to assassinate him with an explosion on his boat. President Yameen Abdul Gayoom, who escaped the Sept 28 blast unhurt, told reporters it "was not easy" to see the arrest of Vice President Ahmed Adeb, a young protege appointed to the office only three months ago.

"It was taken for the security of the country," Gayoom said, but added that he would wait for the case to go to trial before beginning any process to impeach him. The arrest marks the latest in a series of political shakedowns and power struggles in the Maldives that have seized the fragile, young democracy since it held its first elections in 2008, after 30 years of autocracy under Gayoom's half-brother.

After Adeb's arrest on Saturday, a small group of his supporters staged a protest that led to a police crackdown, with 17 people detained. The home minister said Adeb would be charged with "high treason," an offense not specified in the penal code but still used in the Maldives for terrorism or offenses against the state by government officials.

Gayoom said the investigation suggested

Adeb was connected with two soldiers arrested for tampering with evidence on the boat soon after the blast. He said police had found bomb-making materials at their homes. Adeb's lawyer on Saturday called the allegations against his client untrue.

During a hearing in which Adeb and his lawyers participated by teleconference, the court approved his detention for 15 days of questioning while police conduct raids on the homes and businesses of his family and associates. Gayoom has been dodging controversy since he won the presidency in 2013 after hotly disputed elections against a predecessor who was forced to resign three years earlier amid public protests. Former President Mohamed Nasheed is now serving 13 years behind bars on a conviction delivered in a rushed trial widely criticized as unfair.

### Hugely popular

The 33-year-old Adeb, who was hugely popular with young Maldivians, was credited with delivering the important youth vote to Gayoom. Some 40 percent of the mostly Muslim country's 350,000 people are aged from 15 to 34. In July, Adeb was moved from the Tourism Ministry to become vice president,

after lawmakers loyal to Gayoom impeached his predecessor and lowered the minimum presidential age from 35 to 30.

The promotion put Adeb next in line for the presidency, should Gayoom be unable to govern. Adeb was also given influence and powers beyond those of his elder colleagues, including heading the country's economic council and mapping out plans for a special economic zone. Meanwhile, he kept control over tourism - a major industry for an island nation known worldwide for its palm-fringed beaches, clear waters and luxury resorts. After the explosion tore through the president's boat last month, rumors soon began circulating that Adeb was behind the blast - allegations he emphatically denied.

Investigators ruled out mechanical failure as a cause of the blast, and the government said an explosive device had been placed under the seat the president usually occupied. Authorities carried out raids on the homes and businesses of Adeb's associates, but have refused to give any details about what may allegedly have been found. Gayoom also sacked his defense minister and the police commissioner after the blast. Adeb was taken into custody Saturday at the airport immediately upon returning from an



**MALE:** In this photograph received from the Maldives Presidency yesterday, Maldives President Abdulla Yameen speaks of the dismissal of Vice President Ahmed Adeb from his duties during his Address to the Nation. — AFP

official visit to China. Police spokesman Ismail Ali said Adeb was wanted "on suspicion of involvement in the boat blast." Three soldiers were also arrested Saturday, including a former

member of Adeb's security detail and a member of the army's bomb squad, bringing the total number detained in the boat blast investigation to seven. — AP

## SILENCING DOUBTS: LOST GEETA READY FOR HOME

### DEAF-MUTE GIRL TO BE REUNITED WITH FAMILY

**KARACHI:** Accidentally stranded in Pakistan for more than a decade, the young deaf-mute woman shows off a single treasured photograph of the people she believes are her long-lost family in India and who she will soon travel to meet.

Known only as Geeta, she has been stuck in Pakistan ever since she wandered over one of the world's most militarized borders from India more than 10 years ago. Lost and alone, unable to identify her family or where she came from, she has remained in Pakistan under the care of the country's largest welfare organization, the Edhi Foundation, living in a shelter in the port city of Karachi.

Now after repeated false leads, and thanks to a Bollywood hit and the single photograph-Geeta believes she has finally identified her family. Today, she is set to fly to Delhi, where she hopes to be reunited with her loved ones. "This is my father, and my younger brother," Geeta told AFP during an interview in Karachi this week using a combination of sign language and facial expressions as she pointed to the photograph showing the family from the Indian state of Bihar.

A woman also shown in the picture is believed to be her stepmother. Though her eyes glistened during the interview, Geeta appeared calm and confident, expressing no doubt that her family had been found. She even showed off the clothes she plans to wear for the Hindu festival of Diwali in India next month: a scarlet blouse and turquoise ghagra, or long skirt, heavily embroidered. But questions remain. The unnamed family she has identified say that the daughter they lost was married and had a baby when she disappeared-but Geeta is believed to have only been around 11 or 12 when she was found by Pakistani police.

"She is quite sure about her father and brothers, but she will take a DNA test in India before she is handed over to the family," said Bilquees Edhi, matriarch of the Edhi family, who fostered Geeta at the foundation's centre for hundreds of abandoned and orphaned children in Karachi.



**KARACHI:** In this photograph taken on October 22, 2015, deaf-mute Indian woman, Geeta holds a photograph of a family in India which she believes is her family, during an interview at the EDHI Foundation. — AFP

### Bollywood boost

Geeta, who is believed to be in her twenties, was alone and disoriented with no identity papers when police found her on a train that had crossed the border from India into the eastern city of Lahore. She was thought to have strayed into Pakistani territory by mistake, but could not remember or explain exactly where she was from, and police soon handed her over to the Edhi Foundation.

Even the name "Geeta" was given to her by Edhi staff. Years slipped by, but her case was given a fresh boost in August after the release of a Bollywood movie that told the mirror image of her story—a mute,

young Pakistani woman ends up trapped in India. "Bajrangi Bhaijaan", featuring Indian superstars Salman Khan and Kareena Kapoor, became a smash hit. The spotlight returned to Geeta, and the Indian government pledged to bring her home.

Authorities turned up many families saying that Geeta could be their daughter, but she claimed to recognize the family from Bihar, and has kept their framed picture in a steel case ever since. On Friday, India's foreign ministry spokesman rejected the suggestion that Geeta's return had been arranged too hastily, given her ties with the family were not yet established. — AFP

## KOREAN SIBLINGS CANNOT RESOLVE OLD GRIEVANCE

**SEOUL:** This weekend, scores of Koreans on both sides of the border are holding reunions with family members divided by the Korean War some six decades ago. Most have not seen each other since then - and may never again. This is the second three-day session of reunions organized by the two countries held at the Diamond Mountain resort in North Korea.

South Korean Lee Cheon-wu, a 78-year-old retired farmer, was at the first session, held during the middle of the week. Here, in his own words, is what he will remember about what will likely be his last meeting with his 84-year-old sister, North Korean Ri Mun Wu. When the North Korean participants came into the reunion center, I quickly recognized my elder sister because she looks exactly like our late mother. I quickly shouted, "Sister!" and rushed over and embraced her. She asked me "Who are you?" So I said, "It's me. Cheon-wu!" She wept and hugged me.

They look so much alike, it really feels like I reunited with my mother, who died 24 years ago. She was 12 and I was 6 when she was sent to North Korea in 1943, before the war, so we didn't share many stories about the good old days. We just talked about how we've lived in the years since. She had a big misunderstanding about our parents so I tried to resolve that, but it didn't work.

### Family forced

My parents sent her to a relative's house in Hamhung in North Korea because they couldn't financially take care of all their children at the time. They planned to get her later, but they couldn't because the Korean War broke out in 1950. My sister said a relative there told her that our parents had sold

her, so the new family forced her to do all the housework like dish-washing and rice-cooking. I repeatedly told her that our parents didn't sell her and that they tried to get her back when the situation got better but she wouldn't believe it.

I learned she was alive about eight years ago when an ethnic Korean Chinese visited me and said my sister was looking for me. We exchanged letters and photos through this broker, who told me they could bring her to a certain place in China to arrange a meeting with her if I came to China with 2 million won (\$1,770). But I didn't do it because I worried they might be trying to swindle me. This week, I took the two letters they said my sister wrote and asked her if she'd really written them. She's now suffering Alzheimer's disease and she couldn't remember. But I came to believe they were her letters after talking with her.

I brought two suitcases full of medicine, pain killers, medicated patches, cosmetics, nutritional supplements, long underwear, a coat, a parka and pants. When I asked her to put on some of the clothes, I found she was wearing three thin long johns. I told her I'm not wearing any long johns and she was really surprised. She's 84 so she's old and thin and more sensitive to cold.

Her Alzheimer's, age and a hearing problem meant that we wouldn't have been able to reunite if this happened two or three years later. I also gave her \$500, and she gave us three bottles of liquor and some cookies. She said she was sorry for not giving me more even though I gave her many presents. "Please, don't say that," I said. "I didn't come here to get presents from you. You probably didn't come for the presents either." "You were smart when you were a little boy and you're still smart," she said. — AP

## BANGLADESH REJECTS IS CLAIM OF SHIITE ATTACK

**DHAKA:** Bangladesh's government yesterday dismissed the Islamic State group's claim that it was behind a bomb attack on thousands of Shiite Muslims in the nation's capital, and said there was no evidence that the Sunni extremist group had any following in the South Asian country.

It was the third time the Islamic State group claimed responsibility for an attack in Bangladesh, after it said it was behind the recent killing of two foreigners - an Italian aid worker and a Japanese agricultural worker. The government again redirected blame toward locally banned Islamist groups and the main Islamist political party, accusing them of staging Saturday's attack to destabilize the already fractious and impoverished nation.

"Again, I am saying there is no IS," Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan said. The country is struggling, however, to stem rising fears about radical Islam after a spate of violent attacks, including the murder of four atheist bloggers. Responsibility for those attacks was claimed by the domestic Islamist group Ansarullah Bangla Team, and authorities are investigating new threats against more bloggers made in an email signed by an Ansarullah spokesman and sent to Bangladeshi media last week.

### Online statements

Before dawn on Saturday, unidentified attackers hurled a set of homemade bombs into a crowd of Shiite Muslims as they were gathering for a religious procession in Dhaka's old quarter. A teenage boy died and more than 100 other people were injured. It was the first time the 400-year-old Shiite procession for the holiday of Ashoura had been targeted in Dhaka.

Shiites are a minority in Bangladesh, but are generally not discriminated against, and attacks against them are virtually unheard of.

Within hours of the attack, the Islamic State group posted a statement online claiming responsibility for the attack, according to the SITE Intelligence Group, which monitors jihadi activities. The statement could not be independently verified. Police were questioning three suspects detained after the blasts and examining closed-circuit television footage for clues, Dhaka police spokesman Muntasirul Islam said. Investigators also visited the bomb site - the 17th century Huseni Dalan, a Shiite center of learning - where three bombs exploded and two were found undetonated.

Despite the attacks, thousands of Shiites went ahead with the 8-kilometer procession on Saturday without any further disruption. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, a moderate who pledged to stamp out militant radical groups, has overseen the arrests of dozens of suspected militants and the banning of six groups in recent years. Experts say the crackdown has left some of Bangladesh's more hard-line Muslims feeling alienated, and has led resurgence in activity by Islamic extremist groups.

The violence has rattled foreigners and threatened the impoverished country's economy, which relies heavily on foreign aid and a \$25 billion garment industry that produces clothing for top international brands. This story has been corrected to show that an Ansarullah Bangla Team spokesman signed an email threatening more bloggers, instead of an Islamic State group spokesman. — AP

## TALEBAN UPSURGE DRAWING CITY DWELLERS INTO BATTLE

**MAIMANA:** Draped in a bandolier of shotgun cartridges, an Afghan cafe owner was forced to cobble together a militia of neighborhood fruit vendors and vegetable hawkers when the Taliban threatened his city, demonstrating an alarming new push into urban areas. Emboldened by their recent three-day occupation of Kunduz, the first Afghan city to fall to the Taliban since their ouster from power in 2001, insurgents have made brazen attempts to overrun several other provincial centers, from Ghazni in the south to Maimana in the north. Seen previously as a rural militant movement capable only of hit-and-run attacks on cities, the Taliban's aggressive campaign to capture major urban areas reveals a highly potent insurgency that poses a crucial test for Afghanistan's overstretched NATO-backed forces.

On the night of October 4, less than a week after Kunduz fell, insurgents raided the capital of northern Faryab province bordering Turkmenistan. Storming down the flanking shale-brown hills, they forced residents to snatch up meat cleavers and Kalashnikovs to defend the city alongside informal militias as security

forces appeared to abandon their posts. "Maimana city was like a house without doors that night," said cafe owner Haji Mohammad Ashraf, a 62-year-old community leader with a salt-and-pepper beard and a shotgun in his lap. "People had no choice but to stand up and fight." As insurgents breached the Maimana's outer defences, coming within four kilometers of the city, close-range battles erupted—"bullets were striking against bullets," a resident told AFP.

Pandemonium broke out as people scrambled to flee, fearing an outcome much worse than in Kunduz, where Taliban death squads were accused of rape, summary executions and torching and plundering buildings. Those who stayed burned their government IDs, shredded polio vaccination documents and tore down pictures of unveiled women as residents hastened to erase anything that could invite the wrath of occupying Taliban cadres. Ashraf mobilised his 12 sons and neighboring shopkeepers, who traditionally keep small arms at home but have little or no combat experience. "I told them: 'Let's defend our city, let's fight till the last drop of blood in our veins.'" Before he went to fight, Ashraf

locked up his two wives, six daughters and other female relatives in a room, with a sobering warning that he would blow them up with grenades to protect their "honor" if the Taliban came. "I told them: 'If we cannot protect you, we will kill you.'"

### 'Major catastrophe'

The Taliban were pushed back but the mobilization of citizen militias raised troubling questions about the ability of NATO-trained Afghan forces as they struggle to rein in the expanding insurgency. Maimana and Kunduz are part of a broader Taliban push, with the UN estimating that the group's reach is the widest since 2001 and more than half of the districts across Afghanistan at risk.

Last week Washington announced it would slow the withdrawal of US troops from the country, with President Barack Obama admitting that Afghan forces are not yet ready to stand alone against the resurgent militants. "Citizen militias prevented a major catastrophe in Maimana," said Ashraf Sharifi, head of the political science department at Faryab University. "The public confidence in government forces is very low and that in people's forces and militias is very high."

Maimana residents said the Taliban raid exposed the paralysis of the security leadership of the province, with many reported seeing deserted checkpoints, abandoned humvees and empty police stations. Two militia commanders in outlying villages told AFP they fielded frantic calls from policemen seeking refuge in their homes. "Many officers lost their spine that night," Maimana prison chief Mohammed Sarder Timory told AFP. Security officials deny leaving their posts.

### 'Left to die'

Arming civilians as a bulwark against the insurgents is a strategy fraught with risk in the already violence-ravaged nation. But, says Hafizullah Fetrat: "If the government lacks the ability to protect civilians, then people have the right to defend their property, their wives, their dignity." In the long term, however, weapons need to be registered and civilians need to be disarmed or adjusted in the ranks of security forces," the head of the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission in Maimana told AFP. After the Taliban retreat, Ashraf's eldest son, 25-year-old Rustom-who wields a Kalashnikov and hand-cuffs on the off-chance he might catch a militant alleviated a new security push in his neighborhood. — AFP



**FARYAB:** In this photograph taken on October 16, 2015, an Afghan armed man Sohrab, 28, (second left) son of cafe owner Haji Mohammad Ashraf, 62, stands as residents make a security post outside his house in Maimana, the capital of the northern province. — AFP



MUSCAT: Omani Interior Minister Hamoud bin Faisal Al-Busaidi seals a ballot box at a polling station yesterday. — AFP

## OMANIS ELECT COUNCIL WITH LIMITED POWERS

MUSCAT: Omanis yesterday elected an 85-member consultative council whose powers are limited in a country where the longtime ruling sultan holds all major government posts. Authorities are yet to announce the turnout of the election for the new Majlis al-Shura, whose powers Sultan Qaboos slightly expanded in 2011 after unprecedented social unrest in the Gulf Arab country. Yesterday men and women voted separately in the conservative and normally quiet nation, choosing from 590 candidates who included 20 women. Oman was the first Gulf monarchy to allow women to vote in 1994.

Fawzia Al-Kindie, who cast her ballot yesterday, said: "I want my vote to reach the government. It is in my

interest." Polling closed at 1500 GMT and the electoral committee said results would be announced at an unspecified time. The majlis was created in 1991 and has a four-year term. It has no role in defence, internal security or foreign affairs. But in late 2011, the majlis elected its speaker for the first time and assumed the power to grill ministers. It came about as part of measures decreed by Sultan Qaboos to respond to social unrest which included giving the majlis the ability to revise and propose legislation. Besides Oman, Kuwait and Bahrain are the only Arab states in the Gulf with parliaments elected by universal suffrage, but all three forbid political parties. — AFP

## SAUDI SHIITE CLERIC'S DEATH SENTENCE UPHOLD

DUBAI: A high court in Saudi Arabia has upheld on appeal a guilty verdict and death sentence against a Shiite cleric who galvanized young activists with his outspoken criticism of the authorities, his brother said yesterday. Sheikh Nimr Al-Nimr was a central figure in Shiite protests that erupted in 2011 as part of the Arab Spring, and any decision to carry out his execution would likely spark new unrest among the OPEC powerhouse's Shiite minority. He was found guilty of sedition and other charges in October last year.

His brother Mohammed Al-Nimr announced the latest ruling on his Twitter account. He told AP the family was informed of the decision by phone. Saudi King Salman must still sign off on the sentence before it is carried out. "We hope a royal pardon will be issued," Mohammed Al-Nimr said. "This verdict could cause major trouble ... because my brother Sheikh Al-Nimr is a prominent figure for Shiites, mainly in the Gulf."

Last year's verdict in the Specialized Criminal Court found Nimr guilty of a host of crimes including, among others, incite-

ment of vandalism and sectarian strife, failing to obey or pledge allegiance to then-King Abdullah, calling for the collapse of the state and insulting relatives and companions of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). The court was set up in 2008 to handle terrorism cases.

Executions in Saudi Arabia are frequently carried out by beheading. Nimr's case attracted international attention after the prosecution unsuccessfully urged the court to have the cleric's body and severed head put on public display. Nimr has not denied political charges leveled against him but says he has never advocated violence. His supporters and rights groups see the case against him and other government opponents as an effort to silence dissent, particularly among members of the Shiite minority, many of whom are concentrated in the oil-rich east.

Sunni-ruled Saudi Arabia is embroiled in a sectarian-tinged rivalry with Shiite powerhouse Iran that is playing out in civil wars in Syria and Yemen, where the two countries support opposing sides. Riyadh is wary of what it sees as

Iranian incitement among Shiites both at home and abroad, including in the neighboring Shiite majority but Sunni-ruled kingdom of Bahrain.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian was quick to criticize yesterday's ruling, saying "Saudi Arabia will face a heavy price for the execution of Sheikh Nimr Al-Nimr," according to comments carried by Iran's semi-official ISNA news agency. Nimr's nephew, Ali Mohammed Al-Nimr, who is the son of Mohammed Al-Nimr, is one of three young Shiite activists arrested for taking part in anti-government demonstrations before they turned 18 who were also sentenced to death last year. Their case has also attracted international attention and appeals by rights groups to quash the verdict.

In the face of the outcry over the juvenile arrest verdicts, Saudi Arabia's embassy in London issued a statement earlier this month declaring the independence of its judiciary. It said the kingdom "rejects any form of interference in its internal affairs and any impingement on its sovereignty." — AP

## ARAB ISRAELI PARAGLIDES INTO SYRIA TO JOIN IS

JERUSALEM: An Arab Israeli has crossed into Syria using a paraglider with the apparent goal of joining rebel fighters there, the Israeli army said yesterday. "A surveillance post identified an Israeli civilian entering Syrian territory using a paraglider" late on Saturday, an army statement read. "The preliminary review indicates that the civilian that entered is a resident of Jaljulia," an Arab town in central Israel. A military spokeswoman told AFP the army was "examining the possibility he had entered Syria in order to join rebels."

The army said the paraglider took off from the southern section of the Israeli occupied Golan Heights, adjacent to southern Syria. It challenged speculation that he may have been blown off-course and crossed the border inadvertently. "Initial investigation suggests Israeli-Arab crossed intentionally," a military statement on Twitter said.

Israeli newspaper Haaretz quoted members of the unidentified man's family as saying they received an anonymous phone call Saturday saying that he was unharmed. "The uncle said the young man's father had received a phone call about an hour after an (army) observation post spotted the paraglider, in which he was told, 'Your son is fine. He's with us. Don't worry,' before the call was cut off," the paper reported.

It said that the family had noticed the man becoming more intensely religious of late. "He started becoming more religious. He started praying every morning in the mosque," it quoted the uncle - who said he last saw the young man on Friday - as saying. "I told him that he's 23 now and the best thing he should do is get married and have children and raise a family." The Al-Yarmouk Martyrs Brigade, which is supportive of the Islamic State group and active in the Daraa area in south Syria, addressed rumors circulating about the flight on Saturday night,

stating on its Facebook page it had not taken an Israeli captive.

Speaking at the start of his Sunday cabinet meeting, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that he would be taking measures to strip the man of his Israeli citizenship. "Yesterday an Israeli citizen crossed our border in the Golan Heights into Syria to join the ranks of the enemy," he said. "We will act to nullify his citizenship. That is what is done in any such case. Whoever joins the ranks of the enemy to fight against Israel, will not be an Israeli citizen."

According to the Shin Bet internal security agency, some 45 Arab Israelis have joined jihadist forces in Syria, mainly entering through Turkey. At least four were killed in fighting there, and 10 were arrested upon returning to Israel. The Shin Bet has warned of the "security threat posed by Israelis joining IS after being exposed to propaganda disseminated by the group, primarily via the Internet. Their return to Israel, with knowledge of and practical experience in terrorism and warfare, exposes the country to significant risks of severe terrorism," the agency said in a statement earlier in the year.

Arabs, most of them Muslims, make up 20 percent of Israel's population. Inter-ethnic ties have been strained by this month's surge in Palestinian street attacks and Israeli security clampdowns that has killed more than 52 Palestinians and nine Israelis. Two videos purportedly by Islamic State and circulated on social media last week called for an escalation in the Palestinian violence, which has been fuelled in part by Muslim anger at stepped-up visits by Jews to a contested Jerusalem holy site. In one of the videos, a masked gunman speaking Hebrew with an Arabic accent threatens Israelis with all-out religious war. — Agencies

## MOSQUE BOMBERS RETRACT CONFESSIONS...

Continued from Page 1

Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. The Amir, during the meeting, praised Sheikh Mohammad, Mol Undersecretary Lt Gen Suleiman Al-Fahad, senior security commanders and personnel for the diligent and sincere efforts they exerted in execution of field operations. The Amir praised the security chiefs and personnel for carrying out these field missions aimed at safeguarding the security of the citizens and residents of the country, also hailing their efforts to maintain security and stability of the dear homeland.

In another development, as the National Assembly gets ready for the new term opener tomorrow, Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem hosted a traditional dinner for members of parliament and the Cabinet. A large number of MPs and ministers attended the banquet. MP Nabil

Al-Fadhli meanwhile said that a four-MP panel has been formed to coordinate the election of Assembly committees in order to ensure consensus among lawmakers.

The panel consists of MPs Fadhli, Mohammad Al-Huwaila, Youssef Al-Zalzalah and Ahmad Lari. The lawmaker said that the aim of the panel is to elect committees by consensus so the time of the Assembly is not wasted, but this does not mean the panel will try to deprive any member of his right to contest the election if no consensus is reached. All the committees are elected through a secret ballot.

MP Rakan Al-Nisf meanwhile sent a number of questions to Information Minister Sheikh Salman Humoud Al-Sabah about an entertainment program on Kuwait TV. He asked the minister about who the producer of the program is and whether it is a Kuwaiti or foreign one. He asked if the production company is not Kuwaiti, why did the ministry select it and on what basis.

## CHEAP OIL PUSHES STATE FIRMS TO MARKET

Continued from Page 1

government in the form of interest-free loans. In June 2011, it said a royal decree had awarded it around 50 billion riyals in this manner, and it received a similar injection in March 2014.

Now it is seeking more finance via the market. It announced plans for a \$1.5 billion sukuk program in August as well as for a corporate loan worth around \$2.3 billion; bankers said it was the first time that SEC had sought the kind of back-up revolver facility which many big firms have. Bankers are also encouraged by new laws in Dubai and Kuwait this year facilitating public-private partnerships (PPPs), which grant ownership stakes in and revenues from assets to investors in exchange for helping pay the original costs. In Kuwait, clauses covering land ownership in previous legislation prevented Islamic banks and investors from participating in projects. The new law resolves that issue and should encourage greater backing for PPPs in the country, said Alex Saleh, partner at law firm Al Tamimi and Co.

The difficulty for state firms, though, is that they are approaching these alternative funding solutions at a time when the market is changing. As governments' oil income shrinks, local banks are receiving fewer new deposits, reducing the cash available for projects. Money markets reflect this as rates rise. Meanwhile, new

Basel III global banking standards make less feasible the loans of 20-plus years that Gulf state firms have often sought. "During that 20-year term, the margin is fixed but rules come in and change the capital requirements for banks, so what was profitable on day one is no longer the case," said Mario Salameh, HSBC's head of project finance for the Middle East and North Africa.

This may drive borrowers towards bonds rather than loans, bringing the Middle East onto line with other areas of the world such as Australia and the United States, where infrastructure is either originally funded by project bonds or shorter-term loans are refinanced with bonds soon after the project is operational. Project bonds have long been talked about in the Gulf as the future of fund-raising, but so far only a handful have come to market.

PPPs have also struggled outside the utilities sector because Gulf states have been reluctant to cede control of assets. For example, Saudi Arabia's Medina airport expansion in 2012 was conceived as a PPP project but the ultimate structure was different, awarding the private sector concession rights rather than full ownership of a stake. "Ultimately, what the market really lacks is a big transport PPP which has come to the capital market and that can be used as a template," said Karim Nassif, credit analyst at Standard & Poor's. "I think the potential is there but the jury is out on what will be the next deal outside of power and water." — Reuters

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**Kuwait Times**  
THE LEADING INDEPENDENT  
DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF  
ESTABLISHED 1961

Founder and Publisher  
**YOUSUF S. AL-ALYAN**

Editor-in-Chief  
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EDITORIAL : 24833199-24833358-24833432  
ADVERTISING : 24835616/7  
FAX : 24835620/1  
CIRCULATION : 24833199 Extn. 163  
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## Focus

GROWTH VERSUS  
REFORM DEBATE FOR  
CHINA NEW PLAN

By Benjamin Dooley

China's leaders gather today to hash out a new Five Year Plan to battle slowing growth, and analysts say they must choose between chasing a traditional GDP target and embracing reforms such as the "one child policy" to help the country develop its full potential. After a decades-long boom, experts say China needs to embrace further liberalisation to avoid the "middle income trap" when developing countries fail to transform their growth model to maintain their competitive edge.

According to the government, the world's second largest economy grew 6.9 percent year-on-year in the third quarter, its weakest rate in six years - although independent analysts believe the true figure could be significantly lower. Implementing reforms that are necessary to ensure long-term sustainability come at a cost for current growth - a dilemma for the ruling Communist Party, whose projected aura of competence underpins its claim to legitimacy.

Julian Evans-Pritchard of Capital Economics expected the growth target to be set at or only slightly below the current goal of around seven percent. "Policymakers will struggle to meet such a high target without undermining progress on rebalancing," he said. Five Year Plans are a holdover from the planned economy days of the past, but still provide a broad blueprint for the country, a key driver of global growth whose performance affects companies from Australia to Zimbabwe.

China's embrace of market economics and opening up to the rest of the world from the late 1970s transformed the livelihoods of hundreds of millions of people and propelled the country to global prominence, but growth has been slowing for several years. Beijing has repeatedly said it wants to transition to a "new normal" of slower, more reliable growth led by domestic consumer demand, rather than the overheated exports and state investment of the past. But in recent months questions have been raised over its ability to manage the process by stumbles such as clumsy interventions in falling stock markets.

## Black Cat, Green Cat

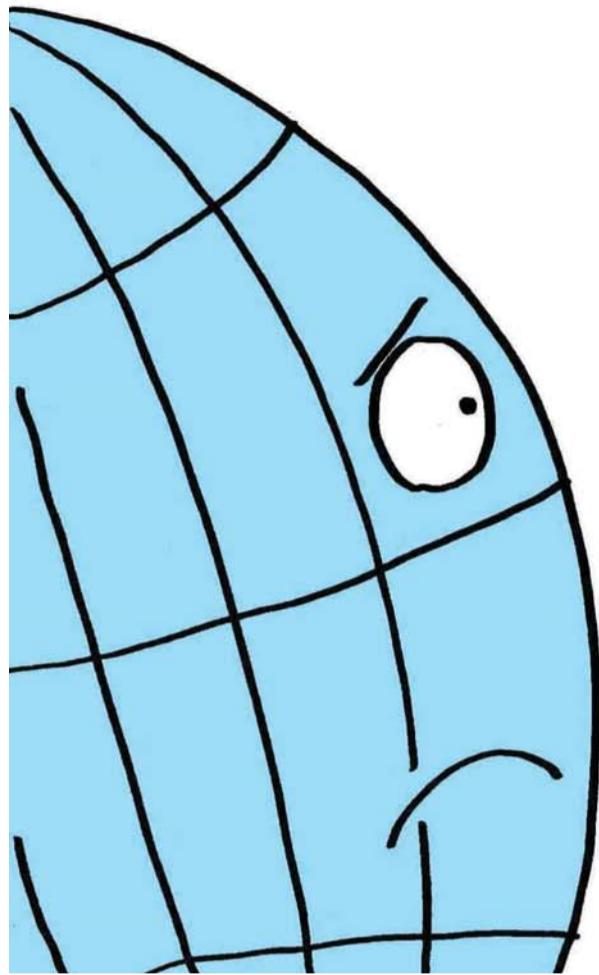
The Communist conclave, known as the Fifth Plenum and typically held at a Beijing hotel, brings together the ruling party's 205-strong Central Committee and around 170 reserve members for four days from today to burnish the plan, although it will not be finally approved until China's legislature meets next year. Economic reformer Deng Xiaoping argued against ideological objections to change with the metaphor that it did not matter whether a cat was black or white, as long as it caught mice.

But now the colour is critical, says Hu Angang, an economics professor at Tsinghua University who served on an experts committee that helped guide the planning process. China has become the world's biggest polluter and its major cities are regularly blanketed by choking smog, causing widespread public anger. "China needs to transform from the world's largest 'black cat' into the world's largest 'green cat'," Hu said in an email, urging a more environmentally efficient economy. "Chasing mice in the form of GDP is still important, but making the cat 'green' is even more important." Leaders will also seek to address social restrictions that obstruct growth, such as residency rules and the "one child policy", which limits most couples to a single offspring. It was introduced in the late 1970s over fears that the skyrocketing population was economically unsustainable. After years of strict, sometimes brutal enforcement, by a dedicated government commission China's population - the world's largest - is now ageing rapidly, gender imbalances are severe, and its workforce is shrinking.

The concerns led to limited reforms in 2013, including allowing a second child for some couples in urban areas, but relatively few have taken up the opportunity. Several Chinese media reports in recent weeks have cited researchers urging a two-child policy for all and Bank of America Merrill Lynch said: "We expect the one-child policy to be significantly loosened and baby-product makers should benefit."

But even a dramatic announcement does not guarantee change. China has a mixed record when it comes to achieving its planning goals, according to Anne Stevenson-Yang, co-founder of China analysis firm J-Capital Research, and slowing growth will make it more difficult to overcome longstanding bureaucratic resistance. The failure to reform the one-child policy was a "significant emblem of paralysis in this government", she said. "There's no desire to have it anymore, there's no need for it anymore. There's a lot of loosening around the edges, but they have this bureaucracy they don't seem to be able to get rid of." —AFP

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## HOW DID MEXICO DODGE PATRICIA BULLET?

By Carola Solé

Mexico dodged a bullet when monster Hurricane Patricia failed to live up to its threat of devastating huge swaths of the country. What saved Mexicans? Experts say Mexico was saved from widespread destruction in big part thanks to the Sierra Madre Occidental mountains, which slowed Patricia's wrath. The coastal region where it made landfall in western Jalisco state is also sparsely populated by fishing village, whose residents had evacuated to shelters. The preventive evacuations by the authorities played an important role, along with a lower pressure in the north that affected Patricia's trajectory.

Patricia struck the Pacific coast as a massive Category Five hurricane late Friday, but almost 24 hours later President Enrique Peña Nieto declared that no major damage was detected. Dozens of small homes were flattened in Chamela, a fishing village in Jalisco state, and 250 more were hit by floods elsewhere. But it was not the widespread devastation expected for a hurricane that packed a record 325 km per hour winds before it made landfall.

When Patricia struck the coast, its winds slowed to 270 km per hour, and gradually lost steam as it moved inland. Transport Minister Gerardo Ruiz Esparza said Mexico was "lucky" that Patricia took a last minute turn and struck the Sierra Madre. "Nature was kind-hearted," he said.

## Uninhabited Region

Pier Luigi Vidale, professor of climate system science at Britain's University of Reading, said the radius of Patricia's maximum winds was extremely small at 12 kilometers, "so it fit very well in the space" between the towns of Campo Acosta and

La Barra de Navidad. "The issue is exposure: luckily, it made landfall in a rather uninhabited region," he said. While a second eyewall had a maximum winds radius of 100 km, the distance between two

Leodegario Sanson, president of the Mexican Meteorologist Organization. The low pressure stole some of the hurricane's clouds and "accelerating the cyclone's movement toward the northeast" and the

dead or missing when it struck in Nov 2013. "The conditions between countries like the Philippines and Mexico are very different," said Jaime Albarran Ascencio, meteorologist at Mexico's governmental



Aerial view is seen of the Chamela community in Jalisco State, Mexico on Saturday after the passage of hurricane Patricia. —AFP

inhabited locations was about the same. "The storm continued straight to Sierra del Cuale, passing only through uninhabited zones, and rapidly lost intensity. We could hardly have been luckier," Vidale said.

Patricia was also influenced by its interaction with a low pressure extending from the north to the west of the country, said

mountains, Sanson told AFP. In the past 24 hours, Patricia gradually weakened to a tropical storm, a depression and a "low remnant" as it moved northeast, according to the US National Hurricane Center.

The Philippines were not as fortunate when Super Typhoon Haiyan, with its 315 km per hour winds, left more than 7,350

National Meteorological Service. "Over there (in the Philippines) there were many people were crowded together close to the coast and the hurricane got them," he said. But in the path of Patricia, he said, the homes were built better and there was "very good information" given to residents. —AFP

## WORKING KIDS GIVEN PATH OFF LEBANON STREETS

By Layal Abou Rahal

For two years, Syrian teenager Ibrahim scraped together a paltry living selling lottery tickets and tissues on the crowded streets of Beirut, but that seems like a lifetime ago now. The 18-year-old's life turned around after three months' training at a flower shop as part of an apprenticeship program for vulnerable Lebanese and Syrian youths organised by an international humanitarian group. "Among the flowers, I forget what happened to us. I forget our worries," Ibrahim said, gently arranging a bouquet.

He was one of 24 Syrian and Lebanese youths who took part in a training scheme organised by the International Rescue Committee (IRC) that took them off the streets and provided them with a small stipend. IRC requested that the names of youths be changed for this story. At a flower shop in the Cola district of the Lebanese capital, Ibrahim has learned how to clean and water flowers, then arrange them into beautifully designed bouquets. "It really boosted my morale learning the basics of flower arrangement," he said quietly. "In the streets, I used to hear really bad things. But here, I've learned mutual respect and a new trade."

## Exposed to Danger

At least 1,510 children, three-quarters of them Syrian, live or work in the streets of Lebanon, according to a report by UN agencies, NGOs and Lebanon's labour ministry published this year. The report's authors said the real number of children on the streets could be up to three times higher than that.

At least 43 percent of those on the

street beg for money, and 37 percent sell small items, like tissue paper or chewing gum. Others carry grocery bags, shine shoes or operate small parking lots, with most making between \$3 and \$12 daily. A number are exploited in illicit or illegal professions - including prostitution - earning between \$21 and \$36 per day.

their hours of working in the streets'.

Lebanon hosts more than one million Syrian refugees, many living in poverty and forced to send their children to work to make ends meet. Raed, 16, arrived from Syria's second city Aleppo with his family three years ago. He once shined shoes or sold things along the Beirut waterfront for

ers, and I like chrysanthemums and lilies the best," he said with a smile as he sprayed rows of greenery sitting on shelves in the shop. "I hope that when I return to Syria, I can open my own flower shop."

## 'Never Return to the Street'

Local clothing stores, sweet shops, and cafes have taken part in the initiative. Fadi Jaber, the 36-year-old manager of Jaber Flowers, said IRC proposed he take in Raed "to take him off the street and teach him the basics of the business, and we welcomed the idea." "If he wants to work in this field, he will return to his own country with an opportunity. And in turn, I wanted to give this opportunity to someone who needs it," Mohammad said.

The program caters to Lebanese youth too, including 20-year-old Assaad, from a poor district of the northern city of Tripoli. He has apprenticed at a modest bakery in central Beirut, helping to prepare bread for a steady stream of customers. "I learned how to prepare the dough, how much salt you should use, and how to lay the bread out after baking," he said. "Working here is better than staying at home or being in the street." The man he is learning from is 30-year-old Syrian Qassem Mohammad, who owns the bakery and has lived in Lebanon for many years. "I left Syria when I was young, but I found someone who gave me an opportunity. And in turn, I wanted to give this opportunity to someone who needs it," Mohammad said.

Although there is no guarantee participants will stay off Lebanon's streets, the organisers hope to receive enough funding to support those who want to continue training. And for many, like Raed, the choice is clear. "I swore I would never go back to the street again," he said. —AFP



A Syrian refugee girl sells tissue paper on a busy intersection in the Lebanese capital Beirut late on Saturday. —AFP

Whatever their job, working and living on the street exposes children to danger and exploitation, including street accidents and sexual assault, according to experts. IRC's Sara Mabger said the apprenticeship project sought to "give street youth an opportunity to learn a specific skill that will help them in their life, but also to minimise

cash to help support his father and five younger siblings, who live in the impoverished Shatila Palestinian refugee camp. But in the program, he also learned to tend flowers, at a shop in the Jnah area outside Beirut, and now he imagines one day owning his own storefront.

"I memorised all the names of the flow-

## LEMMA WINS MARATHON

**FRANKFURT:** Ethiopia's Sisay Lemma won the Frankfurt marathon's men's race yesterday, while local fans were given something to cheer about as Arne Gabius broke the German record in finishing fourth. Having begun 2015 by running a new personal best in finishing fifth at the Dubai marathon in January, Lemma won the Vienna marathon in April and has now added the Frankfurt title in an official winning time of two hours, six minutes and 26 seconds.



Kenyan pair Lani Rutto, at eight seconds back, and Alfere Lagat, at 22secs, claimed third and fourth respectively while Hamburg-born Gabius broke the 27-year-old German marathon record with a time of 2:08.33 over the 42 kilometres. The 34-year-old shaved 14 seconds off the previous record set by Joerg Peter in Tokyo in February 1988.

"I'm just happy the record has fallen," Gabius said, who ran the last 12 kilometres with stomach pain. "It was painful, but hey that's competitive sports, you have to go to your limits."

There was a clean sweep of Ethiopian athletes in the women's race as Gulume Tollasa won in 2:23:12, beating Dinkesh Mekash on the finish line while Koren Jelela was third 40 seconds back.—AFP

## FORD KEEPS HIS CARD

**HONG KONG:** England's Matt Ford wept tears of joy yesterday after he dug out one of his best performances of the year to retain his playing rights on the European Tour.

The 37-year-old scored 69-65-67-69 for 10-under-par 270 at Fanling to finish tied seventh and move to 106th on the Race to Dubai standings, securing his tour card at the 11th hour. India's Jeev Milkha Singh was not so lucky and an ugly four-over-par 74 on the final day ensured he has now lost his European Tour playing rights.

Ford was overcome with emotion at his dramatic escape and as he spoke to reporters afterwards, he broke down and needed a few minutes to compose himself. "(I'm) very happy," he said finally.

"Obviously left myself a lot to do and yeah, seems to bring out the best in me. So it's very emotional and haven't spoken to the family yet. Probably break down again there."

After a trip to Qualifying school last year, Ford got the season off to a positive start with a second-place finish at the Africa Open in March. But beginning the last event of the regular European Tour season still ranked 117th in the Race to Dubai, he had a fight on his hands to break the top 110 and keep his card. Australia's Jason Scrivener was another to lose his playing rights, despite firing a final round of 68 to wind up tied for third-his best result of the year.—AFP

## LIGETY BAGS CURTAIN-RAISER

**SOLDEN:** American Ted Ligety survived a slip to win yesterday's giant slalom, his fourth victory in Solden at the men's alpine skiing World Cup season curtain-raiser. This was Ligety's 25th World Cup win and his 19th in the giant slalom, which has seen him win the crystal globe in this discipline four times. The current Olympic and three-time reigning world champion set up this fresh triumph when topping the times easily in the first leg, ahead of local hero Austria's Marcel Hirscher and French journeyman Thomas Fanara. "I've been training here for years," said Ligety, whose American team use Solden as their European base. "I knew I was on form but you never know with the first race of the season, because you can't tell who your main rivals will be." The American, 31, made a mistake half way down his second descent to give brief hope to Fanara, who was at that time top on the leaderboard, but the man who grew up on the 2002 Salt Lake City slopes recovered to win by 15 hundredths of a second. Hirscher had to settle for third in the end on the Rettenbach glacier, which is the traditional host for early season action. It has proved a happy hunting ground for Ligety, who was adding this feat to his previous Solden victories in 2011, 2012 and 2013.—AFP



DENVER: Brandon Saad No. 20 of the Columbus Blue Jackets controls the puck against Gabriel Landeskog No. 92 of the Colorado Avalanche at Pepsi Center. —AFP

## NHL results/standings

Minnesota 3, Anaheim 0; New Jersey 4, Buffalo 3; Montreal 5, Toronto 3; Arizona 4, Ottawa 1; Philadelphia 3, NY Rangers 2 (So); NY Islanders 3, St. Louis 2 (OT); Pittsburgh 2, Nashville 1 (OT); Florida 6, Dallas 2; Chicago 1, Tampa Bay 0 (OT); Columbus 4, Colorado 3; Detroit 3, Vancouver 2 (OT); San Jose 5, Carolina 2.

Western Conference					
Central Division					
	W	L	OTL	GF	GA PTS
Nashville	6	1	1	25	16 13
Dallas	6	2	0	27	21 12
Minnesota	5	1	1	20	17 11
St. Louis	5	2	1	23	20 11
Chicago	5	3	0	18	16 10
Winnipeg	4	2	1	23	17 9
Colorado	2	4	1	19	21 5
Pacific Division					
San Jose	5	3	0	23	18 10
Arizona	4	3	1	23	19 9
Vancouver	3	2	3	20	17 9
Los Angeles	4	3	0	13	15 8
Edmonton	3	5	0	19	24 6
Calgary	2	5	0	15	27 4
Anaheim	1	5	1	6	20 3
Eastern Conference					
Atlantic Division					
Montreal	9	0	0	35	12 18
Tampa Bay	5	2	2	27	24 12
Florida	4	3	1	26	17 9
Detroit	4	3	1	21	21 9
Ottawa	3	3	2	24	26 8
Boston	3	3	1	27	29 7
Toronto	1	4	2	16	24 4
Buffalo	2	6	0	16	26 4
Metropolitan Division					
Washington	6	1	0	29	18 12
NY Rangers	5	2	2	24	19 12
NY Islanders	5	2	1	27	22 11
Philadelphia	4	2	1	16	18 9
New Jersey	4	3	1	20	23 9
Pittsburgh	4	4	0	13	16 8
Carolina	2	6	0	14	25 4
Columbus	1	8	0	19	40 2

Note: Overtime losses (OTL) are worth one point in the standings and are not included in the loss column (L)

# LEAFS FALL, BLUE JACKETS TRIUMPH

**MONTREAL:** PK Subban and Max Pacioretty each had a goal and an assist and the Montreal Canadiens beat the Toronto Maple Leafs 5-3 on Saturday night to extend their season-opening winning streak to nine games. The Canadiens are a victory away from matching the NHL record set by the Maple Leafs in 1993-94 and matched by Buffalo in 2006-07. Montreal is at Vancouver on Tuesday night.

Carey Price made 49 saves, and Lars Eller, David Desharnais and Brendan Gallagher added goals. The Canadiens have won every game in regulation time. Leo Komarov, James van Riemsdyk and Morgan Reilly scored for Toronto.

### BLUE JACKETS 4, AVALANCHE 3

Ryan Murray and Brandon Dubinsky scored goals early in the third period and Columbus came back to beat Colorado for its first win in nine games this season.

Boone Jenner had two goals, and Sergei Bobrovsky made 31 saves for the Blue Jackets. Their 0-8-0 start was the worst since the New York Rangers lost their first 11 games in 1943-44. Coach John Tortorella got his first win with Columbus after losing at Minnesota in his first game since replacing the fired Todd Richards. Jarome Iginla had a goal and an assist for Colorado, and Nathan MacKinnon and Jack Skille also scored.

### BLACKHAWKS 1, LIGHTNING 0

Jonathan Toews scored his first goal of the season 17 seconds into overtime to give Chicago a victory over Tampa Bay in a rematch of the Blackhawks' Stanley Cup victory. A determined Toews netted the winner when he barreled into the Tampa Bay zone, and muscled between Anton Stralman and Valtteri Filppula to the net. Rookie goalie Kristers Gudlevskis stopped Toews' initial chance, but the Chicago captain knocked in his own rebound.

Corey Crawford made 21 saves for this first shutout this season and 13th of his career in Chicago's third straight victory. Gudlevskis made 31 saves in his second NHL start.

### RED WINGS 3, CANUCKS 2

Gustav Nyquist scored in overtime and Detroit beat Vancouver to end a four-game losing streak. The Canucks killed off a tripping penalty on Daniel Sedin earlier in the extra period to stay alive, but were beaten when Detroit goalie Petr Mrazek fed a stretch pass to Nyquist during a Vancouver change.

Nyquist moved in on Ryan Miller and buried his fourth of the season. Tomas Tatar had a goal and an assist, Teemu Pulkkinen scored, and Mrazek stopped 30 shots.

Christopher Tanev and Brandon Sutter scored for Vancouver.

### DEVILS 4, SABRES 3

Adam Henrique scored twice and added an assist and New Jersey beat Buffalo for its fourth straight victory after an 0-3-1 start.

Mike Cammalleri had a goal and two assists, David Schlemko also scored, and Cory Schneider made 26 saves for the Devils.

Tyler Ennis, Ryan O'Reilly and Jack Eichel scored for Buffalo. Linus Ullmark made 24 saves in his NHL debut for the Sabres. Buffalo lost Evander Kane to a left knee injury midway through the third period. Kane collapsed to the ice after having his knee pinned to the boards in the right corner of the Devils zone off a check from David Schlemko.

### FLYERS 3, RANGERS 2

Sam Gagner and Claude Giroux scored in a shootout to lift Philadelphia past New York. Mark Streit and Scott Laughton scored in regulation, and Steve Mason had 37 saves for the Flyers. Mason stopped Dominic Moore to end it. JT Miller and Derick Brassard scored for the Rangers. Henrik Lundqvist was sensational in regulation and overtime with 46 saves, but gave up the two goals on three shots in the shootout.

### PANTHERS 6, STARS 2

Nick Bjugstad had a goal and an assist in Florida's victory over Dallas. Bjugstad centered a line with Jaromir Jagr and Jonathan Huberdeau because a hand injury sidelined Aleksander Barkov. Bjugstad put the Panthers ahead to stay at 2-1 in the first period.

Jagr also had a goal and an assist, and Huberdeau assisted on Florida's first two goals. Al Montoya made 33 saves to improve to 2-0-0. Jamie Benn scored both Dallas goals, increasing his total to an NHL-leading eight.

### SHARKS 5, HURRICANES 2

Joel Ward had a hat trick and San Jose beat Carolina to end a three-game losing streak. Joe Pavelski and Tommy Wingels also scored for the Sharks. The game drew 15,814 fans - the Sharks' lowest attendance in nine years. Justin Faulk and Riley Nash scored for the Hurricanes.

### WILD 3, DUCKS 0

Devan Dubnyk stopped 15 shots for his first shutout of the season and 15th of his career, leading Minnesota past reeling Anaheim.

Matt Dumba, Thomas Vanek and Ryan Carter scored to send Anaheim to its sixth loss in the first seven games. The Ducks, a Western Conference finalist last season, have scored

just six goals this season while getting shut out four times.

### COYOTES 4, SENATORS 1

Mikkel Boedker scored three goals and Arizona beat Ottawa to end a four-game losing streak. Brad Richardson also scored, and Anders Lindback made 35 saves in his first start of the season to help Arizona improve to 4-3-1. Cody Ceci scored for Ottawa, and Craig Anderson stopped 22 shots.

### PENGUINS 2, PREDATORS 1

Phil Kessel scored 41 seconds into overtime to lift Pittsburgh past Nashville. Chris Kunitz also scored, and Marc-Andre Fleury stopped 37 shots to help Pittsburgh win for the fourth time in five games. James Neal scored for Nashville, and Pekka Rinne made 23 saves.

### ISLANDERS 3, BLUES 2

Mikhail Grabovski scored his first goal of the season 4 minutes into overtime in New York's victory over St. Louis. John Tavares scored his fifth of the season and extended his points streak to six games for the Islanders. Kyle Okposo also scored, and Frans Nielsen had two assists. Rookie defenseman Colton Parayko had a goal and assist, and Alexander Steen also scored for the Blues.—AP



CHICAGO: Viktor Tikhonov No. 14 of the Chicago Blackhawks collides with Matt Carle No. 25 of the Tampa Bay Lightning at the United Center. —AFP

## SCIENCE CATCHING UP TO HYPE AROUND CONCUSSIONS

**LONDON:** The media hype around the issue of concussion in sport is "way ahead of the science", a leading doctor told Reuters at an annual National Football League (NFL) conference Saturday.

The issue of concussions and head trauma has become an increasingly controversial topic in a number of sports in recent years, with many governing bodies changing rules and protocols to better ensure player safety.

Dr. Michael Turner, medical director of the International Concussion and Head Injury Research Foundation (ICHIRF), believes the science behind concussion is now playing catch-up to the media debate around the issue.

"The media hype is way ahead of the science", he told Reuters at the NFL's second annual professional sports concussion conference in London.

"Normally what happens is we painstakingly move forward and we produce the science at the end of it and public and media interest starts to pick up. With this it has been quite the opposite ...

"We are now doing a lot of research in a lot of different sports to see whether any of the suggestions that have been rather hyped up in the media, particularly in America, can be substantiated." The suicides of former NFL players Dave Duerson in 2011 and Junior Seau a year later intensified the debate around concussion and chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE).

The NFL in April settled a lawsuit brought by about 5,000 former players who accused it of covering up the dangers of concussions in a deal that could cost the league \$1 billion.

Several leading scientific and medical experts from multiple sports attended the NFL think tank ahead of Sunday's game between the Buffalo Bills and Jacksonville Jaguars at London's Wembley Stadium. One initiative to come out of it was a partnership between the NFL and Dr. Turner's ICHIRF.

The two bodies are set to fund further investigation into the potential long-term effects and risk factors associated with concussion in sports.

The study, which is due to launch in January, will be led by Dr. Turner, a former chief medical officer of the British Horseracing Authority, and will focus on the link between concussion and CTE in retired jockeys. "Concussion is very com-

mon in horse racing, particularly jump jockeys," he said.

"By my estimation and from information we have got from various charities involved in racing, they don't seem to be coming to a great deal of problems, having lots of concussions."

### CRITICAL PERIOD

On the back of the scientific research currently available, Dr. Turner said it was difficult to make definitive claims about the link between concussion and mental health.

"We anticipate that like most things, it is not going to be all or nothing, that everybody who has concussion will end up being depressed or suicidal. But there will be some, or a number of people, who are at risk if you hit your head with regularity of ending up with some long-term damage," he said.

"The difficulty with depression is that it is very common. Also when athletes retire they are at a very critical period in their lives. Prior to that they were well-known they might have been famous and earning quite a lot of money and suddenly, they have very little status, nobody knows who they are, they don't have somewhere to go to work and I think that transition can be badly handled by lots of sports."

"That is one of the issues that this particular conference reiterated again and again and again that there is an undercurrent of mental health issues that are related to everybody in society."

Dr. Richard Ellenbogen, the Co-Chairman of the NFL's Head, Neck and Spine Committee, added that they had discussed at the conference whether there may be a connection between pre-existing mood disorders and the long-term affects of athletes who have suffered concussion.

"You never hear that discussion among professional athletes or student athletes when they have finished competing and what we find out is that people who have pre-injury had mood disorders or depression do worse than those who don't," he told Reuters.

"So how that all interplays is really important. This is the first time I have heard it discussed in a meeting that all these scientists are thinking about that thing. It was almost a taboo subject."—Reuters



# KUWAIT TOPS CROWN PRINCE SHOOTING TOURNAMENT

By Abdellatif Sharaa

**KUWAIT:** His Highness The Crown Prince Shooting Tournament and 13th Gulf Shooting Championship concluded Saturday evening at Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Olympic Shooting Complex. Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad, Hawally Governor, told Journalists following the closing ceremony that the championship had a special meaning for Kuwait and GCC shooters. He said competitions were close, and results were high by most shooters who shared the various medals, adding that the real victory is the gathering of GCC athletes in a loving atmosphere and fair competition. Sheikh Ahmad Al-Nawaf congratulated the winners and wished all success in future competitions. He lauded the great efforts exerted by Kuwait Shooting Sports Club president and board members in order to bring out the championship in a fitting fashion that reflected the Gulf brotherhood relations between the region's shooters and expressed hope that such events continue to contribute to the development of the sport of shooting. President of Kuwait and Arab Shooting Federations Eng. Duaj Khalaf Al-Otaibi welcomed representative of HH The Crown Prince, sports personalities, fans and media. Al-Otaibi lauded the unlimited support of HH The Crown Prince to the sport of shooting and his contribution to motivate shooters to continue making their achievements in various arenas regionally, internationally and at the Olympic levels. He said KSSC look forward to

organize such tournaments, adding that Kuwait shooters were honored this year by receiving GCC countries shooters which witnessed wide ranging participation of more than 250 shooters. Al-Otaibi said the competitions included Olympic skeet, trap, double trap, pistol, rifle and archery, adding that competition was fierce as all wanted to win the prestigious cup. Al-Otaibi said that he was honored ever since its start with the patronizing of an annual tournament in the name of HH The Crown Prince in support and encouragement for the shooters and declared the start of KSSC season. He said the distinguished achievements of Kuwait shooting was by qualifying for two spots at the Brazil 2016 Olympics by Khalid Al-Mudhaf and Ahmad Al-Afasi. Al-Otaibi spoke about the Arab and Asian achievements that Kuwait shooting had made most notably the Grand Prix that was held in Azerbaijan where Kuwait won one gold, two silver and four bronze, in addition to the Arab championship that was held in Morocco where Kuwait bagged 11 various medals.

He said those achievements are the result of the generous support Kuwait shooting is receiving from HH The Amir, HH The Crown Prince, and HH The Premier, adding that KSSC is proud of such support.

Al-Otaibi also lauded the role of PAYS Chairman of the Board Sheikh Ahmad Mansour Al-Sabah and his deputies, as well as all state establishments that backs sport of shooting. He thanked the committees involved in the organization of HH The Crown Prince tournament as well

as the technical and administrative department for their contributions.

Results of the last day of competition are as follows:

- In Archery:**  
**Recurve Men Team:**  
 1- Kuwait  
 2- Saudi Arabia  
 3- UAE Recurve Men Individual:

- 1- Abdulelah bin Ali - KSA  
 2- Otaib Arafat - KSA  
 3- Abdullah Taha - KWT

- Compound Men Team:**  
 1- Kuwait  
 2- Qatar  
 3- KSA

- Compound Man Individual:**  
 1- Abdulaziz Al-Roudhan - KSA  
 2- Ahmad Alabadi - QAT  
 3- Ahmad Al-Shatti - KWT

- Trap Men Team:**  
 1- Fuhaid Al-Daihani - KWT  
 2 - Dhaher Alaryani - UAE  
 3- Talal Al-Rashidi - KWT

**Skeet Team Men:**

- 1- Kuwait  
 2- Qatar  
 3- Bahrain

- Skeet Men Individual**  
 1- Abdullah Alrashidi - KWT  
 2- Abdelaziz Al-Saad - KWT  
 3- Khalid Al-Muhannadi - QAT

- 50 Meter Pistol Men Team**  
 1- KSA  
 2- Kuwait  
 3- Oman

- 50 Meter Pistol Men Individual**  
 1- Atallah Alenzi - KSA  
 2- Hammad Alnmsan - KWT  
 3- Aqeel Albdarani - KSA

**Final medal tally**

	G	S	B	T
Kuwait	10	9	7	26
Bahrain	5	3	3	11
KSA	5	2	4	11
Qatar	4	7	4	15
Oman	1	4	4	9
UAE	1	1	4	6



## MCLAREN BOSS BLOCKING RED BULL HONDA DEAL

**AUSTIN:** Honda are willing to supply Red Bull with engines next season but McLaren boss Ron Dennis is blocking any deal, Formula One supremo Bernie Ecclestone said on Saturday.

"At the moment it would appear that Honda are happy to give them an engine and Mr Dennis thinks they shouldn't," the 84-year-old told reporters at the US Grand Prix.

Ecclestone said Honda agreed years ago with the governing International Automobile Federation (FIA) and himself that they would be willing to supply two teams in their second year back in Formula One and three in the third.

The Japanese manufacturer sold their works team and pulled out at the end of 2008, but returned this year as engine supplier to McLaren.

"They somehow... made a commitment to Ron that he had a veto and he doesn't want Red Bull," said Ecclestone. "Ron has said definitely not, as far as he's concerned. I don't know whether his veto will stand up legally."

There was no immediate response from Honda. McLaren's racing director Eric Boullier would not comment when asked on Friday about the veto.

The fact Red Bull have been talking to Honda hints at how desperate they are to find an engine after falling out with Renault over their lack of performance in the V6 turbo hybrid era.

They have said they could quit if they cannot find a competitive engine but Honda have been even further behind, with McLaren suffering their worst season and plagued by reliability problems.

Renault could also still be an option, despite the bad relations, but the French manufacturer has yet to announce its plans for the future despite talk of them taking over Lotus.

Ecclestone said he did not know whether Renault would continue. "You'd have thought they'd have made up their mind before now," he said. "When I spoke to the president (of Renault), he said they would make an announcement in December."

Dominant Mercedes have ruled out supplying Red Bull while Ferrari appear willing only to provide them to the former champions' sister team Toro Rosso.

Ecclestone suggested that Red Bull had ended up in their predicament because they mistakenly thought that they had a deal with Mercedes.

"In defence of Red Bull, and (principal) Christian Horner in particular, the reason they cancelled their agreement with Renault was so they could do the deal which they thought they'd done with Mercedes," he said. Mercedes bosses have said there was never an agreement because Red Bull owner Dietrich Mateschitz never followed up the initial approach. —Reuters

## ROSBERG ON POLE AFTER RAIN-HIT TEXAS QUALIFYING

**AUSTIN:** Nico Rosberg will start the United States Grand Prix from pole with Mercedes team-mate Lewis Hamilton alongside him following a curtailed rain-lashed qualifying session at the Circuit of the Americas yesterday.

The session, re-scheduled after being postponed on Saturday, was cut short after only two of the normal three sessions, as conditions worsened.

Rosberg, who was quickest in Q2, became the pole-sitter after a 15 minutes break during which the organisers decided it was impossible to continue.

It also meant German Rosberg grabbed his best chance to claim another victory and keep alive his title challenge on a day when defending two-

time world champion Hamilton will seek to win and clinch his third drivers' title.

Australian Daniel Ricciardo of Red Bull was classified in third place ahead of his team-mate Daniil Kvyat with four-time champion Sebastian Vettel fifth for Ferrari.

Vettel will take a 10-place grid penalty, however, after taking a new Ferrari power unit this weekend. Sergio Perez of Force India was sixth, but will be elevated to fifth to line up alongside his team-mate Nico Hulkenberg ahead of Felipe Massa of Williams, Dutch teenager Max Verstappen of Toro Rosso, Fernando Alonso of McLaren and Valtteri Bottas in the second Williams.

Kimi Raikkonen had qualified in fifth

for Ferrari before he also took a 10-place penalty. After two days of torrential rain and electrical storms with lightning, the teams were lining up to leave pit lane as soon as the track opened for action at 0900 local time (1400 GMT) on another dismal morning in Texas.

"Conditions are really limit," said Frenchman Romain Grosjean to his Lotus team, as spray plumed from the cars, all running on full-wet tyres.

"We expect the first 10 minutes to be the best weather," a Force India technician told Mexican Sergio Perez. "It's very dark," complained Raikkonen.

In such conditions it was clearly imperative to record an early lap time in case the session was curtailed.

Maldonado did so with 2:04.716 before times tumbled and Hamilton, with 1:59.393, moved eight-tenths of a second clear of the field.

Within seconds, Spaniard Carlos Sainz lost control and crashed at Turn Four, wrecking the front of his car to leave Toro Rosso with a major repair job just five hours ahead of the race.

It was his second crash at successive events, following his high-speed accident in Russia from which he was lucky to escape unhurt, and resulted in a red flag stoppage.

At the time, Hamilton was on top ahead of Ricciardo and Kvyat, but both Ferrari drivers had failed to clock a lap. "It's just as wet out there as it was yesterday," said Hamilton.

The session resumed after a 10-minute break with Rosberg jumping briefly to second in marginally improved conditions, four-tenths adrift of his team-mate, before Hamilton responded by slicing 1.3 seconds off his previous best lap.

Rosberg then went top before Vettel, saddled already with a 10-place grid penalty for taking a new power unit, glanced the wall in a spin at Turn 10 and pitted, Ricciardo responding with a 1:57.163. Hamilton, in traffic, was third, but regained control in 1:56.871.

"People are getting quicker, Nico, we need to keep setting times," Mercedes told Rosberg as the action turned frantic as everyone lapped fast in a bid to beat the weather before the flag.

When it came, it meant an early exit for Sainz, at the back, along with the two Manor Marussia men Will Stevens and American Alex Rossi, in 19th and 18th respectively and Felipe Nasr and Marcus Ericsson, in the two Saubers on the day the team celebrated their 400th Grand Prix entry.

In Q2, Hamilton and Rosberg soon topped the times before Hulkenberg spun at Turn 10, followed by Button, Verstappen and Kvyat as the rain intensified, Rosberg holding the ascendancy.

Hamilton then completed a full 360-spin at Turn 10, as did Raikkonen, both men showing phenomenal car control to catch their cars.

"They are red flag conditions," said Vettel as it ended with Rosberg on top and Alonso, Bottas, Grosjean, Button and Maldonado missing the cut.—AFP



**AUSTIN:** Mercedes driver Nico Rosberg (middle) of Germany, waves after winning the pole for the Formula One US Grand Prix auto race at the Circuit of the Americas. —AP



## ROSE BLOOMS IN HONG KONG

**HONG KONG:** World number seven Justin Rose needed all his experience yesterday to win a tight battle against Denmark's Lucas Bjerregaard and triumph in the Hong Kong Open by just one shot.

Former US Open winner Rose started the final day tied for the lead with 285th-ranked Bjerregaard, but a double bogey by the young Dane late in the round derailed his challenge.

Englishman Rose, 35, is the first from his country to win the tournament since Ian Poulter in 2010. He finished with a 17 under par 263, which could see him bumped up to fifth in the world rankings.

The unheralded Bjerregaard, aged 24, finished just one shot behind him with a 16 under par 264. "I'm absolutely delighted to come out on top today," Rose told reporters after the tournament, which was also his first European Tour victory on Asian soil.

"Starting the day, there was obviously Lucas and I ahead of the pack and that's very much how it finished, so it really turned out to be a head-to-head battle between myself and Lucas."

Rose remained patient in the final, even when he dropped a shot on the par-four 9th and Bjerregaard jumped into the lead by two with a birdie.

The Englishman made a comeback on the back nine after the par-four 14th when Bjerregaard hit the ball into the trees and then three-putted for the double bogey.

By the 18th Rose was two strokes ahead, and even had the luxury of three-putting the last par-four hole, laughing as the

crowds cheered him on. "It was tight the whole day... I just kept my nose in front right at the end," he said.

"I had a lot of good putts from 14... that was the turning point." Bjerregaard, who had led for much of the first half, said he was happy with the way he played and Rose was a tough competitor.

"It was fun to battle with Justin these last two days, it's guys like him I want to compete against. At least I gave him a bit of a scare," he said.

Aside from the 14th, he added that he had kept his cool for much of the day. "I was more nervous last night just thinking about going out and playing against him." Tied for third place were Soomin Lee, Patrick Reed, Matthew Fitzpatrick and Jason Scrivener—all finishing with an 11 under par 269.

Korea's Yang Yong-Eun, the only Asian-born man to win a major, came joint seventh alongside Lin Wen-tang, Asian Tour Order of Merit leader Anirban Lahiri and Matt Ford.

Rose's European Ryder Cup teammates Graeme McDowell and Ian Poulter, both of whom had been hoping for strong performances, ended with five and six under par respectively, putting McDowell in tied 24th place and Poulter in joint 29th overall.

It was particularly disappointing for Poulter, who had to win in Hong Kong if he wanted to qualify for the WGC-HSBC Champions in Shanghai. He had made a mad dash to Hong Kong to retain his European Tour membership.—AFP



SINGAPORE: Simona Halep of Romania celebrates as she beat Flavia Pennetta of Italy in their singles match at the WTA tennis finals. —AP

## HALEP STORMS TO VICTORY IN WTA FINALS OPENER

**SINGAPORE:** Romania's Simona Halep kicked off her campaign for a maiden WTA Finals title in emphatic fashion with a thumping 6-0 6-3 victory over US Open champion Flavia Pennetta in the opening match of the eight-woman season-ending tournament yesterday.

The world number two is the highest ranked player in the field after Serena Williams, who has won the tournament the last three years, withdrew citing the need to rest after a year spent carrying injuries. Halep crushed Williams in round robin play a year ago before losing to the American in the final and her love of the Singapore Indoor Stadium hard court was evident in a first set she wrapped up in 26 minutes after breaking serve three times.

"I feel the same now as I did against Serena," Halep told reporters of the win. "I can play my best tennis here yet I didn't play my best today, but I played good tennis."

"I played solid and was dominating the match," she added. "I have confidence and I just want to stay focused, because after tomorrow I will have a tough match. I expect every match to be difficult, so I just want to stay focused and to believe that I have my chance."

The Romanian had arrived in Singapore under an injury cloud after picking up an ankle knock at the start of October, but the 24-year-old moved effortlessly around the court on Sunday and withstood Pennetta's attempts to get back into the contest.

The 33-year-old Italian played more like she had on her way to a stunning victory in New York last month in the second set but her resistance ended in a marathon eighth game when she dropped serve to trail 5-3 after staving off three break points.

Pennetta, who announced she would retire from tennis at the end of the season, forced only

two break points, both in the opening game of the second set, during the entire match and her unforced error count of 27 made life much easier for Halep.

"The 'Road to Singapore' was pretty hard over the last month, but I'm really enjoying playing in this event and being here," the 33-year-old said of her maiden singles appearance in the WTA Finals.

"Of course I would love to play a little bit better but I still have a chance. I still have two matches to play, so we will see what happens."

Round robin play continues late yesterday when world number three Maria Sharapova takes on Agnieszka Radwanska in a contest between the other two players in the 'Red Group'. The 'White Group' consists of Garbine Muguruza, Petra Kvitova, Angelique Kerber and Lucie Safarova, with play in that pool starting today.—Reuters



TAIWAN: Lydia Ko of New Zealand displays her trophy after winning the LPGA Taiwan Championship at the Miramar Golf Country Club. —AP

## KO REGAINS NO. 1 SPOT

**TAIWAN:** Lydia Ko cantered to a nine-stroke victory at the LPGA Taiwan Championship yesterday to take back the women's world number one spot from South Korean Park In-bee.

Ko started the final round with a four-stroke advantage and then carded a seven-under-par 65 for a total of 20-under, which also made the 18-year-old New Zealander the youngest player to earn 10 wins on the LPGA Tour.

"I have played consistently well over the last couple of weeks and it's something we can all celebrate and I want to share this with my whole team," Ko said after her win.

Ko needed to win or finish second in Taiwan to move ahead of Park, who did not play in the tournament, and she could not have asked for a better start in the final

round as she sunk four birdies in her first six holes. Her only bogey of the day came at the seventh, but she eagled the 12 and picked up two more strokes with birdies at 14 and 18 for a best-of-the-day 65.

Ko, who claimed her fifth LPGA victory of the season, became the youngest player to win 10 Tour titles, taking that honour from Nancy Lopez. Lopez won her 10th title when she was 22. "I actually met her in Cleveland a couple of months ago, she's such an amazing person and amazing golfer so to have beaten her record, it's an honour," Ko said after pocketing a cheque for \$300,000 for the victory.

South Koreans Ji Eun-hee (70) and Ryu So-yeon (68) finished tied for second spot at 11-under. Britain's Charley Hull finished fourth a shot further adrift.—Reuters

## PEDROSA WINS MALAYSIA GP

**SELANG:** Spain's Dani Pedrosa cruised to victory in the Malaysian MotoGP yesterday, with Jorge Lorenzo snatching second place to cut into championship leader Valentino Rossi's lead.

The result at Malaysia's Sepang track sets the stage for a thrilling climax to the season, as Yamaha teammates Lorenzo and Rossi will battle it out in the finale next month in Valencia, south-eastern Spain. But controversy marred the result as Rossi was penalised for a collision with defending world champion Marc Marquez, further endangering the Italian's hopes of securing his 10th world championship next month.

Lorenzo and Pedrosa accused Rossi of lifting his leg as Marquez tried to overtake him, possibly impeding the Spaniard, who crashed and had to retire from the race.

An infuriated Marquez also lashed out at Rossi, saying the Italian had kicked the handlebar of his bike. Race officials said 36-year-old Rossi, who was notably absent from the winners press conference after the eventful race, will have to start from the back of the grid in Valencia.

"We were overtaking at a very fast pace. I don't know what was Valentino thinking. I did not expect him to carry his leg and push my handlebar. That is why I crashed," Marquez told reporters.

"To hit (my bike) with his leg... I have-and also I think many other people have-lost respect for Valentino," he added. Rossi denied he was at fault. "In Turn 14 I tried to go wide to get a better line to make him (Marquez) slow because he just rides to cause me some problems. Unfortunately... and I think he crashed in that moment," he was quoted as saying by Motogp.com. The accusations come after a tense week in which Rossi angrily accused Marquez of helping Lorenzo to win points in the Australian Grand Prix, where Marquez won and Rossi managed only fourth place.

Lorenzo on Sunday hit back, saying his teammate had only received a slap on the wrist over the collision with Marquez because of his superstar status. "If it was another rider, he may be



SELANG: MotoGP rider Valentino Rossi of Italy holds up his trophy after finishing third at the Malaysian Motorcycle Grand Prix at Sepang International Circuit. —AP

punished much harder. I did not expect this to happen. I am disappointed," he said. "I think it is unfair. Valentino got 16 points and Marquez got nothing. I cannot believe anyone will do this kind of thing." Lorenzo, who has steadily whittled away at Rossi's championship lead, is now just seven points behind.

Meanwhile, Pedrosa started from the pole position and never relinquished the lead for Honda. "It was a fabulous race, but I was not aware of the problems behind me," he said.

He clocked 40 minutes 37.691 seconds — 3.612 seconds ahead of his fellow Spaniard Lorenzo, and 13.724 seconds faster than Rossi.

Lorenzo, 28, had begun from the second row, and 11 points behind Rossi for the world championship, but he burst ahead into second place

on lap two and held it the rest of the way.

Rossi and Marquez waged a tense, see-saw fight for third and it was on the seventh lap when Marquez was seeking to bulldoze his way past the right side of the Italian's bike that the scuffle broke out. The alleged kicking incident happened on a corner just after Rossi appeared to taunt Marquez, gesturing at him to open up his throttle.

Rossi has nine career world titles, but has not won since 2009, and relations with his teammate have been tense since they raced together for Yamaha in 2006-2008.

Their relationship improved after Rossi rejoined the brand in 2013, but with the world title at stake, their old animosity has re-emerged.—AFP

## TOP 16 TEAMS QUALIFY FOR RED BULL WINNING 5 FINAL



**KUWAIT:** Red Bull Winning 5 Kuwait qualifiers took place this week with the participation of 80 teams (400 players). The qualifiers took place at Hassan Abul Courts and Kuwait University Shuwaikh and the best 16 teams qualified to the final, to be held on October 29 at Hasan Abul Soccer Courts.

This event is challenge-based, and focuses on creativity and entertainment while being a serious football competition. The five-aside event does not include goalkeepers, whereby the goal is relatively small, i.e. 2m large x 1m high. The game is based on elimination, so the losing team is knocked out of competition. However, a unique rule states that every goal scored allows the team to eliminate a player from the opposite team. The team captain should take this decision within 5 seconds of scoring, by pointing to the selected player with his finger.

Each match consists of two 5-minute halves, and lasts until one team is completely eliminated, therefore it is challenging yet exciting for the teams to undergo the next round of games with one or more missing member.

SCOREBOARD

**DUBAI:** Scores at close on the fourth day of the second Test between Pakistan and England at Dubai stadium on yesterday.

**Pakistan 1st innings 378** (Misbah-ul-Haq 102, Asad Shafiq 83, Younis Khan 56, Shan Masood 54; M. Wood 3-39, Moeen Ali 3-109)

**England 1st innings 242** (J. Root 88, A. Cook 65; Wahab Riaz 4-66, Yasir Shah 4-93)

**Pakistan 2nd innings (overnight 222-3)**

Mohammad Hafeez c Root b Wood	51
Shan Masood c Butler b Anderson	1
Shoaib Malik b Wood	7
Younis Khan c Ali b Rashid	118
Misbah-ul-Haq c Cook b Anderson	87
Asad Shafiq not out	79
Sarfraz Ahmed lbw b Ali	3
Extras: (b6, lb1, nb1)	8
Total: (for six wks; 95 overs)	354

Did not bat: Wahab Riaz, Yasir Shah, Zulfiqar Babar, Imran Khan

Fall of wickets: 1-1 (Masood), 2-16 (Malik), 3-83 (Hafeez), 4-224 (Misbah), 5-337 (Younis), 6-354

(Shafiq)

Bowling: Anderson 15-7-22-2, Broad 10-1-34-0, Wood 14-3-44-2 (1nb), Ali 11-0-60-1, Stokes 17-3-54-0, Rashid 25-1-107-1, Root 3-0-26-0.

**England 2nd innings**

A. Cook c Riaz b Shah	10
Moeen Ali c Younis b Khan	1
I. Bell c Younis b Babar	46
J. Root not out	59
J. Bairstow not out	6
Extras: (b6, nb2)	8
Total: (for three wks; 54 overs)	130

Fall of wickets: 1-9 (Ali), 2-19 (Cook), 3-121 (Bell)

Bowling: Khan 6-2-16-1 (1nb), Riaz 8-1-15-0, Shah 16-5-37-1, Malik 6-0-32-0, Babar 18-7-24-1.

PAKISTAN PRESS FOR WIN AFTER YOUNIS' HUNDRED

**DUBAI:** Pakistan grabbed three wickets including the key scalp of Alastair Cook to sense victory in the second Test against England after Younis Khan smashed a century in Dubai yesterday.

Pakistan will need another seven wickets to force a 1-0 lead in the three-match series after Younis's brilliant 118 helped them set a daunting 491-run target for England.

forcing an edge of Ali's bat to slip where Younis took the catch.

Cook, who scored 65 in the first innings and 263 in the first Test, failed to keep a sweep off Shah down and was smartly caught at deep square-leg by Wahab Riaz.

Earlier, it was Younis who set the tone for a big target. Younis punched paceman Stuart Broad to the point boundary for his 11th four to reach three figures off 193 balls, his third hundred against England. He was finally dismissed as he tried to pace the run-rate, skying a catch off leg-spinner Adil Rasheed. In all he hit 13 boundaries during his 354-minute knock.

Younis said he was happy to contribute to his team's winning position. "My focus is always on doing well and I am happy that this hundred has helped the team," said Younis, who expects a tough fight on the last day.

"It will be hard work for us tomorrow because England has the capacity to fight and that will not make things easy for us," Pakistan, resuming on 222-3, looked for quick runs.

Misbah had scored a brilliant 102 in Pakistan's first innings of 378, but failed to add to his overnight 87. He played an uppish shot to a slower delivery from fast bowler James Anderson which landed in the safe hands of Cook at mid-off. Misbah hit eight boundaries and five sixes in his enterprising 147-ball innings. England's bowlers toiled hard to check the flow of runs as leg-spinner Adil Rasheed conceded 107 runs before finally getting a wicket.

Ali trapped Shafiq leg-before wicket to finish with 1-60. Shafiq hit eight boundaries in his 112-ball knock. He added 113 runs for the fifth wicket with Younis. Misbah declared the innings at the fall of Shafiq's wicket. Anderson with 2-22 and Mark Wood 2-44 were the most successful bowlers. The third and final Test starts in Sharjah from November 1.—AFP



MUMBAI: South African players pose with the series trophy after their victory against India in the final one-day international cricket match of a five-game series in Mumbai.—AP

S AFRICA THRASH INDIA TO CLINCH ODI SERIES

**MUMBAI:** Quinton de Kock, Faf du Plessis and AB de Villiers all hit centuries as South Africa thrashed India by 214 runs yesterday to clinch the five-match one-day international series.

The Proteas batted first at a sweltering Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai and made an awesome 438-4, the fourth-highest ODI total on record and the highest ever scored in India.

Left-handed opener de Kock hit 109, de Villiers notched 119 and du Plessis smashed 133. It was only the second time in a one-day that a trio of batsmen from the same team made three figures. Hosts India could only manage 224-10 in reply. De Kock was first to take advantage of a favorable pitch and some woeful Indian bowling to notch his eighth one-day century and his second of the series off 87 balls.

The 22-year-old put together a formidable partnership with du Plessis, who came on after Hashim Amla was caught for 23, as the batsmen combined for a second-wicket stand of 154 runs.

De Kock reached 50 with a risky single in the 13th over and then survived a scare moment later when Mohit Sharma fumbled a catch after misjudging the flight of the ball.

He reached 100 off 78 balls in the 35-degree-Celsius (95 degrees Fahrenheit) heat, but was made to walk when he was caught by Virat Kohli near the boundary off Suresh Raina.

De Kock's ton, which included one six and 17 fours, came after he scored 103 in the third ODI in Rajkot.

His dismissal failed to faze du Plessis, who then combined with captain AB de Villiers to make the most of a lacklustre and extremely generous Indian bowling display during the day-night match.

Right-hander du Plessis and his skipper took

it in turns to smash sixes all over the ground. Du Plessis hit six sixes and nine fours, even reaching a couple of boundaries while hobbling on one leg, and could have had many more if he had not been forced to retire with cramp.

De Villiers, 31, was a man on a mission, racing to 119 off only 61 balls, for his third century of the series. He hit three fours and an astonishing 11 sixes before being caught behind by Mahendra Singh Dhoni off Bhuvneshwar Kumar.

India's bowling figures made grim reading, with Kumar giving away 106 runs for just one wicket and Sharma conceding 84 for his one.

The hosts needed a miracle with the bat, but

got off to the worst possible start when opener Rohit Sharma was caught on 16 and Kohli went for only seven.

Shikhar Dawan and Ajinkya Rahane put on a spirited show under the floodlights, notching 60 and 87 respectively, but South Africa's total was never in danger.

Pacemen Kagiso Rabada and Dale Steyn were the stars of South Africa's bowling attack, claiming four wickets and three wickets respectively.

The one-day series will be followed by four Test matches. South Africa will be seeking a clean sweep, having won the earlier Twenty20 series 2-0.—AFP

SCOREBOARD

**MUMBAI:** Final scoreboard in the fifth one-day international between India and South Africa in Mumbai on yesterday.

<b>South Africa:</b>			
Q. de Kock c Kohli b Raina	109	V. Kohli c de Kock b Rabada	7
H. Amla c Dhoni b M. Sharma	23	A. Rahane c Behardien b Steyn	87
F. du Plessis retired hurt	133	S. Raina b Rabada	12
AB de Villiers c Dhoni b Kumar	119	M. Dhoni b Tahir	27
D. Miller not out	22	A. Patel c Miller b Steyn	5
F. Behardien c Raina b Singh	16	H. Singh c Morris b Steyn	0
D. Elgar not out	5	B. Kumar c Miller b Tahir	1
Extras: (lb2, w9)	11	A. Mishra lbw b Rabada	4
Total (for four wickets, 50 overs)	438	M. Sharma not out	0
Fall of wickets: 1-33 (Amla), 2-187 (de Kock), 2-351 (du Plessis), 3-398 (de Villiers) 4-430 (Behardien)		Extras: (lb1, w4)	5
Bowling: Kumar 10-0-106-1 (w3), M. Sharma 7-0-84-1 (w2), Harbhajan Singh 10-0-70-1 (w3), Patel 8-0-65-0, Mishra 10-0-78-0 (w1), Raina 3-0-19-1, Kohli 2-0-14-0.		Total (for 10 wickets, 50 overs)	224
<b>India:</b>		Fall of wickets: 1-22 (R Sharma), 2-44 (Kohli), 3-156 (Dhawan), 4-172 (Raina), 5-185 (Rahane), 6-195 (Patel), 7-201 (Singh), 8-210 (Kumar), 9-219 (Dhoni), 10-224 (Mishra)	
R. Sharma c Tahir b Abbott 16		Bowling: Steyn 7-0-38-3 (w1), Rabada 7-0-41-4 (w2), Abbott 7-0-39-1, Behardien 8-0-55-0, Tahir 7-1-50-2 (w1)	
S. Dhawan c Amla b Rabada 60		South Africa won by 214 runs, win five-match series 3-2	



DUBAI: England's batsman Jonny Bairstow plays a shot during the Pakistan and England Test match at the Dubai International Stadium.—AP

RAIN WASHES OUT FOURTH DAY'S PLAY IN COLOMBO

**COLOMBO:** The fourth day's play in the second and final test between Sri Lanka and West Indies was washed out due to persistent rain yesterday.

West Indies will resume their second innings on 20 for one on the final day and need another 224 runs for a series-levelling win after the hosts won the first test in Galle by an innings and six runs.

Shai Hope (17) was unbeaten overnight after his opening partner Kraigg Brathwaite

(three) fell lbw to paceman Dhammika Prasad on the final delivery of the second session on Saturday before rain washed out the entire final session.

The ground at the P Sara Oval remained covered with Colombo receiving heavy overnight rain and more showers during the day. The umpires made a couple of inspections during the day and finally called off play shortly after the scheduled tea break.—Reuters



COLOMBO: Match officials walk on the covers as they inspect the situation of the ground as rain delays play on day four of the second Test cricket match between Sri Lanka and West Indies.—AP

FERRER BOOSTS LONDON HOPES WITH VIENNA TITLE

**VIENNA:** David Ferrer moved up to joint seventh in the race for a place at the year-ending World Tour Finals with a 4-6, 6-4, 7-5 win over Steve Johnson of the Austrian Open final yesterday.

The 33-year-old Spaniard added a 26th title to his career collection and joined Roger Federer on five titles this season. Only world number one Novak Djokovic, with nine, has more trophies to his name in 2015. Ferrer, the 2014 Vienna finalist against Andy Murray, joined Kei Nishikori in provisional seventh spot in the race for one of two places remaining in the eight-man field for the London season finale from November 15-22.

However, Nishikori's chances of qualifying are looking slim after he withdrew from next week's Basel event due to injury. "This is a fantastic victory after a tough final," said Ferrer.

"I'm not qualified yet but I'm fighting for a place in London. I'll go to (his hometown of) Valencia next week and really try to qualify for the year-end finals."

Ferrer set up three match points in the third set with his seventh ace after a break in the previous game and converted on his first opportunity against his American opponent.

The last Spaniard to win in Vienna was Feliciano Lopez in 2004. But Ferrer had to work hard in his 51st career final, dropping the opening set but turning the tables with his characteristic persistent play in the second.

He took a 3-1 lead as he ended a run of three breaks of service but could not wrap up the set early as Johnson saved a set point in the ninth game. Ferrer levelled at a set each on his fifth set point and set the stage for a solid decider.

The top seed earned the break he needed for 6-5 before finishing off the contest on the first of three match points after two and a quarter hours.

It was Ferrer's 52nd match win of 2015. "It's been an unbelievable season," added the Spaniard whose campaign had been badly hit by an elbow injury.

"I've won five tournaments and that is after being out injured. "It was tough to beat Steve, he has a really good serve and played very aggressively. I had to be very focused on the important points, I think my experience helped me win today. "I feel I've come back well. Of course I'm still not qualified for London but I took a big step today. I'm very satisfied."—AFP



VIENNA: David Ferrer of Spain holds the trophy after winning the final match against Steve Johnson of the United States at the Erste Bank Open tennis tournament.—AP

# DEADLINE DAY LOOMS FOR FIFA CANDIDATES

**ZURICH:** FIFA will today stop accepting candidates to replace Sepp Blatter as the scandal-tainted body's leader, with five contenders declared and more expected before the door shuts.

Tokyo Sexwale, a South African diamond mining tycoon and politician, became the latest to join the race for the February 26 election, despite the mounting corruption scandals that have hit football's world body.

He will challenge Michel Platini, the UEFA leader now suspended by FIFA, former FIFA vice president Prince Ali bin al Hussein, David Nakhid, a former Trinidad and Tobago captain, and Jerome Champagne, a former FIFA official.

Shaikh Salman bin Ibrahim al Khalifa, president of the Asian Football

Confederation, is believed to be considering a run. At least one other senior football official could also stand.

Candidates have until midnight Monday to register papers at FIFA headquarters. The world body's electoral committee will then carry out integrity checks on all of the runners before confirming them for the vote to be held at a special FIFA congress in Zurich.

Platini had been the frontrunner in the race after Blatter announced in June that he would stand down. But a Swiss criminal investigation into Blatter and a two million dollar payment made by FIFA to Platini in 2011 has thrown the race wide open again.

Blatter and Platini have been suspended for 90 days and the French foot-

ball legend's candidacy will only be examined when the ban ends in early January. Sexwale, 62, — once jailed alongside Nelson Mandela in an apartheid prison and an ex-government minister—has appeared as a strong late candidate. But the welter of revelations of new corruption cases and the number of contenders now involved has made the race uncertain.

"You never know what will happen next with FIFA, you never know what will happen to the candidates," a top advisor to one of the runners told AFP.

"FIFA elections were certainties for decades and suddenly this one is totally unpredictable," the official added. Pressure over the scandals has mounted so much that International Olympic

Committee president Thomas Bach this month called on FIFA to consider a "credible external candidate".

FIFPRO, the international players union, has also called for the "most stringent tests of integrity" to be carried out on all candidates. It called the world body a "toxic pit" of corruption.

World football's leadership has never been far from scandal. But allegations have mounted since the 2010 votes which awarded the 2018 World Cup to Russia and the 2022 tournament to Qatar.

FIFA's foundations were shaken in May when seven football officials were detained on US warrants in a luxury Zurich hotel two days before Blatter, 79, was re-elected to a fifth term.

Despite his win over Prince Ali in that election, Blatter announced four days later he would stand down. The Swiss criminal inquiry has left him battling to save his reputation.

The US inquiry—with 14 football officials and business executives accused over more than \$150 million of bribes—threatens more embarrassing revelations. Germany has become the latest country to be tainted by scandal. German prosecutors said last week they have started a preliminary inquiry into allegations that bribes were paid to secure the 2006 World Cup. Der Spiegel magazine has said Germany had a 6.7 million euro slush fund to buy votes. Germany's football leadership has strongly denied the allegations.—AFP

## German League results/standings

Borussia Dortmund 5 (Aubameyang 18, 85, Reus 21, 33, 90+1) Augsburg 1 (Bobadilla 49)

**Played Saturday**  
Bayern Munich 4 (Robben 35, Vidal 40, Lewandowski 62, Mueller 77-pen) Cologne 0; Bayer Leverkusen 4 (Bellarabi 57, Boenisch 70, Hernandez 71, Mehmedi 89); VfB Stuttgart 3 (Harnik 50, Didavi 54, Rupp 60); Hanover 96 1 (Klaus 51) Eintracht Frankfurt 2 (Stendera 57, 65); Mainz 05 1 (Muto 90) Werder Bremen 3 (Ujah 39, 44, Bartels 45+3); Darmstadt 0, VfL Wolfsburg 1 (Caligiuri 78); Ingolstadt 0, Hertha Berlin 1 (Weiser 11).

**Played Friday**  
Hoffenheim 0, Hamburg 1 (Lasogga 88)

**BERLIN:** German Bundesliga table after yesterday's early match (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):

Bayern Munich	10	10	0	0	33	4	30	Darmstadt	10	3	4	3	12	13	13
Dortmund	10	7	2	1	29	12	23	M'gladbach	9	4	0	5	16	16	12
Schalke 04	9	6	1	2	12	9	19	Frankfurt	10	3	3	4	16	17	12
VfL Wolfsburg	10	5	3	2	15	12	18	Mainz 05	10	4	0	6	13	16	12
Hertha Berlin	10	5	2	3	13	10	17	Werder Bremen	10	3	1	6	10	15	10
Leverkusen	10	5	2	3	12	12	17	Hanover 96	10	2	2	6	9	18	8
Ingolstadt 04	10	4	2	4	6	8	14	VfB Stuttgart	10	2	1	7	15	23	7
Cologne	10	4	2	4	13	17	14	Hoffenheim	10	1	3	6	12	19	6
Hamburg	10	4	2	4	9	13	14	Augsburg	10	1	2	7	9	20	5

## DORTMUND DOWN AUGSBURG

**BERLIN:** Gabon striker Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang netted a hat-trick yesterday as Borussia Dortmund ran riot in a 5-1 home win over Augsburg to stay second in the Bundesliga. Dortmund trimmed the gap at the top to seven points behind run-away leaders Bayern Munich as Aubameyang took his tally to 13 goals in 10 league games to become the league's joint top-scorer alongside Bayern's Robert Lewandowski. This was an emphatic victory for Dortmund, who tore the Augsburg defence to pieces as Japan midfielder Shinji Kagawa set up three of the goals.

Aubameyang claimed the third hat-trick in his two years at Dortmund. "I have no secret, but I bet with my brother yesterday that I would score three goals, no joke, I have already had a few messages about it," revealed Aubameyang when asked what is the secret of his goal-scoring success. "The hat-trick is for my little son."

"I try to enjoy myself on the field. Sometimes you have good times when you can try everything and it comes off." He opened his account by finishing off a superb move for the opener on 18 minutes, started by right-back Matthias Ginter on the flank, as a series of quick passes saw Ilkay Gundogan provide the striker with a simple tap in. Reus doubled the lead on 21 minutes when he fired home a superbly worked cross from Kagawa and the fleet-footed winger claimed his second with Kagawa again providing the final pass. It was 3-0 at the break, but Augsburg striker Raul Bobadilla pulled a goal back when he out-jumped Mats Hummels from a free-kick to head home on 49 minutes.

It proved to be no more than a consolation as Aubameyang grabbed his second on 85 minutes, then took advantage of another good Kagawa pass to delay his shot before beating Augsburg goalkeeper Roman Burkli on 91 minutes. On Saturday, Arjen Robben netted on his return from injury as Bayern romped to a 4-0 home win against Cologne to claim their 10th

straight win this season and 1000th victory in the Bundesliga.

Netherlands captain Robben scored in his first match since August after a groin strain while Arturo Vidal, Lewandowski and Thomas Mueller also got on the scoresheet. Wolfsburg stayed fourth with a 1-0 win at Darmstadt as Daniel Caligiuri hit their 78th minute winner.

Fresh from their 4-4 draw at home to Roma in the Champions League on Tuesday, Bayer Leverkusen had to come from 2-0 down before beating Stuttgart 4-3 in another thriller.

Stuttgart took a 2-0 lead through Martin Harnik and Daniel Didavi before Germany winger Karim Bellarabi made it 2-1 on 57 minutes. Midfielder Lukas Rupp netted for the visitors' to make it 3-1 with an hour played when two goals in two minutes levelled the scores before Swiss striker Admir Mehmedi netted the 89th-minute winner.

The victory lifted Leverkusen to sixth while Stuttgart remain in the bottom three. Nigeria striker Anthony Ujah scored twice as Werder Bremen broke their five-match losing streak with a 3-1 win at Mainz where Japan striker Yoshinori Muto scored the hosts' consolation goal in the 90th minute. The result lifted Bremen out of the relegation zone and up to 14th while Mainz dropped to 13th. Midfielder Marc Stendera was Eintracht Frankfurt's star with both of their second-half goals in a 2-1 comeback victory at Hanover 96, who hang just above the relegation places.

Hertha Berlin are fifth after their 1-0 win at Bavarian side Ingolstadt on Saturday night when ex-Bayern Munich midfielder Mitchell Weiser scored the winner after just 11 minutes.

Ten-man Hoffenheim are second-from-bottom after their 1-0 defeat to Hamburg on Friday thanks to Pierre-Michel Lasogga's late winner. Hoffenheim's Bosnian defender Ermin Bicakcic was sent off for a second yellow card.—AFP



ITALY: Juventus' Paulo Dybala celebrates after scoring during a Serie A soccer match between Juventus and Atalanta. —AP

# JUVE RECORD RARE WIN

**MILAN:** Argentinian Paulo Dybala staked his claim for a regular starting spot at Juventus after a superb individual display as the stuttering champions beat 10-man Atalanta 2-0 to claim just their third win of the season. Dybala, signed in a 32 million-euro (\$35.2m) deal in the summer, had recently been advised by the president of his former club Palermo, Maurizio Zamparini, to move on after failing to nail down a regular starting place in Turin.

After this performance Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri was keen to reassure the 21-year-old striker he has a bright future at the club, but defended his decision not to start him in every game.

"He played well today," Allegri told Mediaset. "He's come from Palermo, with all due respect, but playing in Sicily is different. "He was a leader (there), but here we can't put too much responsibility on his shoulders. "Our game is totally different compared to the one played by Palermo. He's only 21, and still has technical, tactical and physical improvements to make."

Dybala had started only four times for Juventus this season but, as the defending champions stumbled from one disaster to the next, was one of the team's few bright lights.

He scored in three of his four previous starts but, following the return from injury of Alvaro Morata and Mario Mandzukic, had recently fallen out of favour.

On what was his first start since he struck a penalty in a 3-1 win over Bologna at the start of October, Dybala proved the inspiration as Juve overwhelmed Atalanta to begin what fans will hope is their definitive climb back up the table.

Dybala broke the deadlock on 28 minutes when he collected Paul Pogba's short delivery outside the area to wrong-foot Marco Sportiello with a fine curling drive. Notably, it was the first time the Bianconeri have scored inside the opening half-hour of a league game this season.

Dybala should have doubled Juve's lead on the stroke of half-time but Sportiello blocked

with his legs after the Argentinian met Patrice Evra's cutback from the left byline with a smart first-timer.

Four minutes after the restart Dybala beat his marker deep on the left to deliver a low ball in for Mandzukic to tap home from close range.

Atalanta were reduced to 10 men with 20 minutes remaining after Rafael Toloi saw red for a second bookable offence. Dybala won a penalty for the hosts on 80 minutes after he was up-ended by Gabriel Paletta on the edge of the area. Pogba stepped up with a chance to put the game beyond all reach, only to see his tame effort blocked by Sportiello before being cleared.

Juventus moved up to 12th place to sit six points behind leaders Fiorentina, who will lose top spot to Roma in the event of defeat to the Giallorossi later on Sunday.

There was joy, too, at the San Siro as AC Milan ended a three-game winless streak with a 2-1 win over 10-man Sassuolo thanks to Luiz

Adriano's header four minutes from time.

Carlos Bacca broke the deadlock on the half-hour from the penalty spot after he had been upended by goalkeeper Andrea Consigli, who saw red and was replaced by Gianluca Pegolo after Sassuolo coach Eusebio Di Francesco sacrificed Antonio Floro Flores.

Sassuolo were back on level terms eight minutes after the restart when Domenico Berardi curled a free-kick over the defensive wall to wrong-foot goalkeeper Gianluca Donnarumma, who was making his Serie A debut at 16 years and 242 days old. Milan looked to be heading for a share of the spoils only for Adriano, who replaced Andrea Poli on the hour mark, to find himself in the right place at the right time at a corner on 86 minutes to head past Pegolo. Earlier yesterday, Italy striker Eder scored his seventh goal of the season as Sampdoria beat Verona 4-1, while Udinese beat Frosinone 1-0. Lazio host Torino and Napoli visit Chievo in the day's other matches.—AFP

## Italian League results/standings

Sampdoria 4 (Muriel 11, Zukanovic 28, Soriano 45, Eder 54) Verona 1 (Ionita 75); Juventus 2 (Dybala 28, Mandzukic 49) Atalanta 0; AC Milan 2 (Bacca 31-pen, Adriano 86) Sassuolo 1 (Berardi 53); Udinese 1 (Lodi 20) Frosinone 0.

**Played Saturday**  
Palermo 1 (Gilardino 66) Inter Milan 1 (Perisic 60); Carpi 1 (Letizia 24) Bologna 2 (Gastaldello 47, Masina 90+3); Empoli 2 (Krunic 44, Zielinski 57) Genoa 0.

**MILAN:** Italian Serie A table ahead of yesterday's late games (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):

Fiorentina	8	6	0	2	15	6	18	Chievo	8	3	3	2	13	8	12
Inter Milan	9	5	3	1	9	7	18	Juventus	9	3	3	3	11	8	12
Roma	8	5	2	1	20	10	17	Palermo	9	3	2	4	11	13	11
Napoli	8	4	3	1	18	8	15	Udinese	9	3	2	4	9	11	11
Sassuolo	9	4	3	2	12	10	15	Empoli	9	3	1	5	10	14	10
Lazio	8	5	0	3	11	13	15	Genoa	9	3	1	5	7	11	10
Sampdoria	9	4	2	3	17	13	14	Frosinone	9	2	1	6	6	11	7
Torino	8	4	2	2	13	9	14	Bologna	9	2	0	7	6	14	6
Atalanta	9	4	2	3	11	10	14	Verona	9	0	5	4	8	15	5
AC Milan	9	4	1	4	11	15	13	Carpi	9	1	2	6	9	20	5

## EPL results/standings

Bournemouth 1 (Ritchie 1) Tottenham 5 (Kane 9-pen, 56, 63, Dembele 17, Lamela 30); Liverpool 1 (Benteke 77) Southampton 1 (Mane 86); Manchester United 0, Manchester City 0; Sunderland 3 (Johnson 45-pen, Jones 65, Fletcher 86) Newcastle 0.

**Played Saturday**  
Arsenal 2 (Giroud 36, Koscielny 38) Everton 1 (Barkley 44); Aston Villa 1 (J. Ayew 62) Swansea 2 (Sigurdsson 68, A. Ayew 87); Leicester 1 (Vardy 59) Crystal Palace 0; Norwich 0, West Brom 1 (Rondon 46); Stoke 0, Watford 2 (Deeney 43, Abdi 69); West Ham 2 (Zarate 17, Carroll 79) Chelsea 1 (Cahill 56).

**LONDON:** English Premier League table after yesterday's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):

Man City	10	7	1	2	24	8	22	Everton	10	3	4	3	13	13	13
Arsenal	10	7	1	2	18	8	22	Swansea	10	3	4	3	12	12	13
West Ham	10	6	2	2	22	13	20	Watford	10	3	4	3	8	10	13
Man Utd	10	6	2	2	15	8	20	Stoke	10	3	3	4	9	12	12
Leicester	10	5	4	1	20	17	19	Chelsea	10	3	2	5	15	19	11
Tottenham	10	4	5	1	16	8	17	Norwich	10	2	3	5	14	21	9
Crystal Palace	10	5	0	5	12	11	15	Bournemouth	10	2	2	6	12	22	8
Southampton	10	3	5	2	16	13	14	Sunderland	10	1	3	6	11	19	6
Liverpool	10	3	5	2	9	11	14	Newcastle	10	1	3	6	12	22	6
West Brom	10	4	2	4	8	11	14	Aston Villa	10	1	1	8	9	17	4

# KANE TREBLE FIRES FIVE-STAR SPURS



**BOURNEMOUTH:** Harry Kane ended his goal-drought in spectacular fashion as the Tottenham striker's hat-trick inspired a 5-1 demolition of Bournemouth yesterday.

Kane had scored only once in his last 11 games for Tottenham and England and had just a solitary club goal to his name this season. But he appears to be firmly back on track after destroying the Bournemouth defence at Dean Court. Mauricio Pochettino's side had actually fallen behind after just 49 seconds to Matt Ritchie's strike.

But Kane led the fightback, equalising with a penalty before goals from Mousa Dembele and Erik

Lamela put Tottenham in control before half-time.

Kane struck twice in seven minutes in the second half to confirm his return to form lifting Tottenham to fifth place and leaving Bournemouth hovering just above the relegation zone.

It started so promisingly for Eddie Howe's Bournemouth as they took the lead inside the first minute when a cross from Charlie Daniels evaded everyone in the middle, with Ritchie arriving at the back post to score. Ritchie's early strike was cancelled out by Kane's equaliser from the penalty spot after he had been felled by Bournemouth goalkeeper Artur Boruc.

Tottenham then took the lead as Danny Rose's speculative effort deflected fortuitously into the path of Dembele, who coolly finished past Boruc.

Boruc did well to prevent Toby Alderweireld scoring the third when he kept out his near-post header but the Polish keeper's afternoon did not get any better as he was culpable for Tottenham's next goal on the half-hour mark.

Kane wriggled free on the left but could only hit a tame cross into the box. However, Boruc failed to

hold it and split the ball straight into the path of Lamela, who made no mistake.

Bournemouth were still creating chances of their own and were unlucky not to reduce the arrears just before the interval as Marc Pugh saw a scuffed effort cleared off the line by Alderweireld before Josh King hit the inside of the post moments later.

Boruc could do nothing to stop the fourth Spurs goal as Kane slid in to convert Christian Eriksen's cross and put the result beyond doubt.

With Kane in search of his second Premier League hat-trick, the England striker came close with a rasping shot that Boruc turned behind, but the wait would only go on for a few more seconds. The resulting corner was headed towards goal by Alderweireld and again Boruc could not hold on as Kane was on hand to score his third.

Eriksen's fine effort came back off the post as Spurs pushed for a sixth goal. Kane had legitimate calls for a second penalty turned down by referee Roger East as he looked to capitalise on yet another Boruc spill, with the goalkeeper catching Kane's leg as he looked to recover.—AFP

# Sports

Rosberg on pole after rain-hit Texas qualifying

16

Juve record rare win

19



MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2015

S AFRICA THRASH INDIA TO CLINCH ODI SERIES Page 18



MANCHESTER: Manchester United's Spanish midfielder Ander Herrera (left) vies for the ball against Manchester City's Brazilian midfielder Fernandinho during the English Premier League football match. — AFP

## UNITED, CITY MISFIRE IN GOAL-SHY DERBY



**MANCHESTER:** Manchester United and Manchester City shared the spoils after a forgettable 170th Manchester derby that yielded only two shots on target finished 0-0 at Old Trafford yesterday.

The point was enough to return City to the Premier League summit on goal difference above Arsenal, with United two points back in fourth place, but it was not a game that will

have given Arsene Wenger's side undue concerns about the strength of their competition in the title race.

In mitigation, Manuel Pellegrini's City could point to the absence of injured duo Sergio Aguero and David Silva, which partly explained why their attack ran dry after a flood of 11 goals in two league games. "It is a good point," Pellegrini told Sky Sports. "If you can't win, then don't lose it. People have said that we can't defend and in the second half we did very well."

"I am satisfied with a point, but I don't like to play this way," United manager Louis van Gaal could not point to injuries to explain his side's attacking shortcomings, although they came closest to scoring when Anthony Martial, the hosts' stand-out forward, teed up substitute Jesse Lingard to volley against the bar late on. "We had 90 minutes control of the game against a side like Manchester City," said Van Gaal. "I can-

not complain. But you want to win and we did not."

City had made lightning-fast starts on their two previous visits to Old Trafford—a 3-0 win in their 2013-14 title-winning season and a 4-2 defeat last April—but it was United who imposed themselves here. Perhaps mindful of the joy that Sevilla had found on the flanks during their 2-1 Champions League defeat at City on Wednesday, United looked to move the ball wide quickly, with Antonio Valencia—preferred to Matteo Darmian at right-back—squandering two early crossing chances.

Martial again lined up wide on the left for the hosts and he offered a threat each time he took possession, drawing fouls from Fernandinho and City skipper Vincent Kompany that each yielded bookings. At the other end, Raheem Sterling had a shot blocked by Phil Jones, while as the first half drew to a close Yaya Toure saw a

free-kick deflected off-target and then headed wide from the ensuing corner. Wayne Rooney, playing the day after his 30th birthday, did not get a sniff up front for United and was required to leave the pitch for treatment after a clash of heads with Kompany, who returned to City's starting XI following six weeks out with a calf injury.

United reached half-time having failed to register a single attempt at goal, but they quickly rectified that in the second period.

Ander Herrera saw a shot deflected behind and then had a strong penalty appeal turned down after getting his foot caught between Sterling's legs, while Chris Smalling's looping header was almost turned in by Morgan Schneiderlin.

On the penalty claim, Van Gaal said: "We should have had a penalty on Ander Herrera. It is easy to see for me, but I have a replay. The ref-

eree has one second."

Shortly after, Marcos Rojo's half-way-line interception unintentionally turned into a through-ball for Juan Mata, but Joe Hart sprinted from his line to clear.

Seeking an out-ball, Pellegrini sent Jesus Navas on for Sterling—his hat-trick against Bournemouth last weekend a distant memory—while for United, Lingard and Marouane Fellaini replaced Mata and Bastian Schweinsteiger.

When one of the goalkeepers was finally tested, David de Gea had no trouble gathering a tame curler from Navas, but Lingard went closer minutes later when he hared onto Martial's delicately flighted pass and used the outside of his right foot to flick a volley against the bar.

United belatedly worked Hart in the 88th minute, but the England goalkeeper showed sharp reflexes to claw away Smalling's shot from Fellaini's knockdown. — AFP

## SUNDERLAND SWEEP ASIDE BITTER RIVALS NEWCASTLE



**SUNDERLAND:** Sunderland swept to a record sixth successive Premier League triumph over bitter rivals Newcastle as Fabricio Coloccini's controversial dismissal sparked the hosts' 3-0 win at the Stadium of Light yesterday.

However, there might have been a totally different outcome if Newcastle had capitalised on their early domination before a goal in the closing moments of the first half that transformed the match and will be debated in the North East corner of England for a long time. Newcastle had more than one reason to be aggrieved over the incident that shaped the outcome.

It came from a penalty awarded in stoppage time when Newcastle defender Coloccini blocked Steven Fletcher as the Sunderland striker tried to reach a through ball.

Whether referee Robert Madley was right to award the spot-kick converted by Adam Johnson was highly debatable, but the red card

shown to the centre-back was certainly harsh since goalkeeper Rob Elliot looked certain to reach the ball ahead of Fletcher.

Coloccini's anger over the red card was only matched by Newcastle's fury at Madley's failure to spot Lee Cattermole's reckless challenge on Aleksandar Mitrovic seconds earlier in the other penalty area.

Billy Jones and Fletcher added further goals for Sunderland in the second-half to ensure that Sam Allardyce would be their fourth successive manager to win this derby in his second match in charge.

And to make the derby success even sweeter for Sunderland's players and fans, their first league win of the season lifted them above Newcastle on goal difference, although both remain in the relegation zone. "This was quite an achievement considering the low ebb we're in at the moment," Allardyce said. "Everyone's done a job. The players on the pitch and me, tactically setting them out. We had some good fortune for the first goal and we took advantage of it."

It was a painful afternoon for Newcastle, who had scored six times in a victory over Norwich in their previous match. "It was never a penalty. Absolutely ridiculous," Newcastle boss Steve McClaren said.

"The penalty and red card was a double whammy. We were the better side by a distance, but referee decisions are out of your control!"



**LONDON:** Newcastle United's Spanish striker Ayoze Perez vies with Sunderland's English midfielder Lee Cattermole (up) during the English Premier League football match. — AFP

McClaren's team soon made their attacking intentions clear and only three minutes had gone when Coloccini hooked a shot too close to goalkeeper Costel Pantilimon. Sunderland were soon being overrun in midfield and were fortunate to escape punishment when Newcastle carved out three openings in quick succession midway through the half. — AFP

## KLOPP DENIED FIRST WIN



**LIVERPOOL:** Jurgen Klopp was denied his first win as Liverpool manager as Sadio Mane's late equaliser earned Southampton a deserved 1-1 draw at Anfield yesterday.

Klopp had looked set for his maiden victory when substitute Christian Benteke powered in a header from James Milner's cross with 13 minutes to play.

But Liverpool, who had drawn each of their new manager's first two matches in charge, were held once again as Mane bundled in his fifth goal in five matches with four minutes remaining.

The Senegal winger was then sent off late on after receiving two yellow cards in quick succession, the second of which was for a crunching challenge on Alberto Moreno.

Klopp's team laboured for much of the afternoon and appear to have plenty of work ahead of them if they are to challenge for Champions League qualification this season.

The former Borussia Dortmund coach has

been left desperately short of attacking options in his early matches, and will have been pleased to see Benteke and Roberto Firmino continue their recovery from recent injury problems with second-half substitute appearances. But Liverpool's defensive weaknesses cost them dearly, with Jose Fonte and Gaston Ramirez able to win headers from the free-kick that led to Mane forcing the equaliser.

United States-based principal owner John W Henry once again watched from the stands, as he had when Klopp's team were held 1-1 at home by Rubin Kazan in the Europa League on Thursday.

If Henry was hoping for a lively start, he was disappointed, as Liverpool were sluggish. With Daniel Sturridge missing a third successive match because of a knee problem and neither Benteke nor Firmino fit enough to start, Divock Origi was once again pressed into service as the main striker.

Origi, who has yet to score for Liverpool, looked desperately short of confidence, and touched the ball just 10 times in 45 minutes before he was replaced by Benteke at half-time. There were few signs of the high-energy pressing game for which Klopp's teams have become famous. Philippe Coutinho had an early shot charged down by Southampton right-back Cedric, before Emre Can hooked a James Milner corner into the side-netting at the near post. — AFP



## CHINA PM SAYS 7% GROWTH GOAL NEVER SET IN STONE



Omar Al Omar-CEO of Zain & David Wang-President of Huawei Wireless Network Product Line.

## ZAIN KUWAIT PARTNERS WITH HUAWEI TO BUILD NFW NEW COLLABORATION AIM TO REDUCE OPERATIONAL COSTS

**KUWAIT:** Zain Kuwait - Kuwait's largest mobile operator-has signed a business contract together with Huawei - a leading global ICT solutions provider to use the power of virtualized network technologies to deliver more dynamic, flexible, and efficient mobile services to its customers over the next three years.

The agreement will focus on the application of a cutting-edge trend in telecommunications known as Network Function Virtualization (NFV). It is a concept that is still fairly new to the Middle East-Zain Kuwait is the first regional operator to practice NFV on a live network-and which combines traditional telecommunications hardware with contemporary cloud-based and software-driven IT solutions. The result is a network which can use virtual processes to streamline operations, utilize resources more effectively, and which can be

scaled quickly to meet with customers' rising service demands. "The concept of Network Function Virtualization is expected to change the ecosystem of modern telecommunications," says Omar Al Omar, CEO of Zain Kuwait. "We are excited to work closely with Huawei on our virtualization strategy and to bring it live onto our networks as soon as possible. In particular, Huawei's breadth of solutions and managed services can really help us to advance our overall network evolution strategy."

### More flexibility

"One of the great features of this project is that the NFV approach can provide operators with more flexibility in opening up their network's capabilities-enabling them to pioneer new services faster and more efficiently to the

end user," said Mohamad Sharara, Head of Zain Key Account at Huawei. "Zain Kuwait has long been at the forefront of mobile service development. This is a testament to that vision. It pushes the boundaries of what we have seen in the Middle East to date, and we will take this NFV project as a successful case study in considering an expansion to other Zain operating companies."

In terms of technical deployments, the latest contract will see Zain Kuwait leverage a full suite of Huawei NFV solutions including cloud data centers, virtualized evolved packet cores (vEPC), a virtualized IMS core network, SDM hardware and software, and test bed hardware for the network. In addition, Zain Kuwait has agreed to a three-year Managed Services contract with Huawei which will see Huawei experts assist Zain directly in set-

ting up and managing the new solutions on top of NFV architecture. The agreement is part of Zain's overall ICT transformation strategy over the next decade. This includes plans to evolve its current IT infrastructure to cloud data center and develop more digital services.

Zain already utilizes a number of Huawei solutions and services to meet these ambitions, both on the IT level and in terms of telecommunications networks. Earlier this year the two companies unveiled plans for a new strategic cooperation that will trial and implement high-speed 4.5G services on Zain Kuwait's network over the next three years. Zain has also established a Joint Innovation Center with Huawei in Kuwait to serve as a research hub for the advancement of future mobile broadband services and applications.

## ZAIN GROUP RECORDS NET INCOME OF KD 118M FOR FIRST NINE MONTHS

**KUWAIT:** Zain Group, a leading mobile telecom innovator in eight markets across the Middle East and Africa, announces its consolidated financial results for the nine-month and third-quarter period ended 30 September 2015.

Zain Group serves 45.6 million customers as of 30 September 2015, a 4% increase when compared to the same period in 2014.

### Nine months ended 30 Sept, 2015 comparative results

For the first nine months of 2015, Zain Group generated consolidated revenues of KD 855 million (USD 2.8 billion), while consolidated EBITDA for the period reached KD 372 million (USD 1.2 billion), down 4% year-on-year (YoY), reflecting a healthy EBITDA margin of 43.5%. Consolidated net income reached KD 118 million (USD 394 million), reflecting a 27% Yo-Y decrease. Earnings Per Share amounted to KD 0.030 (USD 0.10) for the nine-month period.

### Third quarter 2015 comparative results

For the third quarter of 2015, Zain Group recorded stable consolidated revenues of KD 292 million (USD 968 million) when compared to KD 294 million (USD 1.0 billion) for the same period in 2014. EBITDA for the quarter reached KD 131 million (USD 433 million) compared to KD 123 million (USD 434 million), an increase of 6%. Net income for the period amounted to KD 38 million (USD 125 million), reflecting 18% decrease compared to KD 46 million (USD 163 million) for the same period of 2014. Earnings Per Share for the quarter reached KD 0.010 (USD 0.03).

### Key Operational Notes:

- Group data revenues (excluding SMS and VAS) witnessed a healthy 14% growth for the first nine months of 2015, representing 20% of the Group's total revenues.
- Foreign currency translation impact mainly due to the appreciation of the USD against the KWD cost the company USD 177 million on revenue, USD 77 million on EBITDA and USD 25 million on net income for the first nine-months of the year.
- Additional amortization on both Zain Iraq's 3G licence, Zain Jordan's 4G and newly acquired 3G spectrum fees impacted the bottom line.

4. In Iraq, continued social instability in the country and heightened levels of competition severely impacted Zain Iraq and consequently the Group's overall key financial metrics.

5. Implementation of a new 20% sales tax on mobile services as well as wide-ranging tax increases on other sectors in Iraq, that commenced 1 August 2015, hit spending on mobile services.

6. Zain Group made its third venture capital investment through a strategic participation in the Luxembourg-based 'Digital East Fund', managed by venture capital specialist Earlybird.

7. Zain Group announced a Group-wide agreement with Uber, to offer Zain customers discounted and preferential services when using the Uber platform. The partnership is



Zain Group Chairman Asaad Al Banwan.

currently effective and operational in Bahrain, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia and will become available in Kuwait soon.

Commenting on the results, the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Zain Group, Asaad Al Banwan said, "The board is working closely with the executive management team to prudently deal with the rise in competition and other unavoidable currency and social challenges in several key markets. As the market leader in most of our eight operations, we remain focused on further strengthening our dominant presence while at the same time investing in network upgrades across the territories. We are constantly evaluating business

optimization and acquisition opportunities that will drive value for shareholders."

Zain Group CEO, Scott Gegenheimer noted, "We are pleased to see the continued growth in data usage and related revenue metrics across all our operations, reflecting the success of the company's primary focus to upgrade its networks and commitment to delivering an affordable and compelling digital lifestyle experience to our customers. Despite not witnessing year-on-year growth in several key aspects of the Group's consolidated financial results predominantly due to the unavoidable circumstances facing our operation in Iraq, our impressive EBITDA margin of 43.5% reflects the success of Zain Group's operational efficiency drive."

Gegenheimer continued, "The positive momentum and improving financial performance of our operations in Saudi Arabia and Sudan bodes well for the future of both companies. We continue to grow our customer base in our home base of Kuwait and we are working closely with the management team there to address the major competitive challenges in this lucrative market. It is gratifying to see both the Bahrain and Jordan operations continue to grow their customer base and data related revenues on the back of their respective upgraded and newly installed 4G networks. We are hopeful that the social unrest in Iraq subsides soon, so the operation can fully capture its growth potential with its newly operational 3G service."

### Operational review of key markets:

**Kuwait:** Zain Kuwait customer base grew 9% Yo-Y to serve 2.9 million customers on its nationwide 4G network as of 30 September, 2015. This is particularly impressive growth considering the mobile penetration rate in excess of 220%. Revenues for the nine months reached USD 810 million, EBITDA reached USD 398 million and net income amounted to USD 242 million. The appeal of Zain Kuwait's nationwide 4G network continues to grow, with data revenues now representing 36% of the operation's total revenues, which grew by 8% in KWD terms (2% in USD terms). The operation remains the most efficient mobile operator within Zain Group and one of the most efficient in the region with an impressive 49.2% EBITDA margin.

**Iraq:** Zain Iraq launched 3G services at the beginning of the year and is actively rolling

out 3G services across the country. This contributed to data revenues growth of 39% Yo-Y for the nine months. Zain Iraq's performance has been severely hampered by the escalation of social instability that has resulted in several million people being displaced internally. Zain Iraq also has to endure frequent temporary network shutdowns and associated higher network operational costs. In addition, the implementation of a new 20% sales tax on mobile services together with a wide range of tax increases in other sectors in Iraq were introduced on 1st August, 2015, impacting spending on mobile services. These exceptional circumstances coupled with intense competition and currency fluctuations, adversely affected the operation's financial performance. Revenues for the first nine months of 2015



Scott Gegenheimer-CEO of Zain Group.

reached USD 924 million, with EBITDA reaching USD 359 million (representing an impressive 38.8% margin), while net income amounted to USD 102 million. It is worth mentioning that the Q3 2015 KPIs grew by revenues 7%, EBITDA 13% and net income 60% as compared with Q2 2015. The Zain Iraq team is committed to maintaining a resilient and efficient network despite the domestic situation. The operator also foresees significant growth in all key financial indicators due to the impact of mobile data revenue growth given the pent-up demand for broadband services. The operator now serves 11.4 million customers.

**Saudi Arabia:** Zain Saudi Arabia is continu-

ally improving the key aspects of its business. For the first nine months of 2015, revenues reached USD 1.4 billion, an increase of 9%, while net losses decreased by 29% Yo-Y to USD 182 million. EBITDA increased significantly by 48%, reaching USD 326 million, while the EBITDA margin improved to 23% compared to 17% last year. Encouragingly, data revenues grew significantly by 48%, representing 23% of total revenues at the end of the nine-month period. The customer base in the Kingdom grew by a strong 31% Yo-Y to reach 11.8 million, the highest customer growth rate in the Group.

**Sudan:** The operation performed well in both USD and local currency terms (SDG) with revenues increasing 7% Yo-Y in USD terms to reach USD 533 million (up 14% Yo-Y in SDG terms) for the nine-month period. EBITDA increased 8% Yo-Y to reach USD 218 million (up 15% in SDG terms), with net income increasing 48% Yo-Y to reach USD 113 million (up 57% in SDG terms). Data revenues have increased substantially Yo-Y, up 87% in USD terms (99% in SDG terms) to reflect 10% of total revenues, boding well for the future given the scarcity of broadband services. Customers served reached 11.6 million, reflecting an annual 4% increase.

**Jordan:** Zain Jordan saw a 3% decrease in revenues for the nine-month period to reach USD 343 million, with net income amounting to USD 71 million for the period. The operation witnessed a 17% increase in data revenue where data represented 28% of Zain Jordan's total revenue at the end of the period. Data revenues are expected to grow substantially given the recent roll-out of 4G services across the Kingdom. The operation is expanding and investing substantially in the expansion of 4G services throughout 2015. Zain Jordan's customer base increased 3% Yo-Y to reach 4.1 million.

**Bahrain:** During 2014, Zain Bahrain's nationwide network was boosted by a USD 100 million investment in a total network revamp and upgrade to 4G LTE, and accordingly the operation witnessed a 10% Yo-Y increase in data revenues for the first nine months of 2015, representing 34% of the company's revenues. The appeal of the network coupled with new marketing initiatives have driven customer growth by 3% Yo-Y to now serve 814K customers with the operation posting a 17% increase in net profit for the nine-month period.

# ETHIOPIAN AIRLINES TARGETS ASIA WITH CHINESE CREW

**ADDIS ABABA:** Africa's flourishing Ethiopian Airlines is clear-the future lies with China and it plans to hit home that point by putting Chinese crew members on all flights to China as of next month.

"Asia and particularly China is our focus. This is our biggest market," CEO Tewolde Gebremariam told AFP. The Addis Ababa-based company already has flights to Beijing, Shanghai, Hong Kong and Guangzhou.

Now the airline is training Chinese crews for its China-bound flights, because "90 percent of passengers flying to China don't speak English". "They don't understand the safety instructions," Gebremariam said, adding that they needed teams that speak their language and "understand their culture".

Some 30 young Chinese recruits are completing

their training at the Ethiopian Airlines aviation academy. "I chose Ethiopian Airlines because I want an international experience," said He Xupeng, who left a Chinese company back home to join the African air carrier.

China has invested heavily in major construction projects in Africa, one of the latest being sub-Saharan Africa's first modern tramway, a \$475-million scheme largely funded by China's Exim bank that opened last month in the Ethiopian capital.

Beijing sees Africa as a key source of natural resources and raw materials and even built the \$200 million African Union headquarters in Addis Ababa in 2012 as a gift expressing "friendship to the African people". Because of China's ever-expanding investments across the continent, the Chinese community

has grown steadily in Africa, as has the market for flights to and from Asia.

### Junction of Africa and Asia

At the Ethiopian Airlines training centre, Africa's sole centre to boast a Boeing 787 simulator, there are pilots, technicians and flight crew of 49 nationalities. The country has come a long way from the global headlines generated by Ethiopia's 1984 famine, experiencing near-double-digit economic growth and huge infrastructure investment that have made it one of Africa's top-performing economies and a magnet for foreign investment.

Ethiopian now boasts the largest fleet in Africa, with 77 aircraft. It has grown rapidly, acquiring 32 new planes since 2010. With six million passengers

in 2014, it aims to surpass other major African airlines such as EgyptAir and South African Airways which count seven million passengers.

Gebremariam said he wants to make Ethiopian Airlines the primary carrier between Africa and Asia. "We're the best point of entry for the continent," Gebremariam said. "Addis is situated at the junction point between the emerging economies of Africa and Asia." In addition to its 91 international destinations, the company hopes to add Jakarta and Ho Chi Minh City in the next year. It also wants Yaounde on its list of destinations in Africa.

"Today, 80 percent of air traffic in Africa is controlled by non-African companies," Ethiopian's chief executive said. "The market is unbalanced. We want to change that." — AFP

# SAUDI CONTINUES SLIDING, OTHER GULF BOURSES FIRM

## QATAR NAVIGATION CLIMBS AFTER Q3 EARNINGS

**DUBAI:** Saudi Arabia's stock market fell further yesterday because of worries that low oil prices would force Riyadh into spending cuts and tax increases, although most other Gulf markets rose in response to a strong tone for global equities.

The Saudi stock index edged up in early trade but soon resumed falling and closed down 1.4 percent, bringing its losses over four trading days to 6.7 percent.

Leading petrochemical producer Saudi Basic Industries, its margins squeezed by low oil prices and facing the possibility that the government could raise gas prices to save money, fell 2.7 percent.

Al-Rajhi Bank dropped 2.8 percent and telecommunications firm Zain Saudi lost 3.6 percent.

However rival telecommunications operator Etihad Etisalat, which plunged 10.1 percent on Thursday after reporting a surprise third-quarter loss, rose 0.4 percent.

The mood was more optimistic elsewhere in the Gulf, where Dubai's index edged up 0.3 percent.

Gulf Navigation, the most heavily traded stock, soared 12.7 percent to its highest level this year. Integrated Capital, controlled by Abu Dhabi Financial Group, raised its stake in Gulf Navigation to 5.19 percent in mid-August and has since increased it further to 6.01 percent, exchange data shows.

HITS Telecom, the second most heavily traded stock,

jumped 10.2 percent to 0.39 dirham in its biggest volume since mid-July. The stock has been in a long-term downtrend from around 1.20 dirhams in January 2012.

Qatar's index climbed 0.5 percent as Qatar Navigation gained 2.8 percent. The company reported a 1.8 percent rise in third-quarter net profit to 308 million riyals (\$84.6 million), in line with analysts' estimates.

### KFH profit up

Kuwait Finance House, that country's biggest Islamic lender, rose 1.8 percent after reporting a 21.6 percent rise in third-quarter net profit to 43.4 million dinars (\$143.8 million); analysts had forecast 33.5-41.0 million dinars. That helped the Kuwaiti stock index gain 0.5 percent.

But Abu Dhabi fell 0.3 percent, dampened by weak earnings from Union National Bank. The bank's shares slid 3.8 percent after it posted a 12.4 percent fall in third-quarter net profit to 480.59 million dirhams (\$130.9 million). Analysts polled by Reuters had forecast an average of 541.8 million dirhams.

A major reason for the profit drop was loan impairments, which jumped to 199.8 million dirhams from 126.9 million dirhams - possibly a negative signal for other United Arab Emirates banks if cheap oil starts to slow the economy in some areas.

Egypt's index rose 0.6 percent, after slipping on

Thursday as liquidity shifted from other stocks to property developer Amer Group, which resumed trading after a three-day suspension, and Porto Group, the new spinoff from Amer.

Amer bounced 5.6 percent yesterday and was the most heavily traded stock. Porto surged 7.7 percent and was the third most active stock.

### YESTERDAY'S HIGHLIGHTS:

#### SAUDI ARABIA

The index dropped 1.4 percent to 7,276 points.

#### DUBAI

The index rose 0.3 percent to 3,599 points.

#### ABU DHABI

The index fell 0.3 percent to 4,473 points.

#### QATAR

The index climbed 0.5 percent to 11,644 points.

#### EGYPT

The index rose 0.6 percent to 7,653 points.

#### KUWAIT

The index rose 0.5 percent to 5,808 points.

#### OMAN

The index gained 0.3 percent to 5,922 points.

#### BAHRAIN

The index climbed 0.4 percent to 1,254 points. — Reuters

# ABK Q3 PROFITS SURGE

**KUWAIT:** Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) yesterday announced a net profit of KD 29.2 million for the first nine months of 2015, a 7% increase from KD 27.3 million over the corresponding period in 2014. Net operating income also saw a substantial 8% jump, rising to KD 65.4 million from KD 60.6 million when compared to the third quarter last year. Net loans and advances to customers increased by 17.7% over the same period, underlining the Bank's strong organic growth.



Talal Behbehani

The Bank will be completing its acquisition of Piraeus Bank of Egypt (PBE) in the fourth quarter of 2015, and will be consolidating PBE as a new ABK subsidiary at the end of the year. The rebranding of PBE's 39 branch network as ABK Egypt is expected to take place in the first quarter of 2016.

ABK is also in the process of launching a major strategic initiative "Simpler Banking", which highlights a number of service enhancements to make life easier and simpler for customers. The new initiative is aligned with the Bank's vision of "Reimagining a Simpler Bank", which focuses on ABK's core values of Transparency, Integrity, Simplicity and Excellence, and aims to create new standards in service quality and customer experience.



Michel Accad

Talal Behbehani, Chairman of ABK, highlighted ABK's continued strong performance saying: "I am very pleased to be able to report such a strong set of results for ABK. These results, especially the top line growth, show that our customer-focused approach is bearing fruits. In the future, we also expect sustained growth as we benefit from our acquisition of Piraeus Bank Egypt and the new opportunities it provides."

Michel Accad, ABK's Chief Executive Officer added: "Today's results reflect a balanced management approach, consistent planning, and an excellent workforce which is dedicated to putting our customers first. We are also heavily committed to investing in our infrastructure, processes and systems to make sure that we continue to underline our position as one of this region's most respected banks."

ABK has been regularly honored for its achievements as a leading financial institution across various categories. So far this year, major awards it has won include: the Banker Middle East award for "Best Retail Bank", Asian Banker award for "Most Improved Retail Bank in the Middle East", the "Best Management Information" award at the Dubai Insight Awards, "Best Premium Credit Card" from Banker Middle East, "Award for Excellence" from Standard Chartered Bank and the "Award for Excellent Quality" from International Commerzbank AG.

# OMAN AIR ANNOUNCES DAILY 787 DREAMLINER FLIGHTS TO FRANKFURT

**FRANKFURT:** Germany, is set to become one of the first destinations for Oman Air's iconic new Boeing 787 Dreamliners when they enter service this autumn. Oman Air's Chief Executive Officer, Paul Gregorowitsch, has announced that aircraft began flying daily between Muscat and Frankfurt from yesterday (October 25).

The non-stop and direct flights depart Muscat at 14.00 and arrive in Frankfurt at 18.45. On Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays, return flights depart Frankfurt at 20.20, arriving in Muscat at 06.00. Flights on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays depart Frankfurt at 21.35 and arrive in Muscat at 07.15.

Oman Air remains the only airline to offer direct, non-stop flights between Muscat and Frankfurt, Munich, Paris, London, Milan and Zurich.

### Paul Gregorowitsch comments

"Frankfurt is one of Oman Air's most important international destinations and we are delighted to offer customers on this route an early opportunity to experience our wonderful new Dreamliner aircraft. "Oman Air's Dreamliners offer



extraordinary levels of style and comfort for our long haul passengers. Their unique technology and innovative engineering

have ensured that the aircraft has fast become an icon of 21st Century air travel. Together with Oman Air's superb new cab-

ins and seating, and our legendary Omani hospitality, it will offer our customers a tremendous passenger experience."

The Boeing B787 Dreamliner is the first commercial aircraft to utilise carbon composites in its airframe manufacture. It is lighter and uses 20 per cent less fuel than similarly-sized aircraft. It also offers greater range, produces fewer in addition, its spacious cabins include large, electronically-dimmable windows that provide more natural light and improved views, even for those sitting in central seats.

Oman Air has initially ordered six Dreamliners, with the first two being delivered this autumn. Four more will follow before the end of 2018. The carrier's expansion of its long haul fleet is part of a broader fleet and network expansion programme, currently underway. This will see Oman Air operate 25 wide-body and 45 narrow-body aircraft by 2020. In addition, the airline will programme will deliver significant increases in the number of Oman Air's global destinations and the frequency of flights on established routes, as well as improved connection times at Muscat International Airport.

## EXCHANGE RATES

### AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES	
Japanese Yen	2.501
Indian Rupees	4.684
Pakistani Rupees	2.907
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.160
Nepali Rupees	2.938
Singapore Dollar	218.490
Hongkong Dollar	39.190
Bangladesh Taka	3.903
Philippine Peso	6.545
Thai Baht	8.585
GCC COUNTRIES	
Saudi Riyal	81.030
Qatari Riyal	83.468
Omani Riyal	789.240
Bahraini Dinar	806.960
UAE Dirham	82.730
ARAB COUNTRIES	
Egyptian Pound - Cash	39.300
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	37.867
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.418
Tunisian Dinar	152.610
Jordanian Dinar	428.230
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.025
Syrian Lira	2.165
Morocco Dirham	31.309
EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES	
US Dollar Transfer	303.700
Euro	338.170
Sterling Pound	468.760
Canadian dollar	232.540
Turkish lira	104.540
Swiss Franc	313.090
Australian dollar	221.700
US Dollar Buying	302.500

GOLD	
20 gram	235.51
10 gram	120.45
5 gram	60.91

### UAE EXCHANGE CENTRE WLL

CURRENCIES	TELEX TRANSFER PER 1000
Australian Dollar	210.32
Canadian Dollar	235.65
Swiss Franc	320.95
Euro	345.92
US Dollar	302.70
Sterling Pound	470.95
Japanese Yen	2.57
Bangladesh Taka	3.886
Indian Rupee	4.659
Sri Lankan Rupee	2.159
Nepali Rupee	2.922
Pakistani Rupee	2.899
UAE Dirhams	0.08236
Bahraini Dinar	0.8044
Egyptian Pound	0.03855
Jordanian Dinar	0.4305
Omani Riyal	0.7860
Qatari Riyal	0.08346
Saudi Riyal	0.08074

### DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	302.750
Canadian Dollar	234.300
Sterling Pound	469.260
Euro	344.035
Swiss Frank	290.555
Bahrain Dinar	803.530
UAE Dirhams	82.725
Qatari Riyals	90.700

Saudi Riyals	81.460
Jordanian Dinar	426.600
Egyptian Pound	37.593
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.153
Indian Rupees	4.659
Pakistani Rupees	2.897
Bangladesh Taka	3.883
Philippines Peso	6.548
Cyprus pound	576.640
Japanese Yen	3.530
Syrian Pound	2.600
Nepalese Rupees	3.905
Malaysian Ringgit	72.000
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	47.945
Thai Bhat	9.515
Turkish Lira	104.195

### BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
Europe		
British Pound	0.458045	0.467045
Czech Korune	0.004490	0.016490
Danish Krone	0.041258	0.046258
Euro	0.328967	0.336967
Norwegian Krone	0.032131	0.037331
Romanian Leu	0.087119	0.087119
Slovakia	0.009067	0.019067
Swedish Krona	0.031950	0.036950
Swiss Franc	0.303594	0.313794
Turkish Lira	0.100144	0.110444
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.210857	0.222357
New Zealand Dollar	0.198525	0.208025
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.225173	0.233673
US Dollars	0.299600	0.304100

US Dollars Mint	0.300100	0.304100
Asia		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003500	0.004100
Chinese Yuan	0.046519	0.050019
Hong Kong Dollar	0.037084	0.039834
Indian rupee	0.004397	0.004787
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002441	0.002621
Kenyan Shilling	0.003156	0.003156
Korean Won	0.000259	0.000274
Malaysian Ringgit	0.068662	0.074662
Nepalese Rupee	0.002909	0.003079
Pakistan Rupee	0.002845	0.003125
Philippine Peso	0.006481	0.006761
Sierra Leone	0.000067	0.000073
Singapore Dollar	0.216089	0.222089
South African Rand	0.016759	0.025259
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001867	0.002447
Taiwan	0.009266	0.009446
Thai Baht	0.008243	0.008793

Arab		
Bahraini Dinar	0.798149	0.806149
Egyptian Pound	0.037949	0.040779
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000200	0.000260
Jordanian Dinar	0.424351	0.431851
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000152	0.000252
Moroccan Dirhams	0.020581	0.044581
Nigerian Naira	0.001254	0.001889
Omani Riyal	0.782411	0.788091
Qatar Riyal	0.082707	0.083920
Saudi Riyal	0.080350	0.081050
Syrian Pound	0.001287	0.001507
Tunisian Dinar	0.149987	0.157987
Turkish Lira	0.100144	0.110444
UAE Dirhams	0.081705	0.082854
Yemeni Riyal	0.001373	0.001453

ON ECONOMICS

# UNDERSTANDING FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

By Khaled Al Mutawa

Some people have blindly chosen their financial bank account institutions based on what their spouse, friend or even family member recommends. What is important, however, is knowing which bank is compatible with your needs. "What are the key factors for choosing the best bank? What are the main types of financial institutions in Kuwait? How do they compare with other banking systems? What is the difference between an Islamic bank and other financial institutions? Do you think it would be better to open an account at a credit union or a bank?" These are the questions one should ask though usually few know the answers.

In the US, there are three types of financial institutions that operate as banks. There are commercial banks, savings and loan associations, and credit unions. A commercial bank, also known as (full service bank) is the predominant bank in the United States; it offers several banking services such as checking and saving accounts, loans, and financial advice. Saving and loan associations are financial institutions that hold customer funds in interest-bearing accounts and invest mainly in mortgage loans. Credit unions are not-for-profit banks set up by organizations for their employees to use. Credit unions offer products like low interest loans and high interest saving accounts.

There are also other financial institutions that offer some of the same services as banks: Mortgage companies, finance companies, insurance companies and brokerage firms. However, these institutes are yet to be monitored by the Federal Reserve System (similar to the Kuwait Central Bank). The US Federal Reserve is a system set by the US Congress in 1913. Its mission is to provide the country with a safe, flexible and stable monetary and financial system.

**Federal Reserve has six functions:**

1. Clearing Checks: Funds are transferred from one bank to another.
2. Acting as the Federal Government's Fiscal Agent: Distributes money to Federal Reserve

member banks and commercial banks. It also tracks the deposits and holds a checking account.

3. Supervising Member Banks: Regulates banks that are members of the Federal System.

4. Regulating the Money Supply: One of its main responsibilities is determining the amount of circulation and either an increase or decrease.

5. Setting Reserve Requirements: Member Banks must keep a certain percentage of deposit as reserves.

6. Supplying Paper Currency: Involves printing and maintaining US currency.

Such systems can serve as a great example for Kuwait's banking system.

In Kuwait, there are 12 banks and six of these are Islamic banks. The main difference is that Islamic banks don't pay out or charge interest. Money is substituted by other means to make up for fees, trade, leasing, and stocks. Kuwait Finance House and Boubyan Bank are examples of Islamic banks. If you are a Muslim who is following the law of economy in Sharia, you may consider opening an account in one of these banks.

**Here are three factors on how to choose your bank:**

1. Identify what are your banking needs. Is direct deposit important? A loan? Are you searching for investment opportunities?
2. Research the bank's financial stability. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) provides a phenomenal report of many banks' financial outlook. Search their institution directory to find out about your possible choices.
3. Visit the local bank and know what they offer. Some banks offer a hotel discount for example. Visiting the bank itself and asking them questions including what makes your bank different? What will you offer me? NBK, for example, invests money from savings accounts and pays out 0.065% twice a year on the 31 May and 30 November.

Understanding your own banking needs is the first step to choosing a bank both in Kuwait and when/if traveling or living abroad for any length of time.

Al Mutawa is a student at the American University of Kuwait.



# INDIGO SEEKS INVESTORS IN BATTLE FOR INDIA'S SKIES

'SERVICE IS GOOD AND THEY'RE CHEAPER'

**NEW DELHI:** Waiting for a flight at New Delhi's Indira Gandhi airport, law student Shweta Toppo explains why she mostly flies IndiGo, the upstart budget airline preparing for a stock market flotation next week.

"They're always on time, service is good and they're cheaper. For students that's always a good thing," said the 19-year-old, en route to her university in the eastern city of Guwahati.

Toppo is the only person in her family to fly, one of the millions of new air travellers making India a tantalising prospect for airlines.

They include IndiGo, India's only consistently profitable carrier, which hopes to raise about 30 billion rupees (\$460 million) in the biggest initial public offering on the Bombay Stock Exchange in three years.

Although famous for its railways, India's patchy roads, vast distances and rising disposable incomes have led cheap flights to take off, with domestic air traffic more than trebling since 2005, according to the Centre for Asia-Pacific Aviation (CAPA).

Yet only 70 million of India's 1.2 billion citizens flew on domestic routes in the 12 months to March this year, making the market just a quarter of the size of equally populous China's. Despite its vast potential India has proved painful for its airlines, most of which are beset by losses and laden with debt, while state carrier Air India has relied on government life support.

Defying the gloomy backdrop is IndiGo, which only started flying in 2006 but has risen rapidly to command almost 40 percent of its home market, the biggest share of any airline. With its blue-purple-uniformed flight attendants, it is famed for its ultra no-frills approach, promising cheap fares, reliable service and a rare fixation with punctuality.

"We focus only on getting customers from point A to B safely along with their bags and serve food that will not make them sick," IndiGo president Aditya Ghosh told a pre-IPO press conference.

**Fare wars**

Air travel in India is mostly confined to the four in every 10 people who live in cities, out of the reach of hundreds of millions.

"It's not something 60 percent (of the population) would even consider," Shabari Das, senior research analyst at Euromonitor in Bangalore told AFP.

The frenzied competition for new customers among IndiGo, Jet Airways, SpiceJet and others has



**NEW DELHI:** In this photograph taken on June 24, 2010, an IndiGo Airbus A320 aircraft flares for a final approach at Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi. IndiGo, India's only consistently profitable carrier, hopes to raise about 30 billion rupees (\$460 million) in the biggest initial public offering on the Bombay Stock Exchange in three years. — AFP

periodically burst out into fare wars. "Most travellers don't really care about luxury as long they can get the cheapest price possible," Das said. Pressure to be cheap adds to the difficulties in a market where steep taxes and duties make fuel, usually the biggest expense for any airline, up to 50 percent more expensive.

Aviation regulations are onerous and complex, while some Indian airports are barely up to the job-a set of challenges that leads many to question how IndiGo pulled off its rise. Industry insiders recall the then-unknown airline's arrival at the Paris Air Show in 2005, with an audacious order for 100 Airbus A320s-unheard of for a new carrier.

Binit Somaia, director South Asia at CAPA in Sydney, describes a startup that was run like a big airline from its inception, with huge initial investment and an unusually well-qualified management team.

"IndiGo came in with the vision of becoming India's largest carrier," he told AFP. Repeated record aircraft orders have allowed it to negotiate hard on price, and sticking to new, fuel-efficient planes that are easier to maintain has also reduced its costs.

IndiGo also has one of the country's biggest fleets — 97 aircraft at present-allowing it to fly more frequently than other carriers. The budget carrier will open its share sale to the public on October 27 with shares priced between 700 rupees and 765 rupees, valuing the airline at about \$4 billion.

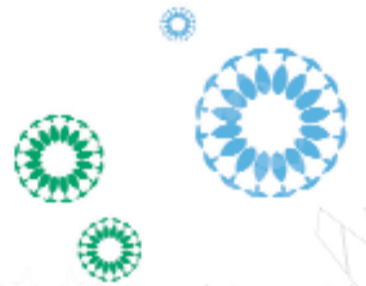
It plans to use the proceeds to pay down debt and fuel its meteoric expansion further.

**New competition**

Despite the challenges of navigating India's skies, airlines seem undeterred from entering the fray, with new arrivals AirAsia India and Vistara making maiden flights in the past 18 months.

They see the potential to eventually make money in the Indian market, which although growing at double-digit rates lags behind other emerging economies such as Indonesia or Russia.

"India is the most under penetrated airline market, with less than 350 commercial aircraft flying domestically. It is a fraction of the size of say (US-based) Southwest Airlines," IndiGo president Ghosh said. — AFP



## NINE MONTHS 2015 RESULTS for Mobile Telecommunications Company - Zain

The Board of Directors of Mobile Telecommunications Company K.S.C.P. would like to announce to its shareholders that the company achieved a Net Profit of **KD 118 million (USD 394 million)** for the nine months ended 30 September 2015.

The Board would like to express its gratitude to its customers and stakeholders for their confidence and assures them of the company's commitment to excellence.

**Board of Directors**

45.6 Million	2,850 USD Million	1,239 USD Million	394 USD Million	10 US Cents
Customers	855 KD Million	372 KD Million	118 KD Million	30 Kuwaiti Fils
Revenues	EBITDA	Net Income	EPS	



# Taiwan Trade Center in Kuwait

One-on-One Trade Meeting with 26 Taiwanese Companies

October 28 (Wednesday), 2015, 9:30AM – 6:00PM  
7<sup>th</sup> Floor, Al Dana Ballroom – Sheraton Hotel, Kuwait

Hardware, Fastener  
Machinery & Equipments  
Electrical & Power

Building Materials  
Auto Parts, Motorcycle, Bicycles  
Medical & Health Equipments  
IT, Electronics

Contact us:  
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Organized by:  
Bureau of Foreign Trade, MOEA, Taiwan

Implemented by:  
Taiwan Trade Center, Kuwait



Ad by: BOFT

# GIC STRATEGIC PARTNER IN NEW GULF JAPAN FOOD FUND

**MUSCAT:** The Gulf Investment Corporation (GIC) has recently participated in the signing ceremony held in the Sultanate of Oman yesterday to mark the establishment of the Gulf Japan Food Fund. The signing ceremony of the Fund, was attended by a group of major sponsors and investors, besides the GIC, including Mizuho Bank, Ltd. of Japan, a global financial institution with longstanding expertise in the area of investment management and extensive connections in the world-class Japanese food and agribusiness sectors, and the J.A. Group of companies, the largest agricultural cooperative conglomerate worldwide with a long established

history in food production represented by their financial arm The Norinchukin Bank (NB). From the GCC, the State General Reserve Fund of the Sultanate of Oman and the Oman National Investment Development Corporation (Tanmiya) are key investors in the Fund. The ceremony was held under the auspices and presence of the Minister Commerce and Industry Dr Ali Bin Masood Al-Sunaidi, it was also attended by Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries Dr Fuad Bin Jaafar Al-Sajwani, in addition to other important Omani related organizations, and distinguished investors from Japan with expertise and unique market presence in food and agribusiness.

**Food security plan**  
Commenting on the event, the Chief Executive Officer of the GIC, Mr. Ibrahim Al-Qadhi, said: "The Gulf Japan Food Fund is a leading joint strategic initiative between GIC and Mizuho Bank, Ltd. of Japan. The Food Fund aims to assist in GCC's food security plans and related logistics in this sector, reflecting its instrumental focus on fulfilling the commitment of the member states of the GCC towards ensuring food security in their countries, coordinating joint efforts between leading Japanese food and agribusiness companies and Gulf-based firms in assessing and implementing the needs of GCC



food markets through a team of specialized professionals who will be managing the Fund's operations in this region, providing needed expertise in this sector, in addition to managing related investments".

firms and key regional investors, such as GIC, to provide opportunities along with innovative and global best practice by leaders in the food and agriculture sector, besides bringing in well-proven operational knowledge and expertise together with well-established business and trade relations.

### Use of technology

The Fund, which is supported by the Japanese Government through Ministry of Foreign Trade and International Economic Development and shared equally between GCC and Japanese institutions, is expected to have total investment capital of USD 400 million. Among other goals and objectives, the Fund will aim to add value by endorsing and improving the GCC's food security policies, the transfer of Japanese experience and know how in the food sector, the use of technology for optimal utilization of funds and other critical resources (such as water) in support of food investments in GCC countries, the development of long-term partnerships with leading Japanese

The Gulf Investment Corporation, a leading financial and investment institution of the GCC countries, was established in 1983 for the support of the region's economic cooperation and the development and promotion of its private sector and economic growth. The GCC's six member states each owns an equal share in the GIC, which has successfully achieved significant accomplishments in various areas, such as infrastructure projects, and in economic activities including projects in, petrochemicals, steel, electric power, telecommunications and others.

## Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report

Sunday 25 October 2015

Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing	High	Low
Price index	▲ 27.19	5,807.95	5,780.76	5,810.96	5,780.50
Weighted Index	▲ 1.97	391.78	389.81	393.26	389.78
KXSX 15	▲ 6.95	936.00	929.05	941.59	928.93

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Change
MARIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	114	▲ 0.0
IKARUS	102	102	303,760	30,984	13	▲ 0.0
IPG	280	270	153,524	41,953	18	▲ -35.0
NAPESCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	620	▲ 0.0
ENERGYH	47.0	47.0	2,000	94	2	▲ 0.5
GPI	46.0	44.0	6,814,482	311,610	102	▲ 2.5
ABAR	84	77	31,320	2,619	6	▲ -4.0
<b>Oil &amp; Gas</b>			<b>7,305,086</b>	<b>387,259</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>▼ -9.48</b>

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Change
KFOUC	248	248	91	23	1	▲ 0.0
BPC	560	550	327,422	180,484	17	▲ 10.0
ALKOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	610	▲ 0.0
ALQURAIN	190	188	62,763	11,871	10	▲ 0.0
<b>Basic Materials</b>			<b>390,276</b>	<b>192,378</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>▲ 6.73</b>

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Change
KCEM	375	375	120	45	1	▼ -5.0
REFRI	325	325	10,000	3,250	2	▼ -5.0
CABLE	420	420	1,000	420	1	▲ 5.0
SHIP	140	136	5,285	722	4	▲ 8.0
PCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	1,140	▲ 0.0
PAPER	375	375	5,000	1,875	1	▼ -15.0
MRC	0.0	0.0	0	0	80	▲ 0.0
ACICO	0.0	0.0	0	0	295	▲ 0.0
GGMC	500	500	23	12	1	▼ -50.0
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	134	▲ 0.0
KPAK	0.0	0.0	0	0	395	▲ 0.0
KBMM	0.0	0.0	0	0	210	▲ 0.0
NICBM	0.0	0.0	0	0	210	▲ 0.0
EQUIPMENT	73	70	4,262,528	303,738	114	▲ 1.0
NCCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	84	▲ 0.0
GYPSUM	0.0	0.0	0	0	102	▲ 0.0
SALBOOKH	89	86	412,195	36,243	40	▲ 3.0
AGLTY	570	560	711,294	399,521	21	▲ 10.0
EDU	0.0	0.0	0	0	216	▲ 0.0
CLEANING	45.0	43.0	1,221	55	4	▲ 1.0
CITYGROUP	400	400	15	6	1	▲ 0.0
KGL	44.5	44.5	50,000	2,225	2	▼ -0.5
KPC	222	222	50	11	1	▲ 0.0
HUMANSOFT	1,000	1,000	1,999	1,999	3	▲ 0.0
NAFAIS	172	172	6,600	1,135	3	▲ 10.0
SAFWAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	330	▲ 0.0
GFC	99	97	20,000	1,965	4	▲ 3.0
MAYADEEN	26.0	25.5	11,501,863	296,813	99	▲ 1.0
CGC	780	750	101	79	2	▲ 0.0
MTCC	77	70	10,157,654	767,472	239	▲ 0.0
UPAC	0.0	0.0	0	0	740	▲ 0.0
ALAFCCO	222	218	26,020	5,688	8	▲ 4.0
MUBARRAD	84	83	730,000	61,195	21	▲ 0.0
LOGISTICS	55	53	828,574	44,326	31	▲ 1.0
SCEM	89	89	98,650	8,780	5	▲ 0.0
GCEM	82	82	100,000	8,200	1	▲ 0.0
QCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	82	▲ 0.0
FCEM	76	75	250,010	18,751	3	▲ 0.0
RKWC	0.0	0.0	0	0	106	▲ 0.0
SPEC	0.0	0.0	0	0	87	▲ 0.0
<b>Industrials</b>			<b>29,180,202</b>	<b>1,964,525</b>	<b>612</b>	<b>▲ 2.86</b>

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Change
KSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	220	▲ 0.0
NSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	62	▲ 0.0
PAPCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	102	▲ 0.0
CATTL	134	134	15,000	2,010	1	▲ -2.0
DANAH	88	85	1,951,062	170,967	34	▲ 5.0
POULT	0.0	0.0	0	0	178	▲ 0.0
FOOD	0.0	0.0	0	0	2,260	▲ 0.0
<b>Consumer Goods</b>			<b>1,966,062</b>	<b>172,977</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>▲ 5.68</b>

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Change
MHC	0.0	0.0	0	0	190	▲ 0.0
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	920	▲ 0.0
YIACO	122	122	42,150	5,142	3	▲ 2
<b>Health Care</b>			<b>42,150</b>	<b>5,142</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>▲ 1.47</b>

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Change
KCIN	950	950	1,485	1,411	2	▲ 0.0
KHOT	0.0	0.0	0	0	196	▲ 0.0
SULTAN	76	75	107,344	8,151	7	▲ 0.0
CABLETV	0.0	0.0	0	0	27.0	▲ 0.0
EYAS	0.0	0.0	0	0	305	▲ 0.0
IFAHR	0.0	0.0	0	0	186	▲ 0.0
OLULAFUEL	116	110	105,442	12,032	23	▲ 4
MUNTAZAHAT	102	100	457,500	45,760	17	▲ 1.0
JAZEERA	485	475	6,126	2,940	3	▲ -5
SOOR	112	108	18,437	2,038	12	▲ 11.0
FUTUREKID	0.0	0.0	0	0	110	▲ 0.0
ALNAWADI	0.0	0.0	0	0	83	▲ 0.0
ALRAI	180	174	138,150	24,724	8	▲ -2
ZIMAH	79	76	605,382	47,131	46	▲ 3
UFIG	0.0	0.0	0	0	140	▲ 0.0
KOUTFOOD	0.0	0.0	0	0	560	▲ 0.0
Mezzan	1,100	1,080	180,000	196,200	9	▲ 0.0
<b>Consumer Services</b>			<b>1,619,866</b>	<b>340,387</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>▲ 2.71</b>

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Change
ZAIN	385	380	635,065	242,570	49	▲ 5
QOREDOO	1,040	1,020	47,599	49,492	9	▲ -40
HITSTELEC	31.5	29.5	12,924,266	395,637	145	▲ 3
VIVA	870	860	324,118	281,936	75	▲ 0
<b>Telecommunications</b>			<b>13,931,048</b>	<b>969,635</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>▲ 3.73</b>

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Change
NBK	840	820	1,178,123	977,727	29	▲ 10
GBK	275	270	322,579	87,346	12	▲ 0
CBK	0.0	0.0	0	0	500	▲ 0
ABK	375	370	1,397	518	2	▲ 0
ALMUTAHED	540	540	120,000	64,800	7	▲ 0
KIB	234	232	291,878	67,716	14	▲ -2
BURG	395	395	647,650	255,822	16	▲ 395
KFIN	580	570	2,172,907	1,249,831	145	▲ 570
BOUBYAN	450	440	1,141,720	507,868	35	▲ 40
AUB	210	208	139,770	29,072	9	▲ 2
ITHMR	50	47.5	8,606,898	418,422	164	▲ -1
WARBANK	212	208	487,305	102,702	9	▲ 0
<b>Banks</b>			<b>15,110,227</b>	<b>3,761,825</b>	<b>532</b>	<b>▲ 0.50</b>

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Change
KINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	300	▲ 0.0
GINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	600	▲ 0.0
AINS	385	385	10,000	3,850	1	▲ 5.0
WINS	108	108	92	10	1	▲ 2.0
KUWAITRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	206	▲ 0.0
FTI	0.0	0.0	0	0	65	▲ 0.0
WETHAQ	42.5	42.5	10,000	425	1	▲ -0.5
BKIKWT	0.0	0.0	0	0	355	▲ 0.0
<b>Insurance</b>			<b>20,092</b>	<b>4,285</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>▲ 2.04</b>

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Change
SOKOUK	52	51	1082101	55,292	38	▲ 2.0
KRE	63	62	10,497	658	4	▲ 1.0
URC	96	96	36,100	3,466	3	▲ -3.0
NRE	87	85	341,895	29,468	18	▲ -1.0
SRE	320	310	32,000	9,980	5	▲ 5.0
TAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	450	▲ 0.0
AREEC	0.0	0.0	0	0	180	▲ 0.0
MASALEH	0.0	0.0	0	0	48.5	▲ 0.0
ARABREC	34.5	34.0	463,000	15,794	9	▲ 1.0
ERESCO	65	63	399,580	25,330	19	▲ 2.0
MABANEE	870	870	1,363,750	1,186,463	42	▲ 0.0
INJAZZAT	70	67	349,900	23,892	8	▲ 2.0
INVESTORS	30.0	29.0	12,780,019	382,376	112	▲ 1.0
IRC	34.0	32.0	403,750	13,206	19	▲ 1.0
ALTUJARIA	82	82	417,397	34,227	8	▲ -1.0
SANAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	43.0	▲ 0.0
AAYANRE	83					



# QUANTITATIVE EASING AND NEGATIVE RATES, TOXIC MIX FOR A CURRENCY

## NBK's WEEKLY MONEY MARKET REPORT

**KUWAIT:** This week's ECB press conference was significantly more dovish than investors had expected with President Draghi effectively pre-announcing further monetary policy easing for December's meeting.

In addition to emphasizing a potential increase in the size, composition or duration of the quantitative easing purchases, Mario Draghi highlighted in the Q&A session that "further lowering of the deposit facilities rate was discussed amongst the council.

As the market had already priced in further asset purchases, the discussion of imposing lower interest rates brought extremely negative sentiments for the currency. Furthermore, it potentially opened the door for other central banks in the region to adopt more aggressive negative rates. It seems that the ECB would like to force banks in the Euro zone to pass on negative rates through to retail and most corporate depositors. During the past quarters, banks have been taking the hit on deposit rates at the expense of protecting their margins on lending rates to corporates.

Concerns over growth prospects in emerging and commodity markets and the downside risk for growth and inflation in the Euro area were also mentioned during the press conference, however, Draghi warned that "the strength and persistence of the factors that are currently slowing the return of inflation to levels below, but close to 2% in the medium term require thorough analysis."

Draghi ended the press conference saying that "the degree of monetary policy accommodation will need to be re-examined at the December meeting". And "the Governing Council is willing and able to act by using all the instruments available within its mandate" and that in particular "the asset purchase program provides sufficient flexibility in terms of adjusting its size, composition and duration".

Markets responded with euphoria to Draghi's move with European equity markets closing at two month high, while commodities also benefited from the move. US equity markets also moved higher on the news.

In summary, on the foreign exchange side, the Dollar index ended the week on a strong note despite the beginning of the week's poor

performance. US data continue to show a strong US labor force and housing market.

If anyone had any doubt, the Euro has now become the funding currency of choice on the back of the ECB actions. Indeed, the currency continues to trade inversely to equities and risk in general, which have just received a boost from the ECB President. After reaching a high of almost 1.1500 by the end of last week, the Euro fell off the cliff on Thursday and closed the week below 1.1020.

The Sterling Pound held up during the week helped by a strong rise in UK retail sales. While August figures were revised lower, September was still the strongest monthly rise since December 2013, sending the annual growth rate to an almost one-year high of 6.5%. The Pound ended the week at 1.5315.

Japanese economic figures continue to disappoint as the trade balance was unable to return into surplus territory in September, while expectations were for a JPY 87 billion surplus. Although shrinking, Japan still recorded a trade deficit of JPY 115 billion in September as exports decelerated to their slowest rate of growth in the past year, at just +0.6% on a yearly basis. With inflation so low, the BoJ now have plenty of excuse to potentially expand their current monetary policy further. The Japanese Yen ended the week at 121.50 against the Dollar.

### Raising interest rates

This week, initial jobless claims in the US rose by 3k to 259k while expectations were for 265k. On a monthly basis, the Conference Board's leading index was slightly lower than expected in September at -0.2% against expectations of -0.1%.

There was some improvement in the Kansas City Fed's manufacturing activity index during October, rising 7 points to -1 versus expectations of -9 and to the highest level since February.

The Chicago Fed's national activity index was slightly lower than market at -0.37 against expectations of -0.29, albeit in line with September.

In addition, US strong Consumer Confidence numbers through the University of

Michigan sentiment posted a gain to 92.1, while expectations were for a reading of 89.00. According to the report, personal financial expectations rose to their highest level since 2007, as did consumers' views toward purchases of durable goods.

In other news, existing home sales were up a robust +4.7% on a monthly basis, far beating expectations in September, for an annualized rate of 5.55m just below the 8-year high of July. Housing starts also rose 6.5% to 1.206 million units in September from August's total of 1.170 million.

### Fed repeat call for rate hike

Despite uncertainties generated from Asia, and commodity prices holding down US inflation, the Federal Reserve should soon begin to raise interest rates to slow down economic growth before it becomes unsustainable, San Francisco Fed's John Williams reiterated this week during a TV interview. He also repeated his preference for an early tightening move, and then for the Fed to maintain a gradual pace of tightening thereafter. He also saw good arguments on both sides of the liftoff discussion, but said that zero percent interest rates will not likely be needed in the future, and he does not want to get behind the curve. He said the economy is strengthening, but did note headwinds to the outlook and said that he thought underlying inflation is not as low as reported.

### Europe & UK

The ECB ready to fight negative inflation. This Thursday, the Eurozone consumer confidence weakened for a second straight month to its lowest level in nine months in October. The index fell to -7.7 from -7.1 in September, while predictions were for -7.4.

On a different subject, the inflation rate in the Euro zone fell by 0.1% in September, marking the first time it dropped below zero since March. During the ECB press conference, President Draghi stated that the recovery in the oil prices would drive inflation higher next

year, but expressed the possibility of annual inflation staying very low in the near-term.

Draghi attributed the negative September inflation number to the drop in the energy prices. He added that there is a risk of inflation slowing further and the governing council is monitoring such risks. On a final note, Draghi said the slow pace of structural reforms is hampering economic recovery and the monetary policy is not the only game in town, and support from other areas is needed.

### Rugby makes a difference in the UK

News out the UK continue to beat expectations this week as retail sales rose in September at their fastest monthly pace in two years in anticipation of the Rugby World Cup. Retail sales volumes surged last month by 1.9% on the month and were up 6.5% on a yearly basis. While August figures were revised lower, this was still the strongest monthly rise since December 2013 boosted by the Rugby World Cup.

### Asia

China Switching from Industrial to Services. China's GDP grew this week by 6.9% on a yearly basis in Q3, down from 7.0% in Q2, but slightly higher than market expectation of 6.8%. Growth in the services industry remained firm at 8.6% in Q3, compared to 8.6% in Q2.

The government is attempting to draw attention to the service industry as services have emerged to be the new economic driver for the country. Indeed, Services grew 12.1% in nominal terms in the second quarter, well above the growth for the economy as a whole. As exports are faltering, the government is actively encouraging this transition in China.

On the negative side, industrial activities remained weak with industrial production slowing to a 5.7% y/y rate in September, below expectations, following the 6.1% rise in August. Retail sales improved slightly to a 10.9% y/y growth rate in September, a little better than expected, after a 10.8% growth rate in August.

### No need to cut further rate

In the minutes of the October Board meet-

ing, the Reserve Bank of Australia upgraded its assessment of labor market conditions relative to September. The Board noted in October that "Forward-looking indicators had generally been consistent with the unemployment rate being around its current level or possibly slightly lower in the months ahead. The meeting minutes also showed that the bank believed the low Australian dollar and low official interest rates continue to help the economy and have strengthened the labor market.

On a different front, the RBA showed concerns as to the state of the Australian housing market. Last week, the Reserve Bank of Australia Financial Stability Review mentioned that "recently there have been tentative signs of some slowing in the Sydney and Melbourne housing markets"

### Will BoJ follow the ECB

Japanese economic figures continue to disappoint as the trade balance was unable to return into surplus territory in September, while expectations were for a JPY 87 billion surplus. Although shrinking, Japan still recorded a trade deficit of JPY 114.5 billion in September as exports decelerated to their slowest rate of growth in the past year, at just +0.6% on a yearly basis well below the 3.8% gain expected. Imports on the other hand fell by 11.1% in September year-on-year, compared to expectations for a drop of 12%.

As investors wonder whether the BoJ would follow suit the currency war waged by the ECB, by increasing their quantitative easing, Japanese manufacturing activity expanded in October at the fastest pace in 19 months as new domestic and export orders increased. Moreover, the Japan Purchasing Managers Index rose to 52.5 in October versus a final reading of 51.0 in September, taming down expectations of further stimulus from the BoJ during their next meeting.

### Kuwait

Kuwaiti Dinar at 0.30285  
The USDKWD opened at 0.30285 yesterday morning.

## TOP AUTO EXECUTIVE FADI GHOSN TO LEAD NISSAN MARKETING IN THE ME

**KUWAIT:** Fadi Ghosn, one of the top executives in the automotive industry in the Middle East, has joined Japanese auto maker Nissan.

Ghosn, who possesses a wealth of experience in the industry, has been appointed marketing director/chief marketing officer for Nissan Middle East. He will report directly to Samir Cherfan, the company's regional managing director.

"Marketing has played a key role in supporting Nissan Middle East's business expansion and within the continued growth of our brand in the region. Our exceptional product line-up is responsible for our success and we are firm believers in glorifying our models through impactful and effective marketing strategies. With his extensive industry experience we know that Fadi will play a pivotal role in this capacity," says Cherfan.

Nissan Middle East has experienced significant growth in recent years, culminating in its strong FY2014 financial results, which saw it announce record breaking annual sales of 219,129 units across the region, up 3.3% on 2013. In addition, Nissan Middle East has also initiated important changes such as the rejuvenation of its operations in Saudi Arabia as well as the expansion of its regional market focus to include Turkey.

"Fadi will be in charge of leading all of Nissan's regional marketing activities alongside being responsible for our product and pricing the Middle East. His years of experience at the forefront of the automotive industry make him a highly-valued acquisition for Nissan," commented Cherfan.

Speaking about his appointment, Ghosn



Fadi Ghosn Marketing Director

said: "This is a particularly exciting time to be part of Nissan and support its exceptional model line-up, which includes the recent additions of the all new Nissan Maxima 2016 and the NISMO range. I'm delighted to be joining a team of achievers and helping to drive Nissan's continued success in the region."

Ghosn, who holds a bachelor of business administration from Ecole Des Hautes Etudes Commerciales in Montreal, boasts more than 24 years' experience in sales and marketing.

He joins Nissan from Ford where he held the position of director of marketing, sales and service for the Middle East and Africa. He previously held senior positions with General Motors in the Middle East and Detroit including that of sales director of GM's Middle East Operations and the US auto maker's regional CMO and Cadillac global brand development in Detroit.

## KAMCO SUPPORTS KIPCO TMKEEN AWARD FOR YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS

**KUWAIT:** KAMCO Investment Company, a leading investment company with one of the largest AUMs in the region, and a winner of the prestigious Kuwait Asset Manager of the Year Award 2015, announced its support of the KIPCO Tmkeen Award for Young Entrepreneurs, alongside sister companies. The award will be focusing on active young entrepreneurs with established businesses within the media and technology industries.

The KIPCO Tmkeen Award will offer the winner a generous bundle of services valued at US \$100,000 from KIPCO Group companies. The award is a collaboration between KIPCO and the Youth Empowerment Organization (Tmkeen). KAMCO, through its Alternative Investments Department, will be contributing strategic and operational consultation sessions as part of the biggest value entrepreneurial prize in Kuwait.

Faisal M. Sarkhou, KAMCO's Chief Executive Officer, said, "The KIPCO Tmkeen Award for Young Entrepreneurs is in line with our corporate social responsibility initiative to empower our youth by assisting in developing and enhancing their businesses.

Encouraging the future generation to pursue their entrepreneurial instincts is associated with our continuous efforts towards supporting education and national youth development."

On his part, Khaled H. Fouad, Chief Investment Officer at KAMCO said, "We are thrilled to participate in such an event that gives young entrepreneurs a push towards achieving their aspirations while giving back to the community. These healthy competitions serve as a motivational boost for the future generations, pushing young entrepreneurs to explore, organize and implement their ideas towards creating successful businesses."

In order to be eligible to apply for the KIPCO Tmkeen Award, entrepreneurs must be within the ages of 18-33, and have an existing licensed media or technology business that has been established within the last five years. The prize bundle will include financial, strategic, and operational sessions, market studies, insurance coverage and advertising services. The first judging round will be held during late October, the official judging round is in early November and the grand prizewinner will be announced on November 9.

## CHINA PM SAYS 7% GROWTH GOAL NEVER SET IN STONE

### ECONOMY SHOULD OPERATE WITHIN A REASONABLE RANGE

**BEIJING:** China has never said the economy must grow seven percent this year, Premier Li Keqiang said in comments reported by the government ahead of a key meeting this week that will set economic and social targets for the next five years.

Li's comments coincide with remarks by a top central bank official, who said on Saturday that China would be able to keep annual economic growth at around 6-7 percent over that period.

The statements come at a time of growing concern in global financial markets over China's once mighty economic juggernaut.

China cut interest rates for the sixth time in less than a year on Friday. Monetary policy easing in the world's second-largest economy is at its most aggressive since the 2008/09 financial crisis, as growth looks set to slip to a 25-year-low this year of under 7 percent.

China's economy grew 6.9 percent in the July-to-September quarter from a year earlier, data showed last week.

Speaking on Friday at the Central Party School, which trains rising officials, Li said the economic difficulties ahead for China should not be underestimated. His report to the annual meeting of parliament set this year's GDP growth target at about seven percent.

"We have never said that we should defend to the death any goal, but that the economy should operate within a reasonable range," the central government paraphrased Li as saying in a statement released on its website late on Saturday.

Chinese leaders will signal that growth is their priority over reform by setting a growth target of around 7 percent in the next long-term plan, policy insiders say. The party's central committee will meet from Monday to Thursday to set out the 13th Five-Year plan. Nevertheless, while the focus is on growth, China is still moving ahead on financial reforms. Besides cutting interest rates on Friday, the People's Bank of China (PBOC) said it was also freeing the interest rate market by scrapping a ceiling on deposit rates.

The change, which Beijing had promised to deliver for months, will in theory allow banks to price loans according to their risk, and remove a distortion to the price of credit that analysts say fuels wasteful investment in China.

It should also offer some reassurance to financial markets after they were unsettled by the chaotic



**BEIJING:** Two men walk past a construction site for apartment buildings in Beijing yesterday. China's leaders will gather today to hash out a new Five Year Plan to battle slowing growth, and analysts say they must choose between chasing a traditional GDP target and embracing reforms such as to the "one child policy" to help the country develop its full potential. — AFP

responses to the country's recent stock market plunge and then a yuan devaluation.

The deposit rate reform builds on the introduction of deposit insurance, creating space for smaller banks to compete with their bigger rivals. It is seen as a long-term step toward a more market-driven banking sector, if smaller banks lend funds to parts of the economy shunned by large banks.

### 'New normal'

China's economic growth has not been bad over the last year considering the problems in the global economy, Li added.

There were reasons for optimism going forward, such as rising employment, more spending on tourism and a fast growing service sector, Li said.

"The hard work of people up and down the country

and the enormous potential of China's economy gives us more confidence that we can overcome the various difficulties," he said.

While the government has flagged a "new normal" of slower growth as it tries to shift the economy to sustainable, consumption-led growth, official data shows it has consistently at least met, and mostly exceeded, the growth targets it sets.

Beijing needs average growth of close to 7 percent over the next five years to hit a previously declared goal of doubling gross domestic product and per capita income by 2020 from 2010.

But the stock market turmoil and unexpected fallout from the modest yuan devaluation have raised fears among policymakers that an abrupt slowdown in growth could spark systemic risks and destabilise the economy. — Reuters

## FLYDUBAI'S NEW OPERATIONS START AT DWC

**KUWAIT:** flydubai yesterday launched its first flights from Al Maktoum International-Dubai World Central (DWC). The start of flydubai's new operations from DWC will help to deliver flydubai's

planned growth as it takes delivery of more than 100 new Boeing aircraft over the next eight years to support the growing demand for travel to and from Dubai.



flydubai aircraft on tarmac DWC

Speaking about flydubai's new operations, Ghaith Al Ghaith, Chief Executive Officer, said: "It is the same spirit that allowed us to develop significant potential for growth in the many markets within our geographic focus and now enables us to take advantage of the huge opportunity presented by DWC. We recognise the benefits and convenience that DWC offers, whilst at the same time continuing our operations at the world renowned Dubai International. We are a young, dynamic airline and keen to increase opportunities for travel for our passengers across Dubai; DWC gives us that."

As well as increasing capacity, the addition of DWC as flydubai's second home will mean an increase in choice for passengers. DWC offers a more convenient airport for a large number of customers living in the south of Dubai and as communities and infrastructure develop around the airport. With more aircraft arriving every year, flydubai has ambitious plans and the extra capacity provided by DWC will help the airline continue its growth from an airport that is destined to become a leading centre of world aviation and the future of aviation in Dubai.



## NEW MERCEDES-BENZ GLE - SUCCESSOR TO SUCCESSFUL M-CLASS

### NEW GLE BLENDS TRADITION, MODERNITY WITH LUXURIOUS INTERIOR

**KUWAIT:** Mercedes-Benz continues to deliver on its promise of driving performance, excellence and superior design, with the introduction of the brand new GLE. Abdul Rahman Albisher & Zaid Alkazemi Company - the authorised General Distributor of Mercedes-Benz in Kuwait, and the display of the GLE 400 in the Prestige section of the Avenues Mall from October 29-31.

Mercedes-Benz customers can expect a premium SUV perfected in all disciplines - performance, comfort and design. A true multi-talent, the new GLE is an SUV prepared for any occasion. Celebrated for efficiency, performance and its incredible range of equipment, and equipped with 4MATIC permanent all-wheel drive as standard, the new GLE is ready to take on the world.

The GLE driver puts comfort first which is why the spaciousness of the interior holds instant appeal. It is classic and emotional, yet never compromises on performance. A perfect all-rounder SUV, this off-roader is aimed at those who appreciate a classic vehicle that offers versatility and a modern take on premium quality.

"The release of the new GLE is the latest move in Mercedes-Benz's strong product offensive in the SUV segment. Revising not only one of the brand's most successful models - but also a world-wide best-seller - is a bold move, but the new GLE is destined to be even more successful than its predecessor. It's a spectacular vehicle and we believe will contribute highly to the continued success Mercedes-Benz enjoys in the premi-

um SUV segment," said Michael Ruehle, CEO, Abdul Rahman Albisher & Zaid Alkazemi Company.

Thanks to the 4MATIC permanent all-wheel drive system, the GLE delivers outstanding dynamics and precise handling, even in tough driving conditions. The advantages of the new GLE include best on-road and off-road handling, outstanding spaciousness and high levels of active and passive safety. The new GLE is available in four models: The GLE 400 4MATIC and the GLE 500 4MATIC and the high-performance SUV models, the Mercedes-AMG GLE 63 4MATIC and the GLE 63 S 4MATIC.

#### New design with classic style elements

The new GLE blends tradition and modernity, with classic SUV elements meeting modern Mercedes-Benz design. The distinctive appearance of the GLE is enhanced by the stylistic features typical of all generations of Mercedes-Benz SUVs. At the same time, elements of the modern Mercedes-Benz design idiom catch the eye - the front section is particularly attractive with its dramatic air intakes, twin-louvre grille, and wraparound full LED headlamps. Power domes on the bonnet further emphasise the car's dynamic, purposeful character. For those who like things even more exclusive, the Night package features black radiator grille louvres, exterior mirror housings, roof rails and window surrounds. Green-tinted, heat-insulating glass reduces the glare of the sun in the summer. The headlamps, daytime running lamps, rear lights and third

brake light are all equipped with LED technology.

#### DYNAMIC SELECT combined with off-road driving modes

The DYNAMIC SELECT handling control system lets you personalize your drive settings to suit your driving style, whether you prefer a sporty or comfortable feel, or whether you want more control on slippery or off-road surfaces. If the GLE model is equipped with the optional Off-Road Engineering package, OFF ROAD+ mode is also available. According to the selected mode, the characteristics of the engine, transmission, suspension and steering are automatically adjusted. All DYNAMIC SELECT programs are visualised on the central media display.

#### High-grade interior: Exquisite materials and superior craftsmanship

The interior of the new GLE highlights what makes a true Mercedes-Benz vehicle: exquisite materials, first-class workmanship and maximum precision. With the exclusive interior things become significantly more premium - luxury seats, the roof liner in either black, crystal grey or porcelain, ambient lighting and the Interior Light package create a particularly luxurious atmosphere. ARTICO man-made leather upholstery not only extends to the five seats, but also to the entire dashboard, centre console, door trim and armrests. The interior of the GLE is particularly impressive in two-tone design: exclusive nappa leather in porcelain/black.

More dynamic, more assertive, more premium - the GLE AMG Line has all the credentials you would expect. The AMG Line transfers the sporty appearance of the car to the interior with features such as AMG sports seats with ARTICO man-made leather upholstery, a black nappa leather multifunction AMG sport steering wheel, an instrument cluster with distinctive dial in chequered-flag design, brushed stainless steel sports pedals with rubber studs and floor mats with AMG lettering.

#### Uncompromising active and passive safety

The system uses active anti-roll bars on the front and rear axle and compensates the roll angle of the body during cornering. This enhances agility and driving fun. At the same time, the system provides increased handling stability and safety, especially at higher speeds. Better driving comfort both when cornering and on straights as well as expanded off-road capabilities are also part of the advantages of the ACTIVE CURVE SYSTEM.

Safety innovation has always been one of the cornerstones of Mercedes-Benz. Setting benchmarks in passive and active safety generation after generation, the new GLE continues this proud tradition. The Driving Assistance package Plus includes DISTRONIC PLUS with Steering Assist and Stop&Go Pilot, PRE-SAFE(r) Brake with pedestrian detection, BAS PLUS with Cross-Traffic Assist, Active Blind Spot Assist, Active Lane Keeping Assist and PRE-SAFE(r) PLUS.

## WINNERS OF AL NAJMA ACCOUNT

**KUWAIT:** Commercial Bank of Kuwait held the Al Najma Account draw on 25th October 2015.

The draw was held under the supervision of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry represented by Saqer Al Manaie.

**The winners of the Al Najma Daily Draw are:**

- Salam Fawaz Ezzi KD 7000/-
- Ali Abbas Mohammad KD 7000/-
- Shabeer Hussain Basheer KD 7000/-
- Nuha Salem Abdul Kareem KD 7000/-
- Khawthar Maligaya Banag KD 7000/-

The Commercial Bank of Kuwait announces the biggest daily draw in Kuwait with the launch of the new Najma account. Customers of the bank can now enjoy a KD 7,000 daily prize which is the highest in the country and another 4

mega prizes during the year worth KD 100,000 each on different occasions: The National Day, Eid Al Fitr, Eid Al Adha and on the 19th of June which is the date of the bank's establishment. With a minimum balance of KD 500, customers will be eligible for the daily draw provided that the money is in the account one week prior to the daily draw or 2 months prior to the mega draw. In addition, for each KD 25 a customer can get one chance for winning instead of KD 50. Commercial Bank of Kuwait takes this opportunity to congratulate all lucky winners and also extends appreciation to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry for their effective supervision of the draws which were conducted in an orderly and organized manner.

## VIVA ANNOUNCES WINNERS

**KUWAIT:** VIVA, Kuwait's fastest-growing and most developed telecom operator, announced the winners of the big prize \$5000, and the tenth, eleventh and twelfth lucky winners of its weekly draws campaign that gives prepaid customers a chance to win \$1500 daily cash prize for every 1 KD they spend on recharge, as well as \$5,000 monthly. The campaign that started on 28 July 2015 will be valid for six consecutive months.

VIVA's prepaid daily draws is taking place once a week with seven winners, one winner for every day of the week to get the \$1500 cash prize. The winners of the big prize are: Shankar Lal and Hassan Rubhi Hassan Mussa, and for the tenth week are: Rama Najulo, Zamzad Nadisi Debjefo, Eissa Muthaib Alhariri, Mahmoud Jaber Alsharheeh, Fawaz Mohammed Nafel Alharshani, Shandera Seikhar, Hezam Almutairi.

Both new and existing prepaid customers are eligible to enter daily and monthly draws throughout the promotion period, upon recharging their lines with KD 1 credit. Lucky winners of the daily draws will get \$1500 cash prize while winners of the monthly draws will

get \$5,000 cash prize.

Moreover, the winners of the eleventh week are: Katherine Banadera, Ahmad Abdulrauf Mohammed Alqasem, Narish Afula, Ranthi Yebel Bandra, Abu Taher Ummer, Rasher Ayedh Rashed Alhajri, Shanti Lal Mina.

VIVA reiterates its commitment to providing unique promotions designed to create an exceptional customer experience and reward its prepaid customers for their continued trust in VIVA. VIVA will continue to seek new and innovative ways to facilitate the lives of its customers and share with them the latest in communication technology.

As for the winners of the twelfth week: James Roy, Madhavan Ravishandran, Mahmoud Ali Mohammed Mahmoud, Saisri Kandokoro Rivila, Ahmad Mohamad Ahmad, Yousef Yaqout Alfairouz Salmeen, Faisal Mzyed Abdullah Boshbah. To find out more about VIVA's new prepaid packages, or any of its other competitive promotions, products and packages, 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.

## ETIHAD AIRWAYS TEAMS UP WITH LUXE CITY GUIDES FOR STYLISH NEW KITS

**ABU DHABI:** Etihad Airways has launched a colourful new range of collectable limited edition Business Class amenity kits, the result of a unique collaboration between the airline and luxury travel brand LUXE City Guides, the straight-talking, highly curate go-to guide for savvy travellers.

The stylish new kits embody the contemporary and innovative flair synonymous with the Etihad Airways brand, and contain inflight amenities and natural facial products developed exclusively by London-based skincare and grooming brand Scaramouche + Fandango.

Six new stylised kit designs have been created by LUXE City Guides for Etihad Airways, inspired by some of the iconic cities on the airline's extensive global network. The designs for Abu Dhabi, London and Madrid, have been specially produced for Etihad Airways, whilst the Los Angeles, Sydney and Hong Kong kits feature bespoke LUXE artwork. Each kit contains a customised Etihad Airways LUXE City Guide which corresponds to the showcased city, covering everything from hotels and restaurants, to spas, bars, boutiques and bespoke shopping, as well as services, specialists and personal guides.

Scaramouche + Fandango has developed an exclusive unisex comfort kit and skincare offering in collaboration with Etihad Airways. Specially formulated for skincare needs inflight, the range consists of parabens-free products, high in natural ingredients, to enhance onboard wellbeing.

#### Intelligent design

Calum Laming, Etihad Airways' Vice President Guest Experience, said: "The introduction of these kits is not about providing brand names to our Business Class guests. It is about intelligent



design, functionality and providing them with products which are attractive, natural, useful and re-usable. Collaborating with relevant, progressive lifestyle brands such as LUXE City Guides and Scaramouche + Fandango has enabled us to tailor amenities to the requirements of our guests while retaining all the authentic charm and sophistication of the Etihad Airways brand.

"Etihad Airways continues to reimagine the flying experience, setting a new benchmark for innovation and luxury. The introduction of these kits is part of a much bigger journey which was started with the introduction of our new revolutionary cabins on the flagship Airbus A380 and Boeing 787s, and the new service concepts introduced fleet-wide. These collectable kits also

reflect the global nature of our business, while simultaneously highlighting the inspiration, style and unique qualities of our home, Abu Dhabi."

The Abu Dhabi kit uses a unique design pattern inspired by the rich architectural heritage of the Emirate, translated into a style best described as Arabian Modernism. The pattern reflects the Etihad Airways' brand and colour palette.

Simon Westcott, LUXE City Guides Chief Executive Officer, said: "Etihad Airways offers one of the best inflight experiences in the world. In partnering with LUXE City Guides to create its new Business Class amenity kits, Etihad helps ensure that the premium experience extends long after its guests have landed. It is great to be working with fellow innovators."

## DMG EVENTS TO UNVEIL NEW SHOWS IN DUBAI

**DUBAI:** dmg events, an international exhibitions company, has announced the launch of a new trade show - Windows, Doors and Facades Event - in Dubai to leverage the strong demand for the niche market driven by the Middle East's burgeoning construction sector, which is expected to grow by around 7 per cent annually for the period 2016-2020. The debut event will be held from September 19 to 21, 2016 at the Dubai World Trade Centre. 2014 saw the beginning of a high growth period for the GCC's windows and doors market with the demand touching \$5 billion, accounting for around 3.5 per cent of the global volume. Interestingly, the global windows and doors industry currently worth \$175 billion is expected to rise by 5.9 per cent annually to reach \$233 billion by 2019, strengthening the demand from the region's construction sector.

The demand for windows in the GCC is estimated to be \$4.6 billion in 2015, growing at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 4.4 per cent between 2010 and 2015. Likewise, the regional market for doors grew at a CAGR of 4.4 per cent from 2010 to 2015 to reach \$1.15 billion. Furthermore, due to the high preference given to the aesthetic value of building structures in the region, doors and windows are no longer considered as just functional entry or exit points or security devices, fueling the demand further for a variety of artistic and innovative techniques and contemporary designs.

Nathan Waugh, Portfolio Director - Construction Division, dmg events, said: "Windows, Doors and Facades is a lucrative niche segment in the fast



Nathan Waugh

expanding Middle East construction sector. We decided to launch Windows, Doors and Facades Event as an independent event, as it showed a strong demand at The Big 5 Dubai 2014 with 2,000 sq m of exhibition space, and great potential for growth.

The need for windows and doors will continue to remain high in the region with the construction of new buildings and repair and renovation of existing ones. Moreover, with the growing emphasis on environmental and energy ratings, safety requirements, and climatic considerations, the windows and doors market has created an important niche in the GCC construction market. We are confident that Windows, Doors and Facades Event 2016 will fill a gap in the market by catering to the regional

demand for more modern and innovative concepts in the segment."

"The construction of massive residential, commercial, leisure, hospitality and infrastructure projects in the GCC will bolster the windows and doors segment, driving the demand for aesthetic, innovative and sustainable products. Within the region, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia accounts for just over half and the UAE represents a quarter of the demand, spread across new buildings, repairs and retrofits. The time is right to launch a dedicated event in the form of Windows, Doors and Facades Event 2016 to tap the remarkable potential of this segment by throwing the spotlight on all product sectors within the industry, including accessories, machinery and components," Waugh concluded.

Windows, Doors and Facades Event 2016 targets professionals from the building and construction sector, including architects and interior designers; builders and developers; dealers and distributors; door, facade and window contractors; glass and metal contractors; door, gate and window manufacturers; fabricators; facility managers; facade consultants; investors; and wholesalers.

dmg events currently organizes 14 annual events across the MENA region, which include The Big 5 in Dubai, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, The Hotel Show Dubai, The Leisure Show, the Abu Dhabi International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference (ADIPEC), the International Design Exhibition (INDEXT), Middle East Concrete, and PMV Live, among others.

## CHINESE DECELERATION, PART OF A BROADER RESTRUCTURING

**KUWAIT:** The Chinese economy is on a gradual deceleration path. This trend was clearly captured by the latest release of economic data, which included GDP for the third quarter and several important activity indicators. Economic growth shrank slightly, from a year-on-year rate of 7.0% to 6.9%, the lowest since 2009, but still above expectations. Industrial production growth has also been on a steady decline, falling from more than 10% two years ago to 5.7% last September. Investment, one of the main historical sources of growth, is also on a clear downward trend as the deceleration of fixed asset investments show, from 20.2% to 10.3%, in the same period. Nevertheless, some indicators differ. Retail sales, closely linked to consumption, accelerated somewhat in the last months. Moreover, China's trade balance has been improving in a difficult environment of weak international trade.

For now, the monetary and fiscal stimulus

of Chinese authorities seems to be effective. The PBoC cut lending and deposit policy rates in several occasions in 2014 and 2015, the latest on October 23, to encourage credit. Reserve requirements of banks were also reduced with the same objective in mind. Some signs suggest that these measures are enhancing economic activity, such as the reduction of interbank rates and the strength of the latest financial indicators. New yuan loans, a crucial measure of lending, increased by more than 17% from January to September compared to the same period last year, almost reaching 9 trillion yuan this year. Strong lending has contributed to the stabilization of the property market, both in terms of prices and construction projects, and boosted consumption growth, as the acceleration of consumer loans suggests. Fiscal stimulus also remained supportive during 2015, with growing public expenditure and sizeable deficits which are contributing to hold economic growth.

## STC, EMC INTRODUCE TRANSFORMATIONAL IT EDUCATION PROGRAM



EMC and Saudi Telecom Company (STC) officials during the signing of strategic partnership agreement.

DUBAI: EMC and Saudi Telecom Company (STC) yesterday announced a strategic partnership is aimed at empowering STC teams with the knowledge, skills and capabilities to operate and manage next generation technologies to reinforce STC's successful transition to a full-fledged service provider.

With net income in excess of SR 5 billion, STC has pioneered the adoption of next generation technologies to help enterprises enable the agility, boost service delivery and competitive differentiation to help engage and retain the increasingly connected customer.

The STC Building Capabilities Program is designed in collaboration with EMC Education Services division and is built on EMC's value based Knowledge and Skills Analysis Service designed to help identify and address specific areas of operational challenge in order to optimize deployed and planned IT investments. As part of the service, EMC consultants interview and evaluate the skills of targeted IT professionals; examine the past training history in relation existing needs to conduct a training needs analysis and develop an action plan to close any skills gaps and

achieve defined business objectives. Armed with a thorough understanding of STC's current business environment and future roadmap, the program is designed to comprehensively fulfill STC IT Transformational needs. The STC Building Capabilities Program consists of the Organizational Development Plan (ODP) and the Individual Development Plans (IDPs). The former focuses on management summaries providing a concise training matrix based on the identification of key areas for STC, it provides deeper insights into the organization's workload, service nature, key IT disciplines, associated technologies, experience and certifications. The latter is designed to emphasize on individual job requirements and roles, specific technology expertise and certifications and customized training recommendations.

As part of the agreement, EMC and STC team will work together to enhance the skills and capabilities of the infrastructure Division at STC across the areas of information storage and management, cloud, and backup and recovery in addition to IT as a Service for business transformation.

## TECH FIRMS FACE ROCKY ROAD ON THE WAY TO MAKING CARS

NEW YORK: Silicon Valley may think it can build a better car. But should it?

As tech giants like Google and Apple look to automobiles as the next frontier for innovation, they face a looming reality: Cars are a lot harder to manufacture and sell than smartphones.

Industry veterans and critics warn that the auto business is a different animal. It's fraught with massive costs to erect auto plants, complexities in developing new sales and service systems, and daunting liabilities involved when human lives are at stake.

Automakers recalled a record 64 million vehicles in 2014, shattering the old record of 30.8 million set in 2004. General Motors Co. has had to pay \$5.3 billion to cover fines, victim compensation and the recall of millions of vehicles for faulty ignition switches. Toyota Motor Corp. paid a \$1.2 billion fine for failing to report safety defects, and Volkswagen Group has set aside \$7.3 billion for the potential costs of its emissions scandal.

"I think, like so many Silicon Valley techies, that they believe they are smarter than the world's automobile business, and that they will do it better," said Bob Lutz, a retired General Motors vice chairman. "No way."

He added that tech companies would pay the same high prices for expensive components such as electric car batteries, likely pushing retail prices of their vehicles out of reach for the average driver.

"It will be a huge money loser," Lutz predicted. To be sure, Google and Apple have plenty of cash to burn, with about \$270 billion in the bank combined. But the challenges of the car industry may be steering them to find ways to revolutionize automotive technology without becoming actual automakers.

## GOOGLE

Mountain View, California-based Alphabet, the new holding company for Google and its affiliated businesses, has spent six years working on cars that can drive without human assistance. But the company says it doesn't want the responsibility of building the robotic vehicles.

Instead, it plans to make the self-driving system available to automakers that already have factories, dealerships and experience.

"We have enormous respect for the expertise of the automotive industry and how big and complex a job it is to manufacture a vehicle," company spokeswoman Courtney Hohné said. "We'll partner with many different companies to bring this technology into the world safely."

The strategy is consistent with how Google currently operates. It relies on other companies to produce the devices powered by its software. Most smartphones, for example, operate on its Android software. But the company doesn't make any of the devices.

If its self-driving system makes it to market, the company could license the software for a fee or, perhaps, making it free to use like Android.

That's because it makes most of its money from ads within their popular online services. If they no longer need to drive, people might spend time in their cars watching videos on Google-owned YouTube or seeking information on Google's search engine - both of which show ads.

But licensing their technology won't insulate it from safety issues. The company potentially could be held liable if one of its self-driving cars goes awry and injures or kills people in an accident.

## APPLE

Apple CEO Tim Cook told an audience this week that the automotive industry is ripe for "massive change," with new software, electric motors and self-driving capability becoming "much more important, in a huge way."

But Cook avoided commenting on reports that Apple may be building its own car, according

to a video recording of his remarks Monday at a technology conference sponsored by The Wall Street Journal.

"What we really want, hopefully in the short term, is we'd like people as they enter their car to be able to have an iPhone experience in their car," he said.

Apple has developed software for automakers called CarPlay, which lets drivers use an iPhone and its voice-activated assistant Siri to operate some electronic controls and entertainment systems.

In a research note, UBS analyst Steven Milunovich cites the \$2 trillion auto industry as a potential new opportunity at a time when sales of smartphones, tablets and PCs are seeing slower growth globally.

Milunovich noted, however, that cars have significantly lower profit margins than iPhones.

Apple, which makes most of its money from iPhones, reported \$39.5 billion in net income for its last fiscal year, on total sales of \$182.8 billion. GM reported only about \$4 billion in profit for its last fiscal year, on sales of \$151.1 billion.

Apple outsources manufacturing to contractors in Asia. That may be more difficult to do with cars, said Jack Nerad, an analyst at Kelley Blue Book's KBB.com.

While an iPhone is complex, with about 1,700 components in an iPhone 6 Plus, it pales in comparison to a vehicle, which has some 10,000 parts.

Sergio Marchionne, CEO of Fiat Chrysler Automobiles, sees a car in Apple's future, though he doubts they'll attempt to manufacture it themselves. He welcomes the competition.

"I think that this industry in general needs to open up to disrupters," Marchionne said in an interview on CNBC Wednesday. "Whether it's the Google car or the Apple car... it's going to change the traditional nature of car-making."

## UBER

Self-driving technology has also piqued the interest of Uber, the fast-growing Silicon Valley startup that operates a ride-hailing service in cities around the world. Uber said earlier this year that it was partnering with Carnegie Mellon University to research and develop new technologies for mapping, vehicle safety and autonomous driving.

The company hasn't said whether it hopes to use autonomous technology to replace its thousands of drivers, who work as contractors driving their own cars. But CEO Travis Kalanick has suggested Uber could someday expand with the help of self-driving vehicles, and touted the technology's promise for improving safety and easing traffic congestion.

## TESLA

Electric car maker Tesla Motors, also based in Silicon Valley, serves as both role model and cautionary tale for companies thinking of getting into the car business.

Tesla is admired for its elegant, emissions-free vehicles packed with technology. It does not advertise but has built a global fan base.

It also illustrates the challenges of the industry. The 12-year-old company has never made an annual profit. It has produced only three vehicles, all of which cost more than \$70,000. This year, it expects to make between 50,000 and 55,000 cars. That's two days' worth of production at GM.

Tesla has also felt the pain of safety issues. In 2013, it faced questions after several Model S sedans caught fire after road debris damaged their batteries. Tesla wound up strengthening the battery shield on new and existing cars.

Tesla CEO Elon Musk made it clear recently that he's watching Apple's moves. "For Apple, the car is the next logical thing to finally offer a significant innovation," he told German newspaper Handelsblatt in an interview earlier this month.



LOS ANGELES: Robert Kyncl, YouTube Chief Business Officer, speaks as YouTube unveils "YouTube Red," a new subscription service including original programming, at YouTube Space LA offices in Los Angeles. The service combines ad-free videos, new original series and movies from top YouTubers like PewDiePie, and on-demand unlimited streaming music for \$10 a month. — AP

## YOUTUBE TO LAUNCH \$10-A-MONTH AD-FREE VIDEO, MUSIC PLAN RED

LOS ANGELES: YouTube unveiled a new \$10-a-month subscription plan in the US called Red that combines ad-free videos, new original series and movies from top YouTubers, and on-demand unlimited streaming music.

Red builds on Google's existing music streaming service by providing ad-free access to YouTube programming, along with features such as the ability to download videos to mobile devices and have music playing in the background while using other mobile apps.

Current subscribers to the Google Play Music service, which also costs \$10 a month, will also get access to Red.

"It's a major, major evolution of our platform," YouTube's chief business officer, Robert Kyncl, told journalists at an event at its studio space in Los Angeles.

Red targets YouTube fans who want to skip ads, while giving them a chance to pass along some cash to their favorite video creators, who'll share in the new revenues. It comes as streaming services like Hulu, Pandora, Spotify and Tunes offer ad-free as a paid option.

The plan, which launches Oct 28, includes exclusive access to new videos launching next year as well as the YouTube Music Key service - to be called YouTube Music after it launches later this year - for music videos and songs. The new YouTube Music app will allow you to toggle music videos to play audio only.

But you don't have to wait for the new music app to have Red features work across YouTube platforms, with the exception of the YouTube Kids app, starting next week. The apps, including the existing YouTube app, are free to download.

## New shows

The service will cost \$13 a month if purchased through Apple's iTunes - but only because Apple takes a 30 percent cut, executives said. If purchased through the Google Play Store or on the Web, the subscription will still work on apps running on Apple's iOS or Safari browser.

The original videos will range in length from a few minutes to feature-length movies and come from established YouTube stars such as the Fine Brothers, who are creating a scripted 10-episode series about a singing competition show called "Sing It." Another new show stars video game-playing star Felix Kjellberg in a reality series co-created by the makers of "The Walking Dead" called "Scare PewDiePie."

Performer and comedian Lilly Singh said that while YouTube helped pay for the creation of a documentary of her world tour called "A Trip to Unicorn Island," the new service won't drastically change how she serves her fans.

"Is YouTube Red going to be the extreme make of my financial career? No," she said. "But that's not why I'm doing it. I'm doing it to give my viewers choice."

YouTube still intends for advertising revenue to remain its core business, and executives say they believe it could take a while for paid subscribers to grow significantly. Some original content will also be made available to non-subscribers later with ads.

Kyncl said the subscription will bolster YouTube's revenues and that of artists, and said

\$10 a month is the upper limit of what consumers would pay for such a plan. He said YouTube's advertising revenues will not be hurt, given that the number of users switching to the new service won't likely make a dent in YouTube's billion-plus users.

## Hulu launched

"It wouldn't really impact the amount of eyeballs we're providing through our platform," he said.

One challenge is getting people to pay for a service they long associated with being free, said RBC Capital Markets analyst Mark Mahaney in a research note Wednesday.

The move comes amid a boom in consumer appetite for ad-free experiences.

Ad-blocking software has become popular on personal computers, and Apple's iOS 9 operating system update last month allowed ad-blocker apps to run on its mobile Safari browser for the first time. Worldwide usage of ad blockers rose 41 percent last year to nearly 200 million people, according to PageFair, a firm that seeks to count-

er ad blockers. And yet content providers are finding a way to make money from eliminating ads, too.

Internet radio giant Pandora Media Inc. made \$54.6 million on subscription and other revenue in the quarter through June, mainly from its \$5-a-month ad-free plan, Pandora One. Its subscription revenue is growing faster than ad revenue itself. Hulu launched a "No Commercials" plan in September for \$4 more per month than its regular \$8 subscription, and Tunes added a premium tier for \$8 a month in August that throws ad-free music together with audio books and sports play-by-play coverage.

Red could help boost the ranks of Google Play Music subscribers, which stood at around 815,000 in the U.S. at the end of last December, according to royalty tracking firm Audiam.

That's far short of leader Spotify with 20 million paying subscribers globally. Apple Inc. CEO Tim Cook told a technology conference this week that Apple Music has 6.5 million paying subscribers and millions more still on free trials following its launch at the end of June.

## APPLE CLEANING UP ACT IN CHINA WITH MORE RENEWABLE ENERGY

SAN FRANCISCO: Apple is cleaning up its manufacturing operations in China to reduce the air pollution caused by the factories that have assembled hundreds of millions of iPhones and iPads during the past eight years.

The world's most valuable company is working with its Chinese suppliers to eventually produce 2.2 gigawatts of solar power and other renewable energy. The commitment announced Wednesday represents Apple's latest attempt to prevent the popularity of its devices and digital services from increasing the carbon emissions that are widely believed to be changing the Earth's climate.

Apple Inc. estimates 20 million metric tons of greenhouse gas pollution will be avoided as more of its suppliers rely on renewable energy between now and 2020. That's like having four million fewer cars on the road for a year.

Panels capable of generating about 200 megawatts of solar power will be financed by Apple in the northern, southern and eastern regions of China, where many of its suppliers are located. The Cupertino, California, company is teaming up with its Chinese suppliers to build the capacity for the remaining 2 gigawatts of renewable energy, which will be a mix of solar, wind and hydroelectric power.

Foxconn, which runs the factory where the most iPhones are assembled, is pledging to contribute 400 megawatts of solar power as part of the 2-gigawatt commitment. The solar panels to be built by 2018 in China's Henan Province are supposed to produce as much renewable energy as Foxconn's Zhengzhou factory consumes while making iPhones.

## Protecting environment

Apple has made protecting the environment

a higher priority since Tim Cook replaced the late Steve Jobs as the company's CEO four years ago.

"Climate change is one of the great challenges of our time, and the time for action is now," Cook said in a statement. "The transition to a new green economy requires innovation, ambition and purpose." Apple just completed projects in China that generate 40 megawatts of solar energy to offset the power required by its 24 stores and 19 offices in the country. All of Apple's data centers, offices and stores in the U.S. already have been running on renewable energy.

"When you look at all the air pollution in China, all the manufacturing that is done there has a lot to do with it, so this is a significant step in the right direction," said Gary Cook, a senior analyst for Greenpeace, a group devoted to protecting the environment.

Apple also has a financial incentive to help make China a better place to live. The greater China region is Apple's second biggest market behind the U.S. Tim Cook has made it clear that he wants the company to make even more inroads as rising incomes enable more of China's population to buy smartphones and other gadgets.

Google, Facebook and other technology companies also have been investing heavily in renewable energy in an effort to cut the pollution caused by power needed to run the data centers that process and store information for the users of the digital services.

By some estimates, technology products and services account for as much of the world's carbon emissions as the airline industry. Apple can easily afford to go green. The company had \$203 billion in cash at the end of June. — AP



CALIFORNIA: In this May 13, 2014, file photo, a row of Google self-driving cars stand outside the Computer History Museum in Mountain View, Calif. Google has spent six years working on cars that can drive without human assistance. But the company says it doesn't want the responsibility of building the robotic vehicles. — AP



TUMBANG NUSA, CENTRAL KALIMANTAN, Indonesia: Commuters drive through thick haze in Tumbang Nusa, Central Kalimantan yesterday. — AFP photos



TUMBANG NUSA, CENTRAL KALIMANTAN, Indonesia: An aerial view shows thick haze over South Kalimantan.

## PHILIPPINES CANCELS FLIGHTS, ALERTS HOSPITALS OVER HAZE

**MANILA:** The Philippines cancelled flights and put hospitals on alert yesterday, as its southern and central islands were covered by thickening haze from Indonesian forest fires. Smog from Indonesian slash-and-burn farming has choked vast expanses of Southeast Asia for weeks, killing at least 10 people, forcing events to be shut down and schools to close across the region. International efforts to douse the blazes have done little to clear the air, and Filipino authorities warned ash levels were becoming increasingly dangerous in the southern islands.

"The department of health is advising those who have breathing problems or respiratory diseases to wear face masks in areas covered by haze," presidential spokesman Herminio Coloma told reporters. Hospitals in the south were ready to receive anyone affected by the haze, he added. Six flights to central and southern islands were cancelled or delayed yesterday due to the thickening smog, after thousands were left stranded over the past 10 days. Pilots flying in the central city of Cebu could only see eight kilometers (five miles) ahead, said government

weather observer John Agbay, adding that visibility was also impaired in the western island of Palawan. Indonesian forest fires are an annual occurrence, but dry weather has made them particularly bad this year and Malaysia, Singapore, Australia and Japan have all sent help to fight the blazes.

While the haze in the Philippines has been mild compared to other parts of Southeast Asia, the smoke has been largely unexpected as the islands affected lie thousands of kilometers away from the fires. Singapore, one of

the worst hit, yesterday urged fellow ASEAN members to take "firm and decisive action" against ahead of a group summit in Malaysia next month.

The city-state issued the call after Singaporean troops and firefighters returned from an international assistance mission in Indonesia's Sumatra island. Experts say Typhoon Koppu, which passed over the northern tip of the Philippines last week, may have contributed to the problem in the archipelago by dragging the smoke across from Indonesia. — AFP

## WHO EXPERTS SIGNAL VICTORY OVER ONE OF THREE POLIO STRAINS

**NEW YORK:** The world should stop vaccinating children against one of the three strains of the crippling polio virus as part of a drive to eradicate the disease once and for all, a group of health experts has advised the World Health Organization. There is no cure for polio, which attacks the nervous system and can cause irreversible paralysis within hours of infection. Currently, the primary tool against the disease is an oral vaccine, which zaps all three types of polio.

The group is now recommending switching to a vaccine that only targets types 1 and 3, between April 17 and May 1, 2016, as type 2 has not been detected since 1999 and use of the vaccine itself can occasionally, inadvertently, aid the spread of the disease in countries with poor vaccine coverage.

"This week a momentous decision was made. And the decision was to go ahead and make the switch because we think we can eradicate polio. This is a huge step towards that," the chairman of the group, Jon Abramson, said on Friday. The world has only once managed to eliminate a disease, which was smallpox, but now was the time "to pull the trigger and go for polio eradication", Abramson said. A global vaccination campaign has all but beaten all three types of the wild polio virus, with only Pakistan and

Afghanistan reporting cases this year. But people who are vaccinated excrete the virus, putting those who have not been vaccinated at risk of catching it. Vaccine-derived cases have recently popped up in places with low vaccine coverage, such as Laos, Ukraine, Madagascar and Guinea.

"We want to stop that small number of type 2 that occurs in outbreaks," said Abramson. "When we're not giving type 2 (vaccinations) you're not going to see those outbreaks." Hamid Jafari, director of polio eradication at the WHO, said the eventual goal was to phase out the type 1 and type 3 vaccines as well and to switch globally to "inactivated" vaccines, which are more costly and need to be injected rather than swallowed, but don't carry the risk of spreading the virus.

"We need at least three years of no wild polio virus circulation and good surveillance for the Global Commission (for the Certification of Poliomyelitis Eradication) to certify eradication of wild polio virus," he said. "We haven't seen type 3 wildtype in over three years. Hopefully very soon we will stop seeing wildtype type 1," Abramson said. The group that he chairs, the WHO's Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE), recommends global immunization policies to the UN health agency. — Reuters

## OBAMA ADMINISTRATION UNVEILS HEALTH CARE PREMIUMS FOR 2016

**WASHINGTON:** When consumers turn on their laptops and tablets today, they should be able to check premiums for 2016 under President Barack Obama's health care law. Rates are going up in many parts of the country as a new sign-up season starts Nov 1. But people have options if they shop around, and an upgraded government website will help them compare costs and benefits. HealthCare.gov and state-run insurance markets are entering their third year, offering taxpayer-subsidized private coverage. That's helped cut the share of Americans who are uninsured to about 9 percent, a historical low. Still, the many moving parts of the Affordable Care Act don't always click smoothly, and people are divided about the law. A look at what's new for 2016:

### Average premium? No such thing

Independent experts are forecasting bigger premium increases in 2016 than last year, averaging from the high single digits to the teens. Next week the government will release a master file that researchers use to piece together national trends. Averages won't tell the story, because health care is local. Premiums can vary widely from state to state, and within a state. Most states won't be like Minnesota, where all five carriers selling individual policies on the insurance exchange have posted double-digit increases, from 14 percent to 49 percent.

They're not likely to be like southern California either, where officials forecast an average rise of 1.8 percent for consumers who stay with their current plan. For more than 8 in 10 customers, premium increases will be cushioned by taxpayer subsidies. That will absorb most of the cost, but it still may pay to shop around.

### New help figuring out costs

Too many consumers look only at the monthly premium when picking a plan. They shouldn't. Other costs can be just as important. These include the deductible - the amount individuals must pay each year before their plan kicks in - and cost-sharing or copays for medical services. Trying to demystify the process, HealthCare.gov will feature a new calculator that estimates total costs based on a consumer's expected medical needs.

**Tip:** Even if people use the calculator, the website will still rank options starting with the lowest premium plan. Look below that figure for total costs. Patients who need medical follow-up for ongoing health issues may come out ahead by paying a higher monthly premium for a plan that has lower out-of-pocket costs. Instead of picking a plan at the "bronze" coverage level, they might look at "silver," which also offers subsidies for cost sharing, based on the consumer's income.

### Smoother renewals?

As before, returning customers who don't



**WASHINGTON:** In this file photo, Republican presidential candidate, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush is questioned after announcing his plan to end President Obama's health care law at the New Hampshire Institute of Politics at Saint Anselm College. — AP

want to make any changes will get automatically re-enrolled. That process will be smoother this year, insurers say, because the government has better information to update subsidies for customers who just want to keep the same plan.

**Tip:** Returning customers must make sure to file a tax return. Those who got subsidies in 2014 could lose their financial assistance next year if they have not filed.

### Some new features still in testing

Consumer advocates have been clamoring for an upgrade that allows patients to easily search for insurance plans that their doctor participates in. That's coming, but it may not be ready by Nov 1, the date when consumers can start signing up. Administration officials say the doctor look-up - as well as a prescription drug finder - are in final testing. They want to be sure the information is accurate before flipping the switch.

**Tip:** Trust but verify. Call doctors and insurers to check doctor and hospital listings.

### Penalty peril

The tax penalty for people remaining uninsured in 2016 is no slap on the wrist. It's high enough to cover several weeks of groceries.

The fine will rise to the greater of either \$695 or 2.5 percent of taxable income. That's for someone without coverage for a full 12 months. This year the comparable numbers are \$325 or 2 percent of income, whichever is greater. Several

organizations, from TurboTax to the nonpartisan Tax Policy Center, will be offering online tax penalty calculators. That can put a dollar figure on the trade-offs for those who are on the fence about signing up.

### Website upgrades

Changes include new privacy protections. A "privacy manager" will let consumers opt out of embedded connections to third-party websites. If customers have enabled the "Do Not Track" setting on their browsers, the government will automatically honor their preferences. In another improvement, consumers will get real-time reminders to enter Social Security numbers and key details from immigration documents. That can head off major problems later on by helping the government quickly verify a person's identity.

Officials say a maddening glitch that resulted in some customers getting locked out of their accounts has been fixed. Call center operators can now help reset passwords for consumers who no longer have access to the email address they used to set up their HealthCare.gov accounts. The federal website will serve 38 states.

### Date change

For the third year in a row, the dates for HealthCare.gov's sign-up season have changed. This time, it's Nov 1 through Jan 31, 2016.

**Tip:** For coverage to start Jan 1, consumers must enroll by Dec 15. — AP

## SOME DOCTORS AND MIDWIVES DON'T KNOW POSTPARTUM DIABETES RISK

**NEW YORK:** Some doctors and midwives may underestimate the risk for postpartum diabetes among women who develop a version of the disease during pregnancy, a small British study suggests. Researchers focused on the risk of what's known as type 2 diabetes, which is linked to obesity and aging and happens when the body can't properly use or make enough of the hormone insulin to convert blood sugar into energy. Women who have a version of the disease known as gestational diabetes during pregnancy are at greater risk of developing type 2 diabetes.

Even though medical guidelines in the UK and many other countries stress the importance of regular screening for type 2 diabetes among women who had gestational diabetes, researchers found a lack of consensus among general practitioners, obstetricians and midwives on responsibility for immediate postpartum screening. Roughly four in five midwives and half of obstetricians were either unsure about the risk of diabetes or underestimated the odds that women who developed this complication during pregnancy would experience it again later in life.

"Although the majority of clinicians were aware that gestational diabetes is a risk factor, it is worrying that many underestimated or were unsure of the risk," lead author Dr Girish Rayanagoudar of Queen Mary University, Barts Health NHS Trust in London, said by email. About half of women with gestational diabetes develop type 2 diabetes within five years, and they are at risk even if initial screenings after pregnancy are normal, noted Rayanagoudar. To understand how health professionals thought about risk and approached postpartum screening, Rayanagoudar and col-

leagues surveyed 106 clinicians in East London and West Midlands in the UK in 2014. Nearly all the clinicians said they offered advice on diet and exercise as part of postnatal care for women who had gestational diabetes.

### Increase awareness

Most said they screened women for diabetes from six weeks to three months after delivery and then annually, if the results were normal. The findings point to the need for a uniform screening strategy as well as a need to increase awareness about the long-term consequences of gestational diabetes, the authors argue in the European Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Reproductive Biology. While the study is small, the findings mirror results from other research on type 2 diabetes screening among women who have previously had gestational diabetes, the authors note. "The survey may be small, but its impact is global," Dr Sanjay Kalra, a consultant at Bharti Hospital, Karnal, in Haryana, India and the executive editor of the Indian Journal of Endocrinology and Metabolism.

The lack of consensus on screening is particularly worrisome for women with an elevated risk after gestational diabetes, Kalra, who wasn't involved in the study, said by email. Women who are of South Asian descent or obese are even more likely to develop type 2 diabetes after gestational diabetes than other women, he noted. To minimize the risk of diabetes after delivery, "healthy diet and activity can be followed by all, including nursing mothers," Kalra advised. "Breastfeeding may have the potential to (help prevent) diabetes, and should be actively promoted. — Reuters

## S KOREAN MAN FIRST MERS RELATED DEATH SINCE JULY

**SEOUL:** A South Korean man died of complications from Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) yesterday, in the first death linked to the virus in the country for more than three months.

The 66-year-old man was diagnosed in June after contracting the virus at the Samsung Medical Centre in Seoul - one of the major epicentres of the disease that swept the country between May and July, Seoul's health ministry said. He was later said to be cured of the disease but had been battling an acute lung ailment that was a complication resulting from the

virus. Seoul had declared the outbreak effectively over at the end of July, but earlier this month a 35-year-old man believed to have been cured of the virus was readmitted.

The diagnosis dealt a blow to South Korea's hopes of being declared free of the disease that has infected 186 people in the country, killing 36 of them, since its outbreak in May. The patient is currently under treatment along with four others who were officially cured from the virus but are suffering from various health setbacks caused by the disease. — AFP

## 23ANDME RETURNS WITH FDA-APPROVED GENETIC HEALTH TESTS

**WASHINGTON:** Genetic testing company 23andMe is reintroducing some health screening tools that federal regulators forced off the market more than two years ago, due to concerns about their accuracy and interpretation by customers. The Google-backed company said Wednesday it will again offer 35 tests that tell users whether they carry genetic mutations for rare diseases like cystic fibrosis, which can be passed from parents to children.

The relaunch comes as the Silicon Valley company works to mend its relationship with the Food and Drug Administration and medical experts who have criticized the company's direct-to-consumer approach. FDA officials ordered 23andMe to stop selling its health-related tests in 2013, saying they required federal review. The agency signed off on the returning tests earlier this year. CEO Anne Wojcicki said 23andMe submitted studies to the FDA showing that users can understand genetic test results without the aid of a doctor or health counselor.

"Today we've successfully established a framework for working with the FDA to bring back reports directly to the consumer," Wojcicki said in an interview. "And we'll continue to work to try and

bring all of this information back." The relaunch is a partial victory for the Mountain View, California-based company, but not a total comeback. 23andMe still cannot offer more than 250 risk reports included in its original product, which purported to tell users if they were likely to develop diseases like Alzheimer's and Parkinson's. Those reports and others related to drug reactions remain unavailable in the US 23andMe previously said in February it would resume selling certain health tests later this year.

### History and ancestry

More than 1 million people have used the company's saliva-based test kit, a small plastic tube that customers fill with spit and return to the company for processing. About 80 percent of those customers have authorized the company to sell their data to drugmakers and academics for research purposes.

23andMe's current service mainly provides information about family history and ancestry, which is not regulated by the FDA. The company competes with the website Ancestry.com, which offers similar information based on DNA analysis. As part of the

relaunch, 23andMe is highlighting a re-designed website which offers customers new tools to understand their genetic code and compare it to family members. The website also provides links to speak with a genetic counselor about the results.

New customers will pay more for the updated 23andMe experience. The company will charge \$199 per person, up from \$99. "We took a lot of the feedback that we'd gotten over the last seven years and then incorporated that with all the FDA feedback into a whole new report format," Wojcicki said. The company plans TV and radio ads to promote the relaunch. Older 23andMe customers will be gradually transitioned to the new website in coming months. 23andMe launched in 2006 amid a flurry of publicity and celebrity endorsements, promoting its test kit as an affordable way to peek into one's genetic code. But the company's aggressive marketing and questionable science attracted scrutiny from experts. Since 2013, Wojcicki has hired a number of new executives with experience in the pharmaceutical and medical testing industries. Wojcicki is divorced from ex-husband Sergey Brin, co-founder of Google. Both Google and Brin invested millions in 23andMe, which is privately held. — AP



MIAMI: In this photo taken Tuesday, July 9, 2013, Bill Ahern, a conservation specialist for the Miami-Dade County Parks, holds a loggerhead sea turtle egg on Haulover Beach in Miami. — AP

### GEORGIA MAN FACES PRISON AGAIN FOR STEALING SEA TURTLE EGGS

**SAVANNAH:** Less than two years after he was released from prison, Lewis Jackson found authorities waiting for him as he boarded a ferry boat on remote Sapelo Island carrying a cooler full of contraband valued by some as a mythical aphrodisiac. Inside the cooler, investigators found zip-top bags filled with the ping-pong ball sized eggs of loggerhead sea turtles, animals protected by the Endangered Species Act. Stealing eggs of the threatened species is a federal crime.

Jackson was arrested July 7 in coastal Georgia with 84 sea turtle eggs swiped from a turtle nest on the barrier island's unspoiled beach. Authorities knew to look for him because it wasn't his first offense. He had served six months in federal prison after pleading guilty to stealing 156 loggerhead eggs in May 2012. Now Jackson, 60, could return to prison for up to five years. He's scheduled for sentencing by a US District Court judge Wednesday after he pleaded guilty in August to what was nearly a carbon copy of his earlier crime.

"After he was captured the first time, we thought, 'What are the chances of that ever happening again?'" said Mark Dodd, a wildlife biologist who heads the sea turtle recovery program for the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Sea turtle conservationists say egg poaching is fairly rare along the beaches where sea turtles dig nests from the Carolinas to Florida and across the Gulf Coast to Texas. But new cases every year or two indicate there's still an underground market for the eggs fueled by folklore that consuming them improves sexual performance.

#### 'Party favors'

"Fishermen in the Caribbean would commonly see mating sea turtles, and often when they mate they stay together for a long time - for hours on end," Dodd said. "So this whole sort of myth developed that if you eat a turtle egg, you get some of this extra manliness in your life."

Dodd said Jackson confessed to boiling his turtle eggs in water seasoned with cayenne pepper and selling at parties and bars to sell as "party favors." It's an illicit

novelty that's more common in Caribbean countries, but has found a small cultural foothold in the US, said David Godfrey, executive director of the Florida-based Sea Turtle Conservancy.

"It clearly exists in places like Costa Rica and Nicaragua, where you can go into bars and cantinas and there's someone selling turtle eggs," Godfrey said. "They'll drop it into a shot or suck it down and take it with a shot." Selling stolen sea turtle eggs doesn't appear to be terribly lucrative, though official estimates of their worth vary wildly. In the Georgia case, federal prosecutors said loggerhead eggs fetch up to \$25 apiece. Prosecutors in a similar case in Florida last year estimated their value at \$3 to \$5 per egg.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service was unable to say how many turtle egg thefts have been prosecuted in recent years, but cases are considered rare. "I don't see this happening on even an annual basis," said Tom MacKenzie, spokesman for the agency's southeast regional office.

#### Seeking comment

Last year, Kenneth Cornelius Coleman was sentenced to two years in federal prison after he pleaded guilty to stealing 310 sea turtle eggs from nests in Juno Beach, Florida. Authorities in Folly Beach, South Carolina, reported more than 100 eggs stolen in the summer of 2012, but the theft went unsolved. In the Georgia case, it's unclear why Jackson returned to stealing turtle eggs just 20 months after he left prison.

Court records show he was ordered to undergo treatment for substance abuse after his first offense. Jackson's attorney, James Yancey Jr, did not return phone calls seeking comment. Godfrey said egg thefts are infrequent enough that he doesn't consider them a great threat to sea turtles' survival. But he said poaching could become more popular if thieves see it as low-risk. "As much as you hate to see someone go back to prison, a repeat offender who's taking turtle eggs is probably a guy who deserves more than a slap on the wrist," Godfrey said. — AP

## FARMERS LOSE DEBT GAMBLE IN TYPHOON-PLAGUED PHILIPPINES

'MY LIFE IS AN ENDLESS CYCLE OF BORROWING MONEY'

**SANTA ROSA, Philippines:** Philippine rice farmer Francisco Santo Domingo's life is in ruins after losing yet another gamble with nature, but the typhoon that destroyed his crops means gleeful loan sharks have again hit the jackpot. Like thousands of other farmers, Santo Domingo will be forced to go back to the "shadow" bankers who dominate the nation's agricultural economy and take on even more debt at exorbitant interest rates. "My life is an endless cycle of borrowing money to plug more money that I owe," a disconsolate Santo Domingo, 37, told AFP as he looked over crops that were just a week away from harvest but ruined by Typhoon Koppu. "This storm will mean we will go hungry for a very long time. We bet everything on this harvest."

Koppu brought floods as high as three meters (10 feet) to one of the Philippines' most important rice growing regions, fertile central plains on the main island of Luzon. Santo Domingo's three-hectare (7.4 acre) tract is in Santa Rosa, a sleepy farming town about two hours' drive north of Manila. He took out a 60,000-peso (\$1,300) loan-a massive amount for any small-time farmer in the Philippines-just a few months ago to buy rice seeds, fertilizers and equipment. With zero savings or collateral to offer banks for a loan, Santo Domingo said he had no choice but to seek out a village loan shark and agree to terms of 25-percent interest per month. If the typhoon had not come, the father-of-three had planned to sell his rice quickly enough to pay off most of the loan, while earnings from other crops would have helped manage the rest of the debt. Now, he faces going back to a loan shark to try and finance another rice crop. "The loan sharks only have to deal with delayed payments, they will get their money. But us farmers are condemned to die in debt," the 37-year-old said.

#### Loan sharks circle

This cycle of debt and disaster haunts millions of farmers and their families across the Philippines, where an average of 20 major storms smash the country each year. According to the central bank, 604 of the country's 1,600 cities and towns do not have a bank, denying many residents access to formal credit. It is in these remote and rural environments that backyard credit operations thrive, with scandalous interest rates sometimes reaching up to 20 percent a day, analysts said. In Santa Rosa, one loan shark admitted to AFP there were seven of them operating in a single government building.

"We expect the farmers to come to us for more loans after this typhoon. We are just helping them," the lender, a 43-year-old accounting clerk, told AFP. The woman, a mother of two, spoke to AFP on the condition her name was not published, explaining she had not declared taxes on her loan earnings. She said she got into the lending game a year ago with just a few thousand pesos and, charging monthly interest of 10 percent, she was quickly amassing a fortune. The woman said she already had more than one million pesos lent out to customers, meaning revenues of 100,000 pesos a month. "I am earning countless times more than my gov-



PAMPANGA PROVINCE, Manila: An aerial shot of flooded rice fields and farmlands due to heavy rains brought about by typhoon Koppu. — AFP photos

ernment paycheck. I hope to expand," said the loan shark. Because she works at the government office, she can get authorization from the farmers to take money from their relatives' paychecks, reducing the risk for default. Some loan sharks also ask for the ATM cards of the farmers or their relatives, which they will keep until the loan is paid, she said.

#### Dying in debt

Five percent of all Filipino adults owe money to informal lenders, Central Bank Governor Amando Tetangco told AFP, adding authorities were trying to encourage banks to lend to the poor. Many of the farmers who bite the bullet with loan sharks will never recover from debt,

according to financial planner Salve Duplito, a celebrity personal finance coach. "The more they get into these schemes, the harder it will be for them to lift themselves out of this debt quicksand," she told AFP. Poor farmers, many of them illiterate, fail to realize how the scandalous interest rates add up, sometimes up to 1,000 times the principal amount, she said.

And while AFP interviewed a lender with no plans to use force to recoup debts, Duplito said violence and intimidation were common tools in the industry. "They would shame the farmers by cursing at them in front of their houses. Some would take farm animals, pots and pans in place of cash," she said. "People also kill for money. Often, we hear of farmers found dead." — AFP



PAMPANGA PROVINCE, Manila: Residents walking a flooded highway and an inundated rice field due to heavy rains brought about by typhoon Koppu.

## CHINESE SMUGGLING ENDANGERS RARE PHILIPPINE TURTLES

**MANILA:** Chinese demand for forest turtles is threatening an endangered species found only on one Philippine island, wildlife officials said yesterday. The Philippine Forest Turtle, found only in the western island of Palawan, is one of numerous freshwater turtles being taken by poachers for sale to China, said Adelina Villena, chief of staff at

the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development. "They sell them mainly to the Chinese exotic food and medicine trade and the pet trade. They are smuggled out of the country, some are even traded on the high seas," she told AFP.

The reptile, also known as the Palawan forest turtle, is listed as "critically endan-

gered," by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and is found in forests and streams. It has a brown or black shell and can be recognized by a light-colored stripe across its head, behind its ears. About 20 of these rare animals were seized on October 18 among a haul of almost a thousand forest turtles collected by

illegal wildlife traders in Palawan, Villena said. She said the poaching of such turtles has increased recently with over 4,000 freshwater turtles, many of them of the endangered variety, also seized in Palawan in June. "They are easy to find and easy to catch because they don't move quickly. They can't really escape." The crime of catching such

animals is punishable by only six to 12 years in jail and is bailable, Villena added. "The penalty is so small and the profits are so huge. That is our big problem," she said. The recently captured turtles have been turned over to a Palawan wildlife rescue centre where they are being rehabilitated and may soon be returned to the wild. — AFP

# CLINIC PAGE



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## RUBY TUESDAY LIVING LARGE WITH ITS NEW MONSTER BURGER AND MORE

**R**uby Tuesday Kuwait unveiled its new food and drinks menu last week. Top social media celebrities and media personalities of Kuwait were invited to an exclusive food tasting and bar show at the relaxing waterfront of the Sharq branch next to Kuwait Towers.

Guests were treated with new flavors starting from the new Livin Large Cocktails and being astounded with the Freedom Glass and the toast with our Celebration Sparkling grape juice bottles, followed by our new food specialties like Mega Nachos

which is a generous mound of tortilla chips layered with chili meat, creamy sauce topped with guacamole and pico de galo. The Seafood Sampler was another shareable complete with salmon sticks, white fish strips and the signature Thai Phoon Shrimps.

For the healthy option, a Caesar salad with grilled salmon awaited. Seafood lovers can now feast on the new Jumbo skewered grilled shrimps marinated in exotic spices and slow grilled which will have them crave for more. The popular Fish Trio and Chicken Trio found its place back in the menu as it

was our guest's popular demand.

The steak family has two new entrants, Peppercorn Mushroom Sirloin along with the Top Sirloin and Jumbo Skewered Shrimp which is now topped with choice of flavored butters - sun dried tomatoes, garlic and rosemary. The most popular Spaghetti bolognese was also included in our Pasta Selections.

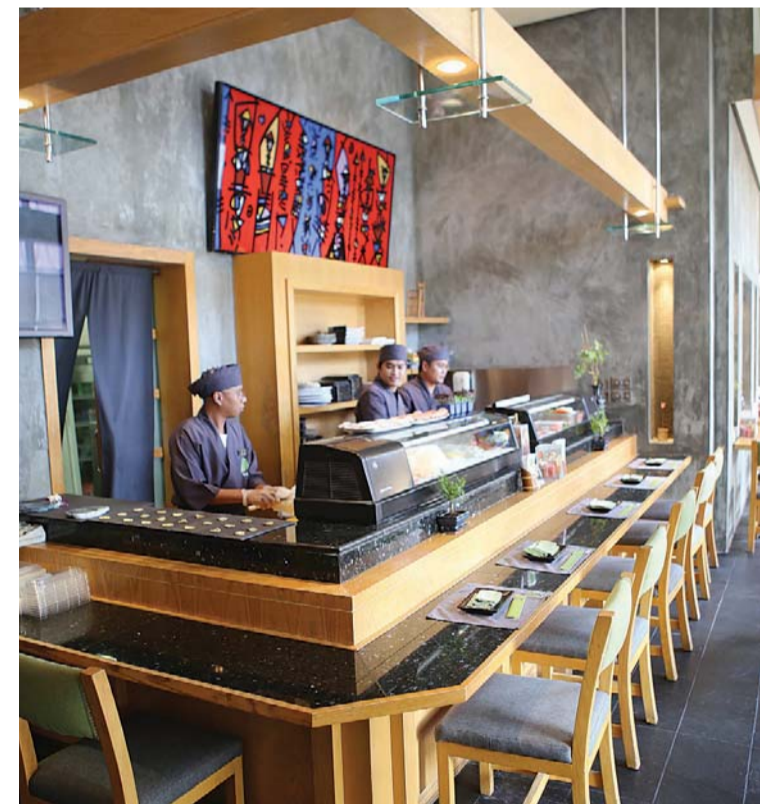
Ruby Tuesday is truly LIVING LARGE and has managed to bring to K-Town one of the biggest burger, the Monster Burger. This is an almost 1.350 Kg choice beef lowered on a

huge bed of fries. The guests were astounded on seeing the huge burger, possibly, the biggest ever seen and praised it saying that it was the "King of the RT Burgers".

Dessert lovers got a slice of sweetness in the form of Chocolate Monkey, the Ultimate Chocolate Cake and the Banana Supreme paired it up with variety of coffee cocktails like coffee Cookie Crunch and Caramel Latte Freeze - a feast for coffee lovers! The guests comprising of media personalities, blogger celebrities, and the International Women's Group had a fabulous time by the waterfront

with music and a fabulous display of drinks, the new menu boasted of.

Constantly looking at enhancing the brand, Ruby Tuesday Kuwait has continued to evolve from a burger-centric menu to one that features lobster tails & top Sirloins. With the weather favoring the way, you are cordially invited with friends and family to try out the new menu at our locations in Kuwait located at Sharq, next to Aqua Park, Salmiya in Laila Gallery Mall, 360 MALL, Shaab in Zone, Avenues Mall and in Abu Halifa. Come and try the difference at Ruby Tuesday.



## WASABI IZAKAYA: THE JAPANESE CULINARY AMBASSADOR IN KUWAIT

**W**hether you choose to go to Al Beda'a, Al Mahboula, The Avenues or Marina Walk, Wasabi Izakaya - part of The Sultan Center Group of Restaurants- is the restaurant that fill your cravings for authentic Japanese cuisine.

As you step into the restaurant your culinary adventure begins. You can sense the warm atmosphere combined with friendly greetings from staff and a fragrant and refreshing aroma of green tea to stimulate your appetite for what is yet to come. The

Wasabi menu is adorned with a vibrant selection of appetizers that will entice you, from soups and salads to shredded crab with apple dressings, the selection will appeal to everyone at your table.

Wasabi menu is as impressive as it is to eat, Wasabi Izakaya's rich menu of sushi rolls indulge customers craving and offers the most popular authentic varieties of Japanese delights infused with a variety of ingredients and flavors, including shrimp, crab, tuna and more. From Ebi Katsu Soya Roll to Fugakyo

Roll or Tempura Avocado all offering an array of flavors and textures.

Wasabi Izakaya's signature dish Lobster Sweet Chili and Salmon Balsamic-Teri Sauce comes with a choice of rice, noodles mixed with vegetables served alone or with your choice of seafood, meat or chicken. Customers can also select from a number of traditional side dishes including traditional tempuras and refreshing salads.

The restaurant's new menu injects unusual mixes into its contemporary dishes that will

question your taste; starting from the Raspberry & Baby Spinach Salad, moving to Shrimp Popcorn uniquely served with three tempting sauces ending with the finely shredded Tuna Sashimi with strawberry & chili relish that will definitely guarantee your next visit!

Your culinary experience is not complete without indulging in one of Wasabi's tempting desserts, Caramel Macadamia Cheese Cake is the choice; the softness of biscuit layer, the warmth of the cheese, and the crunch-

iness of macadamia will surely make you want more.

Dining at Wasabi Izakaya is like no other!! The restaurant interior reflects Japanese traditions; and offers a cozy atmosphere for a perfect and peaceful dining experience. Whether you're a California roll fan or a diehard sushi diner, Wasabi Izakaya offers a variety of options for your raw-fish fix. So, sharpen your chopsticks skills, prepare yourself to enjoy the true taste of Asian flavors at Wasabi Izakaya.



## BEC GEARS UP FOR MOTORBIKE GIVEAWAY

**B**ahrain Exchange Company W.L.L. (BEC), one of Kuwait's leading worldwide money transfer and foreign exchange companies, announced the commencement of its latest campaign. Customers that make a transaction between the 25th October and 2nd January 2016 will have the chance to win one of 20 Royal Enfield motorbikes.

The campaign is a first of its kind in Kuwait and is open to all BEC customers that make a money transfer or currency exchange transaction at one of BEC's 35+ branches, or to customers that make an online money transfer through [www.beconline.com.kw](http://www.beconline.com.kw), during the campaign period. Two bikes will be given away each week, in 10 weekly draws, with customers automatically being entered into the weekly draw that

they make a transaction. Commenting on the new campaign, Mathews Varghese, General Manager of BEC said, "This promotion is in line with our ongoing strategy to reward customer loyalty and show our customers that we recognize their ongoing support. We are very excited to offer our deserving customers the opportunity to win such a popular and sought after prize and wish them all the best of luck."

BEC currently has over 30 branches across Kuwait and specializes in sending money around the globe safely and quickly to over 54,000 locations in 30 countries through its own money transfer product - EzRemit. Its global reach is extended to over 200 countries through its partnership with MoneyGram an international remittance company.





## 3RD ANNUAL FRIENDSHIP TOURNAMENT

The third annual friendship tournament concluded this weekend with the Palestinian Hilal Al-Quds team winning the final over the Latinos Academy. The three day tournament commenced on Thursday Oct 22nd under the

patronage of Palestine state in Kuwait. Mr Rami Tahboub and Hilal Al Quds club president Dr Bassam Abu Asab, with participation of seven local academies, (Everton, AC Milan, Arsenal, Pharaohs, Al Ahli, Latinos, Strikers) participated in

the event. Competition was high in the first round between all teams in both groups with four teams qualifying to the semifinal (Hilal Al Quds, Latinos, AC Milan, and AL Ahli). In the first semifinal between Hilal Al-Quds and Al Ahli Academy,

Hilal won the game very comfortably, and in the second semifinal Latinos Academy beat AC Milan Academy on penalty kicks after a 2-2 draw. In the final between Hilal Al Quds and Latinos, Hilal dominated position and control of the game from

start to end and won the game with a 3-0 score. The tournament was sponsored by WAY (Welfare association for Youth) and Crowne plaza for their support of the Hilal Al Quds team.



## BARAKAT FOODS HOSTS MEDIA DINNER AT MAIS ALGHANIM RESTAURANT

In the spirit of the strong relationship with the local media, Barakat Foods Co. invited to taste the "Turkish Karal" newly launched menu at Mais Alghanim by hosting an exclusive dinner gathering. This informal event was organized in honor of the members of the local media to thank them for their continuous support on all activities undertaken by Barakat Foods Co. and Mais Alghanim Group. The evening witnessed a host of distinguished media personalities who had gathered at Mais Alghanim Gulf Road branch to enjoy the distinctive hospitality. Guests were welcomed

and greeted upon arrival. A diverse and sumptuous menu filled with superb Turkish delicacies were arranged for the guests. The special "Turkish Karal" menu comprised of a large array of authentic Ottoman delights, in addition to tasty appetizers and mouth-watering Turkish desserts. Chawki Barakat expressed his appreciation and extended his gratitude to the media members for their ongoing support saying "Barakat Foods Co. is pleased to share in the spirit of genuine hospitality onboard with our guests and also with our loyal customers; we

organize this event as a sincere token of appreciation towards the members of the local media as well as to experience the flavors of Turkey with our recently launched menu "Turkish Karal". We continuously strive to honor the media and value them as our strategic partner." The dinner gathering was a wonderful opportunity for media partners to gather, meet friends from the world of press and advertisement and to enjoy the casual dining at Mais Alghanim. The event lasted till midnight and Mais Alghanim ensured that each and every guest had a truly memorable evening

filled with an exceptional delight. It is worth mentioning that Mais Alghanim Restaurant has recently announced the unveiling of its most recent promotion; namely the "Turkish Karal", which is set to offer a delectable and delicious selection of the finest Ottoman dishes. The venue for this Exquisite Turkish Taste will be at Mais Alghanim restaurant branches located in Sharq and Mahboula, giving customers the opportunity to embark on a unique and exciting culinary journey. The promotion includes a selection of Turkish hot and cold appetiz-

ers and main dishes inspired by the rich and varied recipes of the Turkish cuisine, created to perfection by Mais Alghanim's experienced Chefs to suit every palate. Patrons are invited to savor the unique flavors of the Eggplant Salad, the mouth-watering Eggplant Meat Moussaka and the traditional Turkish Ganoush Bacha salad & Manti. As for the list of main dishes set to be presented, this includes the delectable Urfa Kebap, Turkish Roll and the richly marinated Karmuze Taouk. Sea food lovers can also feast on the delicious Grilled Balik, which offers them a tender filet of grouper

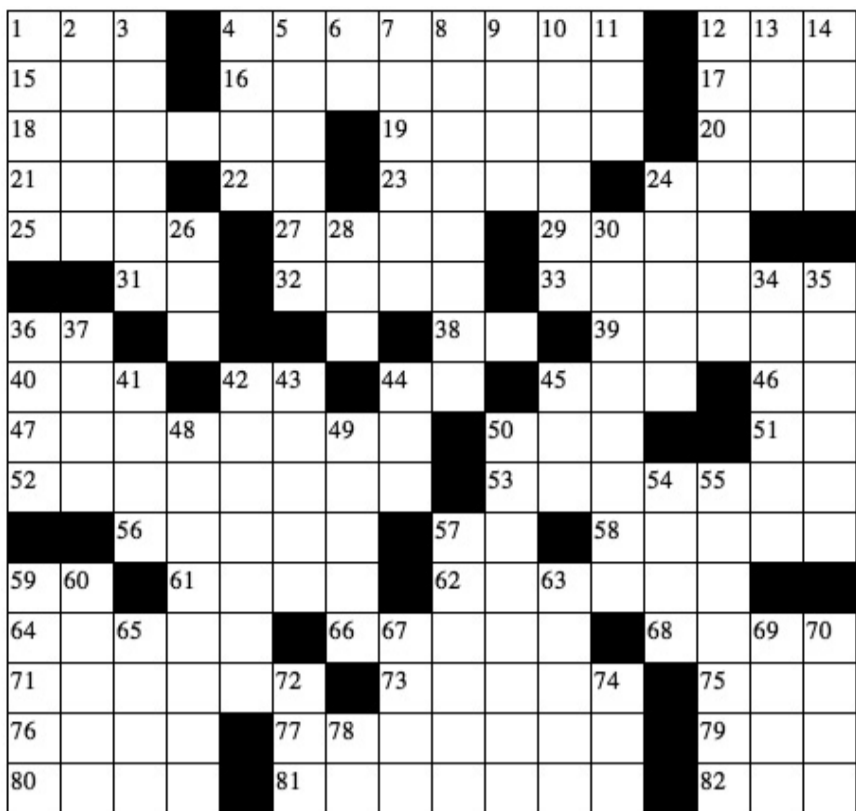
fish that is seasoned and cooked to perfection. Those with a sweet tooth are also in for a treat, as they can satisfy their cravings by indulging in some of the finest Turkish desserts such as the legendary Fig Baklava prepared with figs and cream, as well as the velvety Turkish Pudding, served with coconut and almond. Barakat Foods Co. and Mais Alghanim Restaurant Group, renowned for being a pioneer in the hospitality industry, has always been keen on offering its customers the utmost quality at a very competitive price and an unforgettable taste.







CROSSWORD 1060



ACROSS

1. Extremely robust.
5. The whiteness that results from removing the color from something.
11. Type genus of the Aceraceae.
15. A strip of land projecting into a body of water.
16. One of two flaps attached to a cap to keep the ears warm.
17. Herb of the Pacific islands grown throughout the tropics for its edible root and in temperate areas as an ornamental for its large glossy leaves.
18. Capital and largest city of the Ukraine.
19. English theoretical physicist who applied relativity theory to quantum mechanics and predicted the existence of antimatter and the positron (1902-1984).
21. A member of the Mayan people of the Yucatan peninsula in Mexico.
23. The most important person in a group or undertaking.
25. A potent estrogen used in medicine and in feed for livestock and poultry.
28. A deep bow.
31. (Greek mythology) Goddess of the earth and mother of Cronus and the Titans in ancient mythology.
32. United States newspaper publisher (1858-1935).
35. A city in the European part of Russia.
36. A Hindu prince or king in India.
39. The branch of engineering science that studies the uses of electricity and the equipment for power generation and distribution and the control of machines and communication.
40. A port city in northeastern Sicily on the Strait of Messina.
44. 100 agorot equal 1 shekel.
46. American Revolutionary leader from Virginia whose objections led to the drafting of the Bill of Rights (1725-1792).
47. Freight car without permanent sides or roof.
50. A state in east central United States.
51. Large long-armed ape of Borneo and Sumatra having arboreal habits.
52. An act of gracious kindness.
53. A Loloish language.
55. A yellow trivalent metallic element of the rare earth group.
60. Wasting of the body during a chronic disease.
66. A doctor's degree in music.
69. (Irish) Mother of the ancient Irish gods.
70. A Shinto god of war.
73. Aircraft landing in bad weather in which the pilot is talked down by ground control using precision approach radar.
74. An Indian unit of length having different values in different localities.
75. A remedy that stops or controls the effects of a poison.
76. (informal) Roused to anger.
77. Used of a single unit or thing.
78. Related to or derived from the people or culture of Spain.
79. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.

DOWN

1. (informal) Very bad.
2. Radioactive iodine test that measures the amount of radioactive iodine taken up by the thyroid gland.
3. An organization of countries formed in

- 1961 to agree on a common policy for the sale of petroleum.
4. A state in the western United States.
5. A person who is paid to pray for the soul of another.
6. Concerning those not members of the clergy.
7. To make a mistake or be incorrect.
8. A flat wing-shaped process or winklelike part of an organism.
9. The sound made by a hen after laying an egg.
10. A unit of power equal to 746 watts.
11. (of tempo) Leisurely n.
12. A high-crowned black cap (usually made of felt or sheepskin) worn by men in Turkey and Iran and the Caucasus.
13. (Norse mythology) Goddess of old age who defeated Thor in a wrestling match.
14. (used of especially horses) Having a brownish coat thickly sprinkled with white or gray.
20. The portion of the vertebrate nervous system consisting of the brain and spinal cord.
22. Marked by extreme intensity of emotions or convictions.
24. A plant hormone promoting elongation of stems and roots.
26. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
27. An informal term for a father.
29. Regional and archaic.
30. The sacred city of Lamaism.
33. The Teutonic goddess of fertility.
34. The upper house of the parliament of the Republic of Ireland.
37. A port in western Israel on the Mediterranean.
38. The cry made by sheep.
41. (of a woman's body) Having a large bosom and pleasing curves.
42. (Polynesian) An alcoholic drink made from the aromatic roots of the kava shrub.
43. (physics and chemistry) The smallest component of an element having the chemical properties of the element.
45. United States evangelical preacher famous as a mass evangelist (born in 1918).
48. A title used to address any peeress except a duchess.
49. A hard brittle blue-white multivalent metallic element.
54. Preaching the gospel of Christ in the manner of the early church.
56. One million periods per second.
57. A public promotion of some product or service.
58. Lower in esteem.
59. Italian violin maker in Cremona.
61. Sweet pulpy tropical fruit with thick scaly rind and shiny black seeds.
62. Title for the former hereditary monarch of Iran.
63. A book of the New Testament.
64. Large genus of tropical subshrubs or herbs some of which yield fibers of mucilaginous substances.
65. A primeval personification of air and breath.
67. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
68. An informal term for a father.
71. Black tropical American cuckoo.
72. An acute inflammatory disease occurring in the intestines of premature infants.

Yesterday's Solution

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

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You may be accustomed to the repetitive waves of energy that periodically surge through your life these days. But the Moon's current visit to your sign is another reminder of the big changes looming everywhere you turn. You are experiencing a bit of a cosmic roller-coaster ride today and could be easily overwhelmed by your emotions. Opening your heart to a friend might make you feel uncomfortable at first, but will ultimately calm your nerves and help you reestablish your center. Everyone needs someone to lean on sometimes.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Social commitments are stacking up on your calendar, making you realize that you don't have much time to spare. You may need to clarify your boundaries by saying no if you've managed to spread yourself too thin. But it's not that you're choosing to be antisocial; it's simply that you have too much on your plate. Avoid unproductive distractions now, even if you are feeling the urge to escape your obligations. Focus on your agenda and you'll be through this crunch sooner than you expect.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You want people to believe that you're eagerly embracing the future. You might even pretend that all is perfect in your world today, but you're afraid of being harshly judged if you admit to holding onto the past. Although you're usually adept at steering clear of unnecessary emotional drama, your impulsive actions could inadvertently stir up an uncomfortable level of intensity now. Being honest about your fears is the first step to resolving your insecurities. Revealing your vulnerability allows others to know the real you.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Your urge to be spontaneous could be constrained by memories of a past rejection that arise when you swing into motion. Luckily, reviewing your personal history enables you to learn from previous mistakes and push through the current resistance. No matter what happens, taking the initiative boosts your self-esteem and gives you the courage to ask for what you want. Act on your feelings instead of just experiencing them so that the universe knows you mean business.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

A powerful surge of confidence inspires you to put an untried idea into definitive motion. You can do nearly anything you set your mind to while the Moon lights up your adventurous 9th House of Big Ideas. You have sufficient momentum to plan for the future, even if you haven't yet processed the unfolding dynamics of the present moment. Fortunately, you don't need to figure out everything all at once; examine all the angles while the universe works its magic on your behalf.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You're craving new experiences today, but reality is telling you to hold your horses. You may be bound to promises you made in a relationship, but something happens that reawakens your desires and re-energizes your passion for living. However, you cannot just forget about your commitments and sail off into the sunset without letting others in on your plans. It's best to make drastic changes on another day rather than turning your life upside down now and regretting it later.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Defining the line between love and codependency is particularly tricky now, especially because making other people happy comes so naturally to you. The Moon's emphasis on your 7th House of Relationships highlights how difficult it is to be completely yourself today when someone else's needs conflict with yours. Although honoring your heart might create a ripple of stress at first, it also makes you a better partner in the long run. An equal amount of give and take is essential for a happy and healthy partnership.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You're walking close to an emotional edge today, but it's wise to keep your feelings to yourself. Your patience has run out and you're on the threshold of doing something that you might later regret. There may be too much at stake to take an unnecessary risk now, so try working off your anxiety through physical exercise or hard work. You'll feel much better if you channel your nervous tension into something positive that you can be proud of at the end of the day.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You are sorely tempted to gamble with your heart because you're feeling lucky in love today. Maintaining a positive attitude is almost always a good rule to follow, but your sunny optimism might be too much of a good thing now. Putting your feelings out there won't necessarily lead to failure, but choosing a proven path improves your chances for success even more. Give others time to reflect on your disclosure; relaxing your expectations helps you avoid unnecessary disappointment. Love is a dance which can't be rushed.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Although you possess an ambitious plan to reach your goals, your foundation may be weak if you don't trust your perceptions. You might be so self-critical now that you assume you can't sustain your productivity as you move into unfamiliar territory. You could exhaust yourself before you reach your destination if you are pushing too hard. Paradoxically, slowing down today can actually help you achieve success quicker than you think. Whatever you do, don't stop believing in yourself.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You may be spinning your wheels today, distracted by one little thing after another. However, karma gets you every time you wander away from your work and immediately sets you back on track. You don't have a lot of time to waste if you want to complete the tasks in front of you. Maintain clear intentions and stay singularly focused on your goals if you hope to accomplish everything on your list. Sadly, sometimes all work and no play is the only solution.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You recently embarked on an exciting new path, but you could encounter complications today as someone blocks your way. In fact, the resistance you receive might make you wonder if you're headed in the right direction. However, there's no reason to get discouraged; the current obstacles are meant to help you get serious about your work rather than preventing any further progress. Don't throw in the towel now; your perseverance is absolutely essential for bringing your project into the future. Where there's a will, there's a way.

WORD SEARCH

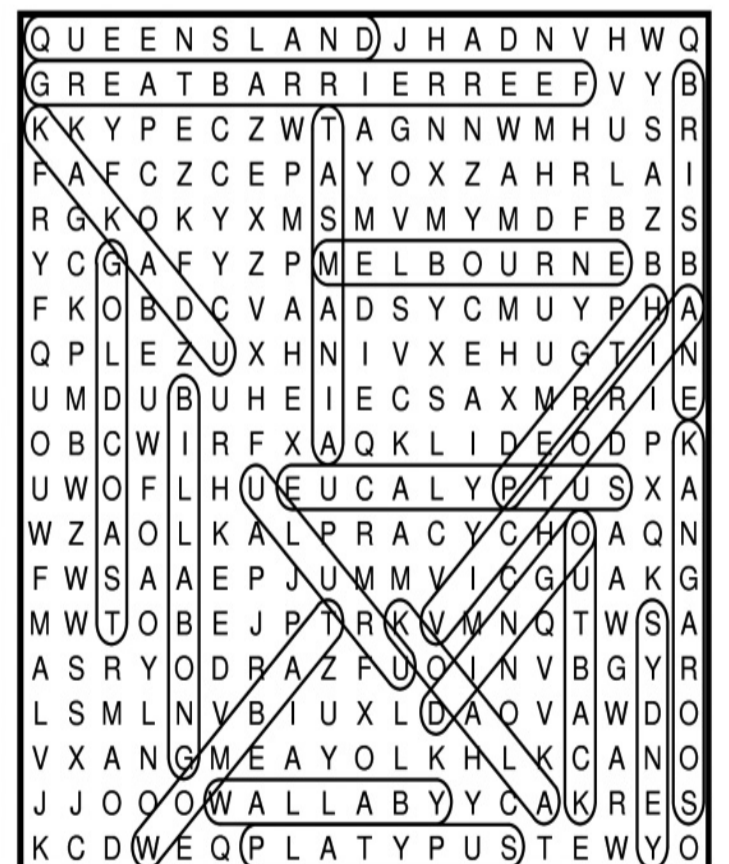
CIVIL WAR SITES WORD SEARCH PUZZLE



- |             |             |                |             |
|-------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|
| ANTIETAM    | CHANTILLY   | FREDERICKSBURG | PETERSBURG  |
| APPOMATTOX  | CHICKAMAUGA | GAINES MILL    | PORT GIBSON |
| BENTONVILLE | FORT SUMNER | GETTYSBURG     | RICHMOND    |
| BULL RUN    | FORT WAGNER | MALVERN HILL   | SHILOH      |
| CEDAR CREEK | FRANKLIN    | MANASSAS       | VICKSBURG   |

Yesterday Solution

SOLUTION TO AUSTRALIA PUZZLE



Daily SuDoku

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

Yesterday's Solution

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

For labor-related inquiries and complaints:  
Call MSAL hotline 128

Hospitals

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

Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khalidiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadisiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401
Jabriya	25316254
Maidan Hawally	25623444
Bayan	25388462
Mishref	25381200
W Hawally	22630786
Sabah	24810221
Jahra	24770319
New Jahra	24575755
West Jahra	24772608
South Jahra	24775066
North Jahra	24775992
North Jleeb	24311795
Ardhiya	24884079
Firdous	24892674
Omariya	24719048
N Khaitan	24710044
Fintas	23900322



PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

GOVERNORATE	PHARMACY	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ahmadi	Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan	Fahaeel Makka St Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd	23915883 23715414 23726558
Jahra	Modern Jahra Madina Munawara	Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1 Jahra-Block 92	24575518 24566622
Capital	Ahlam Khaldiya Coop	Fahad Al-Salem St Khaldiya Coop	22436184 24833967
Farwaniya	New Shifa Ferdous Coop Modern Safwan	Farwaniya Block 40 Ferdous Coop Old Kheitan Block 11	24734000 24881201 24726638
Hawally	Tariq Hana Ikhlas Hawally & Rawdha Ghadeer Kindy Ibn Al-Nafis Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Salmiya-Amman St Hawally-Beirut St Hawally & Rawdha Coop Jabriya-Block 1A Jabriya-Block 3B Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	25726265 25647075 22625999 22564549 25340559 25326554 25721264 25380581 25628241

INTERNATIONAL CALLS



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

STATE OF KUWAIT DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630  
Fax: (+965) 24348714  
www.met.gov.kw

Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

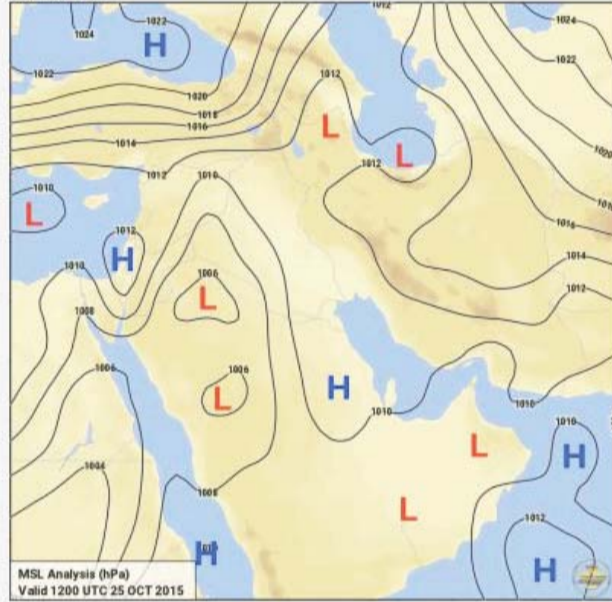
Issued 25/10/2015-19:00 LT UTC +3hr

MIN Temperature 20 °C

By Night :Relatively humid over coastal area with light variable wind, with speed of 06 - 26 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear

By Day : Sunny with light to moderate southerly to south easterly wind, with speed of 08 - 30 km/h

SFC. CHART



MSL Analysis (hPa)  
Valid 1200 UTC 25 OCT 2015

Four-Day Forecast

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Expected Weather				
Min Temp °C	20	22	24	21
Max Temp °C	38	35	34	35
Wind Direction	southerly to south easterly	southerly to south easterly	south easterly	south easterly
Wind Speed km/h	08 - 30	15 - 40	25 - 45	22 - 42

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

Warnings NO CURRENT WARNINGS

Kuwait Forecast

Station	MIN °C EXP	Max °C REC
KUWAIT CITY	27	37
KUWAIT AIRPORT	20	37
ABDALY	21	37
BUBYAN	18	33
JAHRRA	23	37
FAILAKA ISLAND	22	35
SALMIYAH	28	33
AHMADI	27	32
JAL ALIYAH	22	36
QAROH ISLAND	29	34
UMM AL-MARADEM	29	33
NUWAISIB	23	36
WAFRA	20	37
MANAGISH	21	36
SALMY	22	36
MUTRIBA	21	38

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	35
Min Temp (°C)	19
Max Rel Hum (%)	60
Min Rel Hum (%)	21
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	36 NW
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm
Sunrise	05:57
Sunset	17:07

Prayer Times

Fajr	04:37
Sunrise	05:57
Zuhr	11:32
Asr	14:42
Sunset	17:07
Isha	18:26



PRIVATE CLINICS

Ophthalmologists	Plastic Surgeons
Dr. Abdallah Al-Mansoor	25622444
Dr. Samy Al-Rabeea	25752222
Dr. Masoma Habeeb	25321171
Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy	25739999
Dr. Mohsen Abel	25757700
Dr. Adnan Hasan Alwayl	25732223
Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly	25732223
Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner	24550505 Ext 510
Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali	25644660
Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel	25646478
Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah	25311996
Dr. Mohammad Al-Daory	25731988
Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary	22620166
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz	25651426
Dr. Mohammed Y Majidi	24550505 Ext 123
Dr. Yousef Al-Omar	24719312
Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhaizeem	22636920
Dr. Kathem Maarafi	25730465
Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah	25655528
Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi	24577781
Dr. Dina Abdallah Al-Rafea	25333501
Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy	22641534
Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul	22639955
Dr. Khaleel Abidallah Al-Awadi	22616660
Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C)	25313120
Dr. Leons Joseph	66703427

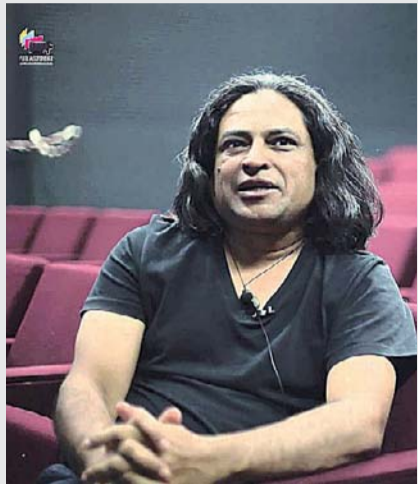
Family Doctor	Psychiatrists	Gynaecologists & Obstetricians
Dr Divya Damodar	23729596/23729581	
Dr. Esam Al-Ansari	22635047	
Dr. Eisa M. Al-Balhan	22613623/0	
Dr. Adrian arbe	23729596/23729581	
Dr. Verginia s. Marin	2572-6666 ext 8321	
Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan	22655539	
Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliyami	25343406	
Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly	25739272	
Dr. Salem soso	22618787	
Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer	22610044	
Dr. Mohammad Yousef Basher	25327148	
Dr. Adnan Ebil	22639939	
Dr. Mousa Khadada	22666300	
Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisan	25728004	
Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra	25355515	
Dr. Mobarak Aldoub	24726446	
Dr. Nasser Behbehani	25654300/3	

Paediatricians	Endocrinologist
Dr. Khaled Hamadi	25665898
Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed	25340300
Dr. Zahra Qabazard	25710444
Dr. Sohail Qamar	22621099
Dr. Snaa Maarroof	25713514
Dr. Pradip Gupje	23713100
Dr. Zacharias Mathew	24334282
Dr. Mohammed Salam Bern University	23845955
Dr. Anil Thomas	3729596/3729581
Dr. Shamah Al-Matar	22641071/2
Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed	22562226
Dr. Abdallah Al-Amer	22561444
Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan	22619557
Dr. Abdalateef Al-Katrash	22525888
Dr. Abdallah Al-Duweisan	25653755
Dr. Bader Al-Ansari	25620111
Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri	25633324
Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan	25345875
Dr. Sami Aman	22636464
Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly	25322030
Dr. Foad Abdallah Al-Ali	22633135
Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman	25339330
Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari	25658888
Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr	25329924
Dr. Deyaa Shehab	25722291
Dr. Mused Faraj Khamees	22666288
Dr. Adel Al-Awadi	25330060
Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah	25722290
DR. Mohammed Akkad	24550505 Ext 210
Dr. Mohammad Zubaid MB, ChB, FRCP, PACC	
Assistant Professor Of Medicine Head, Division of Cardiology Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital	25339667
Dr. Farida Al-Habib MD, PH.D, FACC	2611555-2622555
Inaya German Medical Center	
Te: 2575077	
Fax: 25723123	

Physiotherapists & VD	Rheumatologists:	Internist, Chest & Heart	Consultant Cardiologist
Dr. Youssef Al-Omar			
Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhaizeem			
Dr. Kathem Maarafi			
Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah			
Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi			
Dr. Dina Abdallah Al-Rafea			
Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy			
Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul			
Dr. Khaleel Abidallah Al-Awadi			
Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C)			
Dr. Leons Joseph			

## Nalin's 'Angry Indian Goddesses' wins Rome Film Fest's People's Choice Award

Pan Nalin's all-female Bollywood buddy movie "Angry Indian Goddesses" continued its successful run on the fall film festival circuit, winning the BNL People's Choice Award yesterday at the 10th Rome Film Festival. The Rome win for "Goddesses" follows its world premiere at TIFF, where it came second to Lenny Abrahamson's "Room" in the People's Choice awards there. Pic got an eight-minute standing ovation at its Rome premiere last week. Starring Sarah-Jane Dias, "Goddesses" tells the story of Frieda, a strong-willed fashion photographer who summons her friends to Goa, where she surprises them by revealing her plans to get married. As the holiday turns into a raucous bachelorette party,



Pan Nalin

the women share secrets, fight and ultimately bond.

"It makes me particularly happy that this film was voted the winner, because one of the goals I had set for myself was to offer the audience high quality films from all over the world: The Indian film industry is one of the most advanced, and Pan Nalin's films are among its most stimulating, dynamic, and provocative products," said Rome topper Antonio Monda in a statement. The nod for Nalin's film ended the Rome fest on a positive note in a year that saw drastic changes. Originally launched as a star-driven, red

carpet-oriented festival that could potentially compete with Venice and Berlin, incoming director Monda stripped the festival back to basics, with a line-up of just 53 films.

"What I wanted to do is reshape this event drastically," Monda said at a presser Saturday. "We are different compared with other [Italian] festivals and that's what I intended to do: Make it a game changer." Accordingly, gone was the competition, and therefore juries. Opening and closing ceremonies were scrapped, the line-up was substantially slimmer down, and the paparazzi and glitz-lovers were hurting, since stars were not a priority. "I turned down movies with big stars, simply because I did not like them," Monda maintained, adding that he will discuss the issue with the fest board with a view to adding more star power next year.

### Eight-day event

Instead, Monda curated a series of well-received 'in conversation' events: Wes Anderson discussed Italian cinema with novelist Donna Tartt; Joel Coen and Frances McDormand talked about juggling marriage with work; while William Friedkin and Dario Argento swapped notes on their genre-movie influences. Monda's more somber fest format didn't help attendance. Ticket sales plunged 21 percent to slightly over 35,000 paid admissions for the eight-day event, which does not compare well with, say, the mere 3.8 percent dip suffered by the recent ended BFI London Film Festival.

That said, the Rome "festa" had some venue issues this year that certainly attenuate what can be seen as a disaffection on the part of overall Rome audiences for this no frills edition. The newly launched Rome Mia market, dedicated to movies, docs, TV and video games, instead almost doubled attendance compared with the pre-existing Business Street mart. More than 1300 execs - more than half of which non-Italian - made the trek, including more than 300 buyers, 50 commissioning editors from TV networks, and 118 international sales agents. —Reuters

### Box Office Massacre:

## 'Last Witch Hunter,' 'Paranormal Activity 6' and 'Steve Jobs' Flop

It was a pre-Halloween massacre at the multiplexes. Four new films, including "Paranormal Activity: The Ghost Dimension" and Vin Diesel's "The Last Witch Hunter," crowded into theaters this weekend and were swiftly pulverized and left for dead. Another, "Steve Jobs," expanded after a brisk limited run in a few key cities, only to be given the cold shoulder by the general public. Their failures allowed a trio of holdovers—"The Martian," "Goosebumps," and "Bridge of Spies"—to retain the top three spots on the box office chart.

When the dust settled it was Ridley Scott's "The Martian" in first place, adding \$15.9 million to the Fox release's impressive \$166.4 million domestic haul. Sony's "Goosebumps" showed some endurance in its second weekend, slipping a mere 35% to end the period with \$15.5 million. The family film's total stands at \$43.7 million. And "Bridge of Spies," the Steven Spielberg and Tom Hanks Cold War drama, got a lift as older crowds caught up with the awards-contender. It earned \$11.4 million, a mere 26% drop from its opening weekend, bringing its stateside gross to \$32.6 million. But the results for the rest of the bunch were bleak. The glut of new releases was partially attributable to the timing of Halloween. The holiday falls on a Saturday, the busiest day for moviegoing, so studios were hoping to steer clear of what is shaping up to be a dead period by pushing lots of new content into this weekend. The plan backfired spectacularly.

### New franchise

Lionsgate's "The Last Witch Hunter" cost \$70 million to make and only brought in \$10.8 million across 3,082 theaters for a fourth place finish. This paltry result came despite Diesel's recent success with "Furious 7" and his robust social media presence. Any ambitions of launching a new franchise have been extinguished. The top five was rounded out by "Hotel Transylvania 2," which made \$9 million to push its domestic results to \$148.3 million after five weeks. Paramount's "Paranormal Activity" sequel whiffed, producing the lowest grossing opening in franchise history.

That said, it's a hard film to assess. The studio partnered with exhibitors like AMC and Cineplex on a move that allows the film to make its home entertainment debut early. The exhibitors will receive a cut of digital revenues in return for allowing the studio to release the latest "Paranormal Activity" electronically 17 days after the movie leaves most theaters. However, many chains balked, worrying that the plan threatened theatrical exclusivity and thus their business models. They refused to show the picture, leaving it to open on 1,656 screens, roughly 1,000 less than the previous film in the horror series. Perhaps the most frustrating stumble was "Steve Jobs," a picture that on paper seemed like an awards season breakout in the making.

### Top ten

After scoring the best per-screen average two weeks ago and slowly expanding with positive results, "Steve Jobs" failed to stick the

landing when it was finally ready to go nationwide. It made a disappointing \$7.3 million from 2,443 locations. That barely beat the \$6.7 million that Ashton Kutcher's critically excoriated "Jobs" made in its initial weekend. The talky drama always faced commercial headwinds—something that caused one studio, Sony, to pass on the project, before producer Scott Rudin found a backer in Universal. But the strong reviews and eye-catching posters



This photo provided by Lionsgate shows Vin Diesel as Kaulder in a scene from the film, "The Last Witch Hunter." —AP photos

seemed to be working. Ultimately the buzz didn't translate into box office, and making it unlikely that "Steve Jobs" will earn back its \$30 million budget and millions more in marketing costs. So far it has made just under \$10 million.

The weekend also hosted two low-cost duds in Universal's "Jem and the Holograms" and Open Road's "Rock the Kasbah," which opened to \$1.3 million and \$1.5 million, respectively. That wasn't even good enough to crack the top ten and mark the lowest openings for studio films released in at least 2,000 theaters. At least these films won't result in oceans of red ink. "Jem and the Holograms," which adapts the 1980s cartoon, has a \$5 million budget. "Rock the Kasbah," which features Bill Murray as a rock promoter in Afghanistan, cost \$15 million to make. What's particularly alarming is that pre-release tracking had many of these films doing substantially better ("The Last Witch Hunter" was expected to do as much as \$17 million, while some estimates had "Steve Jobs" expanding to the tune of \$19 million). Overall, box office revenues were down more than 10% from the year-ago period when "Ouija" and "John Wick" topped charts. —Reuters



In this March 17, 1999 file photo, St. Patrick's Day Parade Grand Marshal Maureen O'Hara waves to the people lined up along Fifth Avenue at the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in New York. —AP photos



This Jan 15, 1962 file photo Maureen O'Hara peers apprehensively at John Wayne during a chase sequence in the movie 'McLintock!' being filmed in the Hollywood section of Los Angeles.



This Nov 8, 2014 file photo actress Maureen O'Hara accepts her Honorary Oscar onstage as presenters Clint Eastwood, center, and Liam Neeson look on during the 2014 Governors Awards in Los Angeles.



This Oct 27, 1950 file photo shows Maureen O'Hara signs autographs for school children of Moab, Utah, while on location there for a new film.

# Maureen O'Hara, fiery star of Hollywood's golden age, dies at 95

Maureen O'Hara, the Irish actress who starred in a slew of American films including "Miracle on 34th Street," "The Quiet Man" and "The Parent Trap" and one of the last surviving stars of Hollywood's golden age, died on Saturday at home in Boise, Idaho. She was 95. With her faint Irish accent, bright red hair and air of independence, she was often described as "fiery," but that implies she was a one-note personality; in truth, she was a real actress who displayed her versatility in such works as "How Green Was My Valley" and Carol Reed's "Our Man in Havana." She worked with directors ranging from Alfred Hitchcock to Chris Columbus, but is best remembered for her works with John Ford, particularly in her pairings with John Wayne, such as "Quiet Man."

She was one of the few Wayne co-stars who could prove his match in screen presence. Her "Quiet" character is prideful and stubborn, strong and intelligent, the emblematic O'Hara role. One of her best performances was in the 1940 proto-feminist film "Dance, Girl, Dance," directed by Dorothy Arzner and also starring Lucille Ball. The highlight of the film is O'Hara silencing a boorish audience of men at a burlesque show, in which she says, basically, go ahead and smirk because we performers are smirking right back at you.

In 2014, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences presented her with an Honorary Oscar at the Governors Awards. O'Hara, looking frail in her wheelchair, read a statement of thanks, but when her onstage escort started to take the microphone, it was clear she had not lost her "fiery" streak: She held onto the mike and continued talking with the unspoken subtext, "This is my moment, and I don't care about time constraints." O'Hara was born Maureen FitzSimons in Ranelagh, a suburb of Dublin. Along with several of her siblings, she received training in drama and dance; she began appearing in amateur theater at the age of 10, and at 14 she was accepted to the Abbey Theater, where she began pursuing classical theater and operatic singing.

### Small roles

Her movie career began thanks to Charles Laughton: While she was still a teen, he viewed a screen test she had made, and he and partner Erich Pommer signed her to a seven-year contract with their company, Mayflower Films. She had small roles in a couple of English films made in 1938 but made her first significant bigscreen appearance was in Hitchcock's Gothic actioner "Jamaica Inn," starring Laughton. The 18-year-old O'Hara already displayed the kind of self-possession and self-reliance that would be a trademark of her characters. Laughton was impressed and cast her as Esmerelda the next year in his classic "The Hunchback of Notre Dame," shot at

RKO in Hollywood.

When WWII began and he realized lensing would no longer be possible in London, Laughton sold O'Hara's contract to RKO, which cast her in a trio of B pictures. She still seemed somewhat uncertain of herself in a remake of the Katharine Hepburn vehicle "Bill of Divorcement" but made a big impression in "Dance, Girl, Dance," while "They Met in Argentina" was a musical trifle. Director Ford lifted O'Hara out of low-budget territory when he cast her in Fox's 1941 "How Green Was My Valley," which won the Oscar for best picture. The image of O'Hara radiantly waving from a gate is one of the enduring images in the film and has been used in an untold number of movie montages.

### A strong, elegant lady

During WWII she made several films, several of them war pics in which she was just the obligatory female interest, but she shined in a couple of movies: In the excellent 1942 Technicolor swashbuckler "The Black Swan," she is gloriously outraged by the attentions of scoundrel Tyrone Power; in John Garfield psychological thriller "The Fallen Sparrow" (1943), she is a strong, elegant lady in jeopardy. "The Black Swan" would be the first of a number of pirate pics she made over the next decade, including "The Spanish Main," with Paul Henreid; "Sinbad the Sailor," with Douglas Fairbanks Jr.; "At Sword's Point," in which she got the opportunity to wield her own blade as the daughter of a musketeer; and "Against All Flags," with Errol Flynn, in which her character, a female pirate, got to engage in her share of the sword-play.

### Two albums

Hollywood legend says that RKO planned to film "Spanish Main" in black and white but switched to Technicolor because of O'Hara's beautiful red hair, green eyes and porcelain-white skin. In 1947 she made "Miracle on 34th Street" starring as Natalie Wood's mother who pooh-poohs her daughter's belief in Santa Claus; while it's probably her most well-known film, the pic is something of an odd duck in her career as her character quickly transforms from hard-headed and skeptical to warmly sentimental. In addition to Westerns, the swashbucklers and the musicals, O'Hara made a film noir, 1949's "A Woman's Secret," with Melvyn Douglas and Gloria Grahame. During the 1950s she paired four times with scoundrel Ford. The first was the Western "Rio Grande," a movie Ford agreed to make only if he could also do his dream project, "The Quiet Man." Both movies starred O'Hara and Wayne, but O'Hara had far more to do in the latter. (And the part gave her one of her few onscreen opportunities to speak in her own Irish accent.)

The third Ford film was "The Long Gray Line," reunited O'Hara with Power. Set at West Point, it nevertheless had a very Irish flavor. The final Ford film, reuniting Wayne and O'Hara, was 1957 biopic "The Wings of Eagles," about a Navy pilot-turned-screenwriter. O'Hara and Wayne, however, would work together again in 1963 Western comedy "McLintock!" and 1971 Western "Big Jake." Films had not provided an outlet for her love of singing, and in the late 1950s and early '60s she guested on TV variety shows. She also starred in the tuner "Christine" on Broadway in 1960, and released two albums the same year: "Love Letters From Maureen O'Hara" and "Maureen O'Hara Sings Her Favorite Irish Songs."

But she was still a very busy movie actress, starring with Alec Guinness in Reed's "Our Man in Havana" in 1959, with Hayley Mills in "The Parent Trap" in 1961, with Jimmy Stewart in "Mr. Hobbs Takes a Vacation" in 1962 and with Henry Fonda in "Spencer's Mountain" in 1963 (a precursor of the TV series "The Waltons," both autobiographical works by Earl Hamner Jr.). Many of her films during this period were comedies. In 1966 she starred with Stewart again in "The Rare Breed." She also starring in a version of "Mrs. Miniver" on CBS in 1960 and made other television appearances.

### Last screen

O'Hara retired from acting after making a TV version of "The Red Pony" with Fonda in 1973, a few years after her third marriage, to Charles F. Blair Jr. in 1968. Blair was a former US Air Force brigadier general and former chief pilot for Pan Am. (She had secretly married George H. Brown, a film producer and scriptwriter, in 1939, but that marriage was annulled two years later; she married American director William Houston Price, dialogue director on "The Hunchback of Notre Dame," in 1941 but divorced him in 1953.) Blair died in a plane crash in 1978, and O'Hara was elected prexy-CEO of Antilles Airboats, becoming the first woman president of a scheduled airline in the US. Later she sold the airline.

O'Hara returned to acting for a starring role in the 1991 Chris Columbus comedy "Only the Lonely," in which she played John Candy's overbearing mother. She also starred in telepics "The Christmas Box" (1995), the well-reviewed "Cab to Canada" and "The Last Dance" (2000). After appearing in a number of tributes to fellow actors and Hollywood-focused documentaries over the years (including projects devoted to Wayne and to Ford), O'Hara made her last screen appearance in the 2010 Irish docu "Dreaming the Quiet Man: O'Hara's autobiography, 'Tis Herself," was published in 2004. In April 2014 the actress appeared at the TCM Classic Film Festival in Hollywood. Survivors include a daughter and a grandson. —Reuters

# Dermatologist for Michael Jackson, other stars, dies

Dr. Arnold Klein once said, "Put me next to a patient, give me a needle and I'm really happy." To which the man once known as Hollywood's "Dermatologist to the Stars" might have added: "Make the patient Michael Jackson and I'll be even happier." Klein, who died Thursday in a Rancho Mirage hospital at 70, was a pioneer in the use of Botox and other injectable substances to improve personal appearance. For years, however, he was better known to the public as one of Jackson's closest friends.

It was a relationship that helped cement the doctor's reputation as the go-to guy for stars such as Elizabeth Taylor, Carrie Fisher and others who wanted work to make them look younger. Jackson's friendship would ultimately prove a curse for Klein after the King of Pop died of a drug overdose administered by another physician in 2009, and it was revealed that Klein had been regularly injecting Jackson with the powerful painkiller Demerol.

An investigation found no trace of that drug in Jackson's body when he died and

Klein was not implicated in the death, but the revelation permanently stained his reputation as one of Los Angeles' most prominent celebrity physicians. So much so that Klein had largely fallen off the



In this Sept 22, 2011 file photo, dermatologist Arnold Klein poses for a portrait in his office in Beverly Hills, Calif. —AP

paparazzi and gossip tabloid radar until he died. No cause of death was given by the Riverside County coroner's office, and no investigation was planned. Klein's celebrity client roster once included entertainers such as Dolly Parton and

Cher, powerful Hollywood executives, wealthy Beverly Hills socialites and even international royalty.

### My best friend

Klein's favorite patient was clearly Jackson. He called the entertainer "my best friend" in a 2011 interview with The Associated Press, adding that he had joined Jackson and Jackson's children in celebrating the entertainer's last Christmas in 2008. Rumors persisted over the years that Klein had fathered two of Jackson's three children with Debbie Rowe, a nurse who had worked for Klein and who had married Jackson. Klein denied it. Klein met Jackson in 1983 when Klein treated him for a skin rash. He quickly became the entertainer's regular dermatologist, treating him for ailments that included the skin disease vitiligo that causes a patchy whitening of the skin.

Conrad Murray, another doctor who had been providing the powerful anesthetic propofol to help Jackson sleep, was convicted of involuntary manslaughter in

Jackson's death. During Murray's trial it was revealed that Klein often provided Jackson with Demerol to ease pain during his friend's treatments. Klein told The Associated Press in 2011 that the publicity drove away some of his international clients and political bigwigs who didn't want photographers to see them entering his Beverly Hills clinic. But he insisted his Hollywood clientele stood by him. Fisher for one agreed.

### Appearance and self-esteem

The actress told the AP at the time that Klein was a brilliant and ethical doctor who never would have misused drugs and who helped her immensely with her appearance and self-esteem. "It's like her a painter but the brush is a needle," she said at the time. She was traveling Friday and couldn't be reached for comment. Attorney Garo Ghazarian, who represented Klein during the Jackson death investigation, called Klein a larger than life figure who was engaging, outgoing, candid and funny. —AP

# Experts in new bid to unravel 'secrets' of pyramids

A group of Egyptian and foreign experts launched yesterday a new bid to unravel the "secrets" of the pyramids, including a search for hidden chambers inside four famed pharaonic monuments. Architects and scientists from Egypt, France, Canada and Japan will use modern infra-red technology and advanced detectors to map two pyramids at Giza and the two Dahshur pyramids, south of Cairo.

"This special group will study these pyramids to see whether there are still any hidden chambers or other secrets" inside them, Minister of Antiquities Mamduh Al-Damati announced at a news conference. "These engineers and architects will conduct the survey using non-destructive technology that will not harm the pyramids," he said. Experts said the study, known as "Scan Pyramids," will also be a fresh attempt to understand how the monuments were built in the first place.

Many previous missions have attempted to unravel the mysteries of the pyramids, but archaeologists and scientists have yet to come up with a concrete theory explaining how the structures were built. Khufu's pyramid, also known as the Great pyramid of Giza—the tallest of all the pyramids—was built by the son of Snefru, founder of the fourth dynasty (2,575-2,465 BC), while the Khafre's pyramid or Chephren was built by the son of Khufu. The two pyramids at Dahshur were built by Snefru.



Egypt's Minister of Antiquities Mamduh Al-Damati (center right) and Minister of Tourism Hesham Zaazou (center left) attend alongside representatives of international universities yesterday the launch of project 'Scan Pyramids' during a press conference in Giza, south of Cairo. —AFP

"The idea is to find the solution to the mystery of the pyramids," said Mehdi Tayoubi, founder of Paris-based HIP Institute that is participating in the project. "A similar attempt was made 30 years ago, but this is the first project at a global level using cutting-edge technology to look inside the pyramids," he told AFP.

Project "Scan Pyramids" is expected to last until the end of 2016. Damati said the "infra-red and moon" technologies that would be used to search the four pyramids could also be useful to look for a possible hidden chamber in King Tutankhamun's tomb, which may be the burial place of Queen Nefertiti.

Archaeologists have never discovered the mummy of the legendary beauty, but renowned British archaeologist Nicholas Reeves said in a recent study that her tomb could be in a secret chamber adjoining Tutankhamun's tomb in the Valley of Kings at Luxor, southern Egypt. Reeves, who was in

Luxor in September to probe his theory, believes one door of Tutankhamun's tomb could conceal the burial place of Nefertiti. Egypt has already approved using radars to search the boy king's tomb, which was found by British Egyptologist Howard Carter in 1922. —AFP



The Great Pyramids and Sphinx in Giza, south of Cairo, are lit up in blue as part of the "Turn the World UN Blue" global campaign to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the United Nations. —AFP Photos



In this picture taken with long exposure, Madrid's town hall is illuminated with blue light as part of the celebration of the 70th anniversary of the United Nations in Barcelona, Spain.



A tourist has his photo taken as blue light illuminates the 9th-century Borobudur Temple to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the United Nations, in Magelang, Central Java, Indonesia.



In this picture taken with long exposure, Magic Fountain of Montjuïc is illuminated with blue light as part of the celebration of the 70th anniversary of the United Nations in Barcelona, Spain.

## Over 200 landmarks to light up UN blue on 70th anniversary

More than 200 landmarks in 60 countries from the Pyramids in Egypt to the Eiffel Tower in Paris and the Empire State Building in New York will be lit up in blue—the official color of the United Nations—on Saturday to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the world body. The global celebration will kick off in New Zealand and then at the Sydney Opera House in Australia. It will move

across countries and continents to the Great Wall of China, the ancient city of Petra in Jordan, Russia's Hermitage Museum, the Alhambra in Spain, the statue of Christ the Redeemer in Rio de Janeiro and many other sites.

New Yorkers actually got a sneak preview of the celebration because UN headquarters was lit up in blue Friday night as well. UN Secretary-

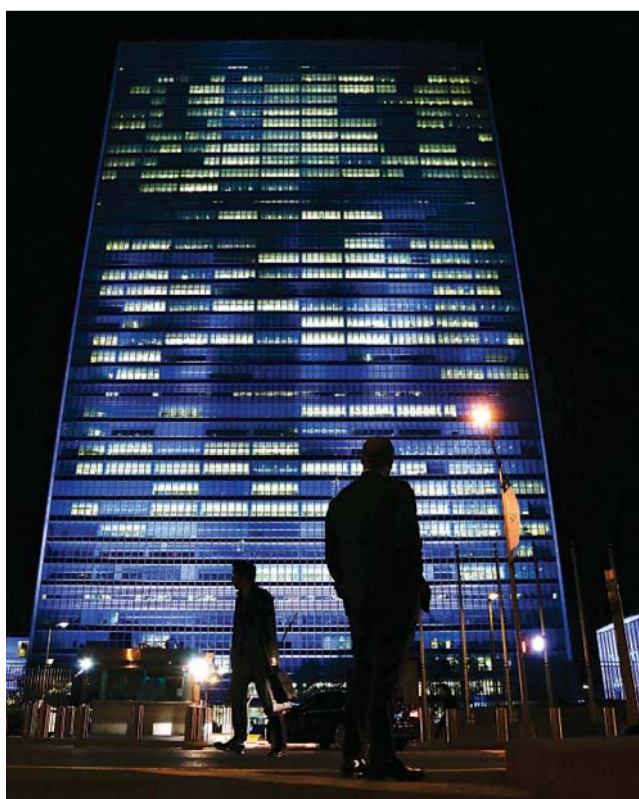
General Ban Ki-moon expressed hope that "by turning the world UN blue for a day, we can light a way to a better tomorrow." Oct 24 is the anniversary of the entry into force of the UN Charter in 1945 and is celebrated as UN Day.

The General Assembly unanimously approved a declaration Friday reaffirming the faith of the 193 member states in the United Nations on its 70th anniversary and the UN's

determination "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war." It says the UN charter unites all member states "in diversity beyond our differences of language, culture or religion, today as 70 years ago." The secretary-general told the assembly that the UN over seven decades has brought "freedom to millions, dismantling colonialism, defeating apartheid and defending human rights for all, regardless of

race, religion, nationality, gender or sexual orientation."

But he said "violence, poverty, ill-health and abuse plague far too many people, especially women and girls," and more people have fled their homes than at any time since World War II because of conflict, oppression and fear. Nonetheless, Ban said, "without the United Nations, our world would be a far bleaker



Pedestrians walk by United Nations Headquarters lit up in blue light one day in advance of the 70th Anniversary of the UN in New York. —AP photos



In this picture taken with a long time exposure, Barcelona's La Pedrera building, the emblematic modernist building by architect Antoni Gaudi, is illuminated with blue light as part of the celebration of the 70th anniversary of the United Nations in Barcelona,



The Amman Citadel is lit up in blue, the official color of the United Nations, marking the 70th anniversary of the UN.



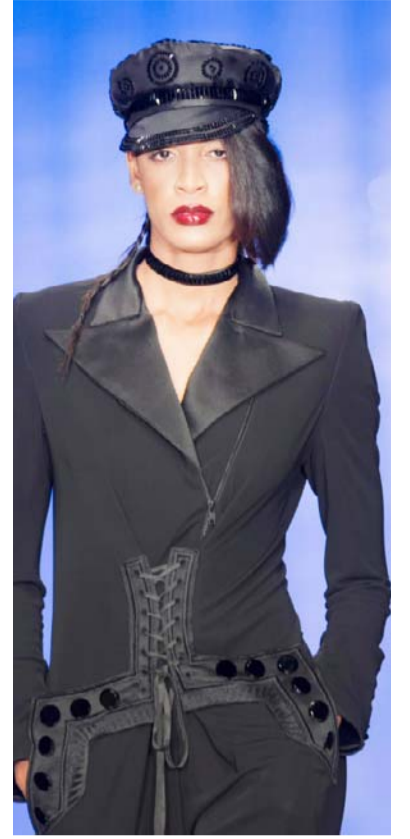
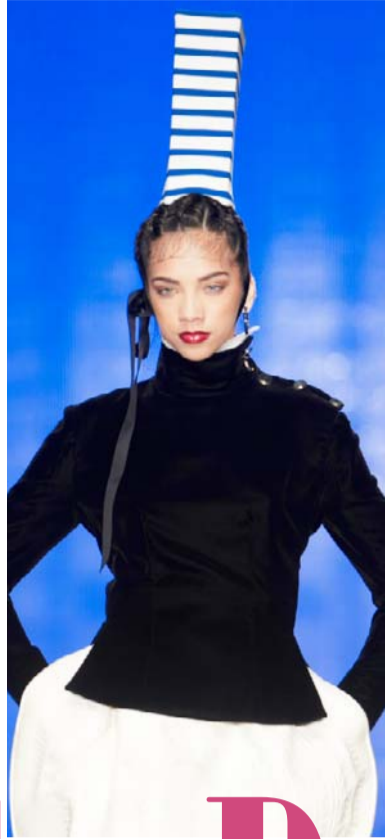
A worker walks along a section of the Great Wall of China lit by blue light to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the United Nations on the outskirts of Beijing, China.



The Sydney Opera house is lit up in blue to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations in Sydney, Australia.



The Amman Citadel is lit up in blue, the official color of the United Nations, marking the 70th anniversary of the UN.



# Santo Domingo

## Fashion Week



Models wear creations by French designer Jean Paul Gaultier as part of his Fall/Winter 2015/2016 collection presented during the fashion week in Santo Domingo. — AP/AFP photos



### Kelly models for William Rast

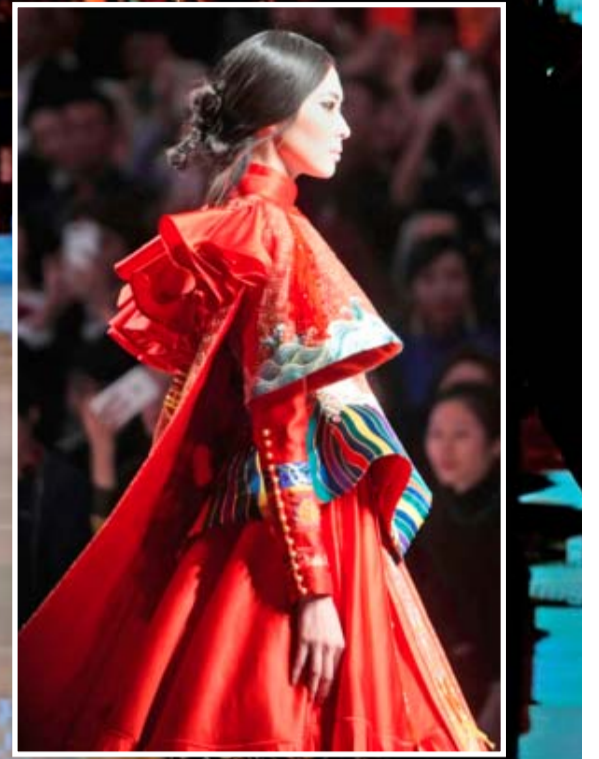


**T**ori Kelly is the new face of Justin Timberlake's fashion line William Rast. The American songstress said recently that she'd love to make music with the 'SexyBack' hitmaker and she's one step closer to making her dream come true after she signed a deal to model his brand of denim. Tori shared: "I'm so thrilled to be partnering up with William Rast. I'm such a fan of the brand and being a part of the new campaign has been amazing. "I'm not just saying this, (but) it was one of my favorite shoots I've ever been a part of. The whole crew was so easy to work with and all the models were great. I felt so comfortable on set. It was just a fun, smooth day overall." And the 22-year-old singer revealed her personal style is a natural fit for the company that Justin co-founded with Trace Ayala. She told PEOPLE: "I've always been a fan of a good skinny jean, which William Rast does so well. I can dress them up or down, and they feel good throughout a long day." Meanwhile, Tori took her first steps into the fashion world when she joined Justin at the Fashion Group International's Night of Stars gala in New York City last night. — Bang Showbiz

### Sarah Jessica Parker: Scent matters more than style



**S**arah Jessica Parker thinks scent is more important than style. The actress - who played fashionista Carrie Bradshaw in the 'Sex In The City' franchise - has revealed she worries more about the impact her choice of fragrance will have on the people around her than the clothes she wears. Sarah mused: "It's immediately communicating more than your clothes, which we think tell our story, right? But clothes don't invade anybody else's space. "You know how you feel when someone hugs you and they're wearing a fragrance you don't care for and it's stuck on you and you go to the ladies' room and you try to really carefully, discreetly wipe it off? Or gentlemen in the old days, who liked really strong cologne? "It's unique in that way. Your make-up doesn't do that. Your bag doesn't do that, your shoes, or your clothes, but fragrance completely lives in both worlds." The 50-year-old star released her perfume, Lovely, 10 years ago and recalled the first time she was ever mesmerized by a scent. She told The Cut: "I was like 15, 16 maybe? Up to that point I was wearing probably Love's Baby Soft, and she (actress Mary McDonnell) would get up and spray Aliage on every day and I was hypnotized. I saved up some of my money and bought Aliage. "When I went to do 'Square Pegs,' I shared a room with my baby brother because he was really tiny. He and I shared this little room in temporary apartments or something. "One day, he went into my closet and he sprayed all of my Aliage. I was so angry because I had saved up for so long, and he was just like (mimes spraying motion) around the whole closet. I was like, 'Well, it smells really good in here.'" — Bang Showbiz

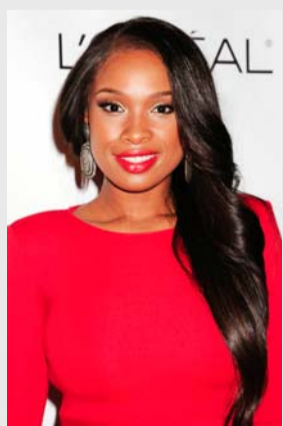


Models parade the latest creations by NE TIGER Haute Couture 2015 collection with the theme "Qipao" on stage projected an image of Forbidden City during the opening show for the China Fashion Week in Beijing, yesterday. — AP/AFP photos



### Hudson has pair of jeans named after her

Jennifer Hudson has had a pair of jeans named after her. The 'Dreamgirls' actress has teamed up with New York & Company to create the perfect pair of high-waisted jeans for curvaceous figures, named the Jennifer Hudson Jean. Jennifer told People magazine: "For me, comfort is everything so I really appreciate the high waist and super soft feel of the jeans, and yet they still look amazing because of their curve-flattering fit."



Jennifer Hudson

"I'm excited to offer this curated collection of my favorite pieces to the New York & Company woman," Jennifer pairs her signature jeans - which are available today on nyandcompany.com - with a classic black turtleneck in the campaign images. In addition to Jennifer's work on the brand's denim collection, they have also enlisted the help of 'The Place Beyond the Pines' actress Eva Mendes.

The 41-year-old beauty collaborated on a range of flirty, floral pieces after she admitted she's "definitely not a 'jeans' girl". She explained previously: "I'm a dress and skirt girl, and I think that I gravitate towards things that are very feminine." — Bang Showbiz

### Jenner is a clothes hoarder

Kylie Jenner has confessed she's a "hoarder" when it comes to clothes. The 'Keeping Up with the Kardashians' star gave fans a tour of her walk-in wardrobe in a two-minute video posted on her website www.thekyliejenner.com and admitted she finds it hard to throw out any outfits and shoes. Discussing her wardrobe she admitted it's "every girl's dream" as is stacked to the ceiling with glitzy shoes, clothes and accessories.

Turning to the camera, Kylie, 18, says: "This is like my favorite room ever. My assistant says that I'm a hoarder, so I got rid of a bunch of my shoes. "This was never a shoe closet before, I added all these shelves. It's pretty much every girl's dream, I've always wanted a shoe closet. These are my really old Louboutins that Khloe bought me for my like, 16th birthday or something, maybe 15th?" The closet - which states "The Princess Sleeps Here" on the door - also holds samples of Kylie and her older sister Kendall's new clothing range. Holding up a white dress, Kylie says: "Such cute stuff. I want to wear everything right now, but I don't want to give too much away. That's a little taste of what's to come."

— Bang Showbiz



# Lifestyle

MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2015

Experts in new bid to unravel 'secrets' of pyramids

37



Participants parade during a Halloween event in Kawasaki, near Tokyo, yesterday. — AP photos

## Trick or Trump

# The Donald, Pizza Rat among top Halloween costumes

When a Donald Trump look-alike and a faux Caitlyn Jenner ring the doorbell on Halloween night, they may solicit a piece of candy but the treat they really seek is recognition. Pop culture experts say these "ripped from the headlines" costumes to celebrate the Oct. 31 holiday - such as "El Chapo" the fugitive Mexican cartel kingpin or "Left Shark" from pop star Katy Perry's Super Bowl halftime show - are a way for adults to connect in a world splintered by a myriad of choices for information and entertainment.

While children typically dress up as witches and ghosts, the most popular costume this year among adults shopping on Yandy.com is The Optical Illusion Dress, the subject of an online debate that went viral over its color. The hot seller is a compromise: half blue and black, half white and gold, said CEO Chad Horstman. Also

in high demand is Pizza Rat - a gray mini dress with a tail, hood, ears and two pepperoni pizza slice pockets - that is arguably sexier than the video of a New York City rat dragging a pizza slice down subway steps, shared more than 100,000 times on Twitter in the last month, according to Topsy.com.

The lion-slaying dentist Walter Palmer of Minnesota who gained notoriety for his trophy kill of Cecil the Lion, considered a national treasure in Zimbabwe, inspired a \$139.99 getup from Costumeish.com, complete with a blood spattered dental smock and mock lion head. "It used to be we all watched the same TV shows, we all knew the same cultural references. Now the culture is really fragmented," said Robert Thompson, who teaches pop culture at Syracuse University in upstate New York. "These news stories, the ones that hit the big time, that

cross that point of penetration, those are the things that everybody shares." Jim Von Schilling, the Pennsylvania-based area chairman of the Popular Culture Association, said when it comes to envisioning a Halloween costume, imaginations are sparked by current events. "The world around us is our pop culture," said Von Schilling.

### Limits to poking fun

The costumes are meant to touch a nerve, but some vendors say there are lines they will not cross. Ricky's NYC, a beauty supply store that features Halloween costumes, and Yandy.com both decided against carrying a Caitlyn Jenner costume featuring a shiny white padded bustier resembling the outfit the Olympic gold medalist and reality TV star formerly known as Bruce wore to come out as transgender in a Vanity Fair cover story.

"The transgender community is a huge portion of my customer base and is incredibly offended by this," said Richard Parrott, president of Ricky's. "I don't really see anything funny about somebody wanting to change their gender. There is no place to really poke fun." Jenner told NBC News last month that she did not find the costume offensive: "I'm in on the joke... I think it's great."

Politicians are typically fair game and Ricky's carries a Hillary Clinton mask and Yandy a Donald Trump costume consisting of a white collared shirt, red tie, royal blue blazer and "booby shorts" with extra accessories including a "Making America Great" hat and a straw colored "comb over politician wig." Halloween costumes that snark rather than spook tend to focus on figures who have fallen from grace, said Jack Santino, who teaches popular culture at

Bowling Green State University in Ohio. "They are people who were kind of ridiculous and there is a kind of 'Emperor Has No Clothes' element," Santino said. "At Halloween, people just mock them to say, 'We all know you're ridiculous. You're not fooling anyone.'"

Irreverent Halloween costumes tend to be worn by adults but some parents, seizing on the natural tendency of babies to look like old men, have been dressing their infants as Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders, with eyeglasses and unruly white wigs, posting their pictures to Twitter as #BabiesForBernie. Ready-made costumes can be expensive but for frugal Trick or Treaters there is a free online makeup tutorial that a cosmetologist posted on Instagram with tips for looking like Kim Davis, the Kentucky clerk who was jailed for refusing to issue same-sex marriage licenses. — Reuters



Participants in Star Wars costumes.



A participant wearing a Star Wars costume.



A woman wearing a Simpsons face mask.



Contestants dressed as Star Wars characters C-3PO (left) and R2-D2 (right).



Star Wars fans dressed in costumes of Star Wars characters.



Contestants perform before the "Roppongi Halloween".