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# Kuwait Times



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JAMADA ALTHANI 26, 1437 AH

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## LOWER POWER TARIFFS SOUGHT FOR CITIZENS, NOT FOR EXPATS

### PANEL REJECTS GOVT BILL, DEMANDS QUICK RESPONSE



Min 13°  
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High Tide 10:01 & 19:03  
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### AMIR URGES CLOSER ASSEMBLY-GOVT COOPERATION

**KUWAIT:** HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday advised leading legislators to seek to bolster cooperation between the legislative and executive authorities. HH the Amir, during his reception of the lawmakers, advised them to exert greater efforts and work hard for realizing citizens' aspirations and ambitions in a fashion that will contribute to beeping up development through cooperation between the legislative and executive authorities.

Sheikh Sabah gave the guidelines during a reception at Seif Palace for National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem and chairman of the committee tasked with replying to the Amiri address MP Odah Al-Rowaiee and committee members MP Abdullah Al-Maayouf, Humoud Al-Hamdan and Abdullah Al-Turajji. They submitted to HH the Amir a report about the commission's response to the Amiri address for the fourth session of the 14th legislative term. Ghanem assured the Amir that he and his colleagues in the parliament would adhere to his guidelines for the welfare of the citizens and the homeland. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem and MPs at Seif Palace yesterday. — KUNA

By B Izzak

**KUWAIT:** The National Assembly's financial and economic affairs committee yesterday rejected a government bill to raise electricity and water charges and made a proposal of its own to make the increases much lower for citizens. The committee however did not propose any changes for expatriates, leaving the proposed high tariffs unchanged. Head of the committee MP Faisal Al-Shaye said the committee gave the government until Wednesday to respond to its proposals.

The government's bill proposes to raise power charges from the current 2 fils per kilowatt for all purposes. For private houses, a term normally referring to Kuwaiti citizens, the government bill proposed a price of 5 fils per kilowatt for the first 3,000 kilowatts, 8 fils for between 3,000 and 6,000 kW, 10 fils for between 6,000 and 9,000 kW, and 15 fils for above 9,000 kW.

For apartments, a term normally referring to expatriates, the government proposed a price of 5 fils for up to 1,000 kW, 10 fils for between 1,000 and 2,000 kW and 15 fils for above 2,000 kW. Shaye said the committee proposed that the price should remain 2 fils per kilowatt for consumption of up to 6,000 kW and then 5 fils per kilowatt above that for private houses, or citizens. The committee did not propose any changes for apartments, which means it will remain the same as proposed by the government.

Shaye said the committee's proposal will save a majority of low and middle income citizens from the increases, since according to official figures, a majority of private houses consume less than 6,000 kW per month.

Continued on Page 13

## Try Our Monster Size Shrimps



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**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Sudanese Foreign Minister Ibrahim Ahmad Ghandour. — Amiri Diwan and KUNA photos



**His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Chairman of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic Jan Hamacek.**

## AMIR RECEIVES SUDANESE FM, CZECH SPEAKER

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Seif Palace yesterday First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, accompanied by Sudanese Foreign Minister Ibrahim Ahmad Ghandour and his accompanying delegation on the occasion of his visit to the country.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir received National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem and Chairman of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic Jan Hamacek. Deputy Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah attended both meetings.

Earlier, His Highness the Amir also received His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-

Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince received Ghanem, His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, and Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

He also received Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister, Finance Minister and Acting Oil Minister Anas Khaled Al-Saleh and Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah. Furthermore, His Highness the Crown Prince met MPs Auda Al-Ruwaei, Abdullah Al-Maayouf, Humoud Al-Hamdan and Abdullah Al-Turajji. — KUNA



**His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with MPs Auda Al-Ruwaei, Abdullah Al-Maayouf, Humoud Al-Hamdan and Abdullah Al-Turajji.**



**KUWAIT:** Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah meets with Egyptian Commander in Chief of the Navy Vice Admiral Osama Munir Rabie. — KUNA

### KUWAIT, EGYPT DISCUSS MILITARY MATTERS

**KUWAIT:** Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah discussed with Egyptian Commander in Chief of the Navy Vice Admiral Osama Munir Rabie military matters of common interest. The meeting also tackled means of boosting these military

ties, Defense Ministry's Public Relations and Moral Guidance said in a statement yesterday. The meeting was attended by high officers in the Kuwaiti Army. Moreover, Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah discussed military issues with Saudi military attache in Kuwait Saud bin Radman. — KUNA

## KUWAIT, SUDAN SIGN VISA EXEMPTION PACT FOR DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT HOLDERS

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait and Sudan yesterday signed a visa exemption agreement for bearers of diplomatic and special passports, in addition to a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between Saud Al-Nasser Al-Sabah Diplomatic Institute and a Sudanese diplomatic research center.

First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah signed the agreement and MoU with Sudanese Foreign Minister Professor Ibrahim Ghandour, as part of efforts to bolster bilateral ties. The proceedings were attended by Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Khaled Suleiman Al-Jarallah, Assistant Foreign Minister Ambassador Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah, Assistant Foreign Minister at the Arab Affairs department Ambassador Aziz Al-Daihani, Kuwaiti ambassador to Sudan Talal Al-Hajri and Sudanese ambassador to Kuwait Mohi Al-Deen Salim Ahmed. Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled and his Sudanese counterpart had held talks earlier tackling boosting bilateral ties and discussed the recent regional and international development.

Meanwhile, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled met with Czech Republic's Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament chairman Jan Hamacek. Head of the Kuwaiti-Czech parliamentary friendship committee Mubarak Al-Khurainij, Kuwaiti Ambassador to the Czech Aymen Al-Adsani, Czech Ambassador to Kuwait Martin Vitek and other officials attended the meeting. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah and Sudanese counterpart Ibrahim Ghandour sign a visa exemption agreement for bearers of diplomatic and special passports. — KUNA



## AMIRI DIWAN MINISTER SPONSORS ORPHANS FORUM

**KUWAIT:** The 7th Orphans Forum was held under the patronage of Minister of Amiri Diwan Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah yesterday. The forum was held at Sheikh Nasser's farm in Sulaibiya. The event is held to honor excellent students and memorizers of the Holy Quran who are being sponsored by Zakat House. The function also honored supervisor and officials at Zakat House. — KUNA

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**KUWAIT:** Palestinian Ambassador to Kuwait Rami Tahboub visited Kuwait Times yesterday, where he met with Editor-in-Chief Abd Al-Rahman Al-Alyan and discussed with him matters of mutual concern. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

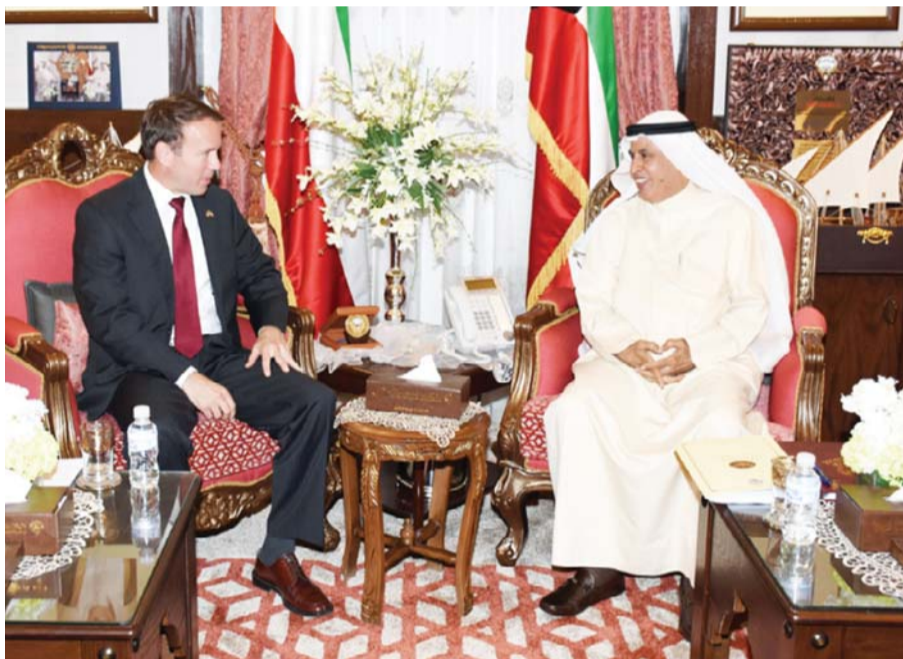
## HEAD OF ILLEGAL RESIDENTS' AGENCY RECEIVES US OFFICIAL

'8,000 ADJUST STATUS IN PAST FIVE YEARS'

**KUWAIT:** Executive Chairman of the Central Agency for Remedying Illegal Residents' Status Saleh Al-Fadalah yesterday received the political officer at the US embassy in Kuwait Lloyd Freeman. During the meeting, Fadalalah reviewed the road map approved by the cabinet to handle the issue, the agency said in a press release.

In addition, Fadalalah offered the US official a detailed explanation of the facilities and advantages the state provides for illegal residents, in line with the cabinet reso-

lution number 409/2011, the release added. He stressed that education and health services are guaranteed to all, with no exception. According to Fadalalah, the agency's efforts have encouraged illegal residents to reveal their real nationalities, as 8,000 of them adjusted status over the past five years. He emphasized the fact that "nationality" is a sovereign right of the state, but this does not mean cancelling naturalization, as huge numbers were naturalized over the past two decades. —KUNA



**KUWAIT:** Executive Chairman of the Central Agency for Remedying Illegal Residents' Status Saleh Al-Fadalah meets with political officer at the US embassy Lloyd Freeman. — KUNA

## KUWAIT EMBARKS ON GFMS IN GOVT BODIES

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait is among the first world countries to use the Government Financial Management Information System (GFMS), Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Acting Oil Minister Anas Al-Saleh. He made the statement during an inspection tour yesterday, the first day the GFMS is applied in 47 government bodies.

It is a major step for promoting management of state finances, Saleh said. He added that the system enables consistent budget preparation and execution processes across all spending agencies during the fiscal year. It also provides real-time access to financial data to make informed decisions. This helps decision makers amend any financial resolutions.

The bodies using the GFMS have been offered intensive training over the past four months. There are up to 5,000 users of the system that will turn all the financial and accounting transactions into automotive systems, from procurement to registration in financial records. The GFMS computerizes the entire life-cycle of budget preparation, budget execution, and financial reporting.

It is an integrated system that will work across all spending agencies to ensure transparency and accountability in the allocation, use and monitoring of valuable public resources. The system will link all government institutions to support an informed decision-making process.

Meanwhile, the Finance Ministry's Undersecretary Khalifa Hamada said that the application of GFMS in ministries and other government bodies and departments, totaling 47, crowns the outcome of the reengineering financial operations project, one of the leading in the region.

It is among the leading projects in the region, he added, noting that the country's financial systems were restructured to keep pace with the world's standard practices, in a bid to fulfill the needs of all government bodies. According to Hamada, Kuwait will adopt a new classification of the state budget, in line with the international criteria. He said that the leading international Oracle company was selected for enterprise resource planning (ERP), that will function as the official systems for managing the government finances. — KUNA



Anas Al-Saleh

## NPI TO HOLD CONFERENCE ON LIVING OPTIMISTICALLY

**KUWAIT:** Al-Nuwair Positive Initiative (NPI) announced yesterday that it would be holding a forthcoming press conference on living optimistically slated for April 23-24, with participation of a bevy of psychologists.

Chairperson of NPI Sheikh Intisar Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah said that the conference will feature a discussion panel with three vastly knowledgeable Kuwaiti nationals, all of whom will offer their viewpoints on how to deal with conflict in a positive manner. There will also be discussions that will reveal some methods of turning positives

into negatives, Al-Ali noted, adding that the conference would provide an opportunity for those yearning to live a more positive and productive life. Moreover, the NPI chairperson also said that the conference has left an indelible mark on the lives of more than a 100 people in the Gulf, a testament to the success of the initiative, at a time where the world is beset with rampant turmoil, she added. International studies have proven that one's outlook on life is what dictates how optimistically, or lack thereof, one's life would be, Sheikh Intisar noted. — KUNA



Sheikha Intisar Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah

## PANEL DISCUSSES WAYS TO REMOVE HOUSING PROJECTS' OBSTACLES

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** The Municipal Council's reform and development committee recommended forming a team including elements from the council, Kuwait Municipality and relevant government bodies to accelerate the execution and handover of government housing projects, study various impediments and report on them so that proper solutions could be made.

During a workshop on housing projects and procedural municipal obstacles held yesterday in the presence of the Director of the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) Bader Al-Weqayyan, Kuwait Municipality Director Ahmad Al-Manfouhi and other officials, the committee discussed how to overcome such obstacles. Weqayyan said that there was a time limit for contractors to commence working on any project after signing the contract. He also stressed that contractors usually refuse taking responsibility for any projects until all obstacles are removed and overcome.

He added that upon Central Tenders Committee (CTC) recommendations, bids for Mutlaa City, which is a comprehensive one including road, rain, sewage, water, treated water and telephone grids, would be opened on April 24. Weqayyan added that relevant authorities were currently working on removing obstacles hindering the construction of South Saad Al-Abdullah housing project and stressed that the project would not be called off.

Manfouhi said that the South Saad Al-Abdullah obstacles would be removed according to a schedule set by the concerned authori-



**KUWAIT:** A scene from yesterday's meeting of the Municipal Council's reform and development committee.

ties. "The municipality scrap area will be removed by the beginning of 2017," he underlined, noting that the project would provide 25,000 housing units.

Also speaking at the workshop, Municipal Council member Abdullah Al-Kandari said that both sites were not fit for human dwelling because of the presence of high-voltage power lines and 42 artesian wells that need to be radically tended to before turning the site into a residential area or city.

### Notary publics

Seventy-three notary publics were yesterday sworn in before the Minister of Justice and Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Yaqoub Al-Sane to join the ministry's real estate registration and attestation department. The event was also attended by the justice ministry's assistant undersecretary for real estate registration and attestation affairs Mohammed Al-Hammad and other top officials.

## KNPC LIKELY TO MAKE CONSIDERABLE PROFITS

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) is anticipated to achieve good profits in the fiscal year that ended last March, said Deputy CEO of KNPC's Shuaiba Refinery Mutlaq Al-Azmi. "The FY ending on March 31 has not been reviewed yet. But, God willing, there will be good profits for the KNPC," Azmi said yesterday on the sidelines of the 3rd Kuwait Industrial Exhibition Technical Conference (KINETIC-2016).

The 2030 strategy of the state-owned Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) is being revised to become 2040 strategy, he added. He said refining industry's profits are based on the price difference between oil byproducts and crude oil, and refining earnings rely on a set of factors, mainly oil prices.

He added that the price difference is now improving, but the oil market, especially in winter, has needed oil byproducts and that's why demand has increased and the prices of some products like kerosene and diesel have also hiked.

Azmi noted that the KNPC's fresh projects, mainly the new refinery and biofuel ventures, are part of the KPC's oil development strategy. On the conference, which is patronized by the Indian Embassy in Kuwait, Azmi elaborated that the 3rd Kuwait Industrial Exhibition Technical Conference (KINETIC-2016) focuses on sustainable development, challenges and ambitions. The Deputy CEO of KNPC's Shuaiba Refinery stressed the significance of this conference as a good opportunity for the conferees to exchange experience, ideas and research in new technology.

KINETIC 2016 brings together national and international experts, leading manufacturers, service providers, on a common platform to exchange views and share knowledge, expertise



and experience in various sectors like energy, infrastructure and environment in Kuwait, he pointed out.

The conference will include speakers of eminence from the oil and gas sector, power, infrastructure, governmental bodies and other industries. Presentations and special sessions on focus areas will be given by experts, professionals and manufacturers. The exhibition will have stalls by manufacturers, service providers and Consultants, who will showcase their products, services and expertise.

KINETIC 2016 will provide a strategic platform to discuss the engineering and manage-

ment challenges in the energy, infrastructure and environment sector, which shall open gateways for new market ventures and opportunities. KINETIC 2016 envisages to promote sustainable development, through innovation, identifying the opportunities, and at the same time, addressing the challenges, that industries come across.

KINETIC 2016 augments the brand visibility of local and international manufacturers, service providers and contractors for their products and services. It will also offer networking opportunities to discuss and exchange new ideas and to establish and renew contacts. — KUNA

## KFAED PARTAKES IN JORDAN'S WIND POWER PLANT

**MA'AN:** The Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) participated yesterday in the launching of a wind power plant in Ma'an Governorate, some 230km south of Amman. The KFAED's financial aid to the project is part of a donation pledged by the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) for development projects in Jordan.

The launching ceremony was attended by KFAED Director-General Abdulwahab Al-Bader, Kuwaiti Ambassador in Amman Hamad Al-Duaij and Jordanian Energy Minister Ibrahim Saif as well as several other Jordanian officials.

Bader said the \$50 million wind power station is mainly intended to produce 80 megawatts of wind power. He added that the project, together with the recently launched Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad port project in Aqaba, are vital projects that aim to provide low-cost energy in Jordan. Bader noted that April is the beginning of the fifth and last year of the timetable for Kuwait's \$1.2 billion grant

to Jordan. Jordanian Energy Minister Ibrahim Saif said meanwhile that the wind power plant is of paramount significance to Jordan, noting that his country really needs sustainable projects, mainly in the energy sector. He highly appreciated the Kuwaiti government for its contribution to this "vital and significant" project launched in Maan, which is the largest governorate in Jordan.

Also, Engineer Farouq Al-Atawna, the project manager, underlined the importance of the project due to the high cost of gas and oil energy. He elaborated that the project includes the installation of 40 wind turbines with a rated power of two megawatts, and that it would be linked to the country's national power grid. He added that the Jordanian government plans to invest around USD 4.5 billion in the renewable energy sector by 2025. Wind speeds in Jordan are as high as 7.5 meters per second and up to 11.5 meters per second in hilly areas. — KUNA



**MA'AN:** KFAED Director-General Abdulwahab Al-Bader speaks at the wind power plant launching ceremony. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** Deputy director for projects' execution at the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) Ali Al-Hubail yesterday toured the Wafra housing project to check on the work progress there.

— By Meshaal Al-Enezi

In Brief

AMIR PATRONIZES NATIONAL OPERETTA

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah is set today to patronize and attend the National Operetta 'Kulluna Kuwaitiyoun' (We are all Kuwaitis). The national operetta will be held at Bayan Palace at 10:30 am. — KUNA



CROWN PRICE PATRONIZES EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah is set today to patronize the 42nd educational conference organized by Kuwait Teachers Society at Jumeirah hotel. His Highness has deputized Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Bader Hamad Al-Essa to attend the opening ceremony. — KUNA



GCC, US FMS MEET THURSDAY

**RIYADH:** GCC Secretary General Dr Abdullah Al-Zayani said GCC foreign ministers and US Secretary of State John Kerry will meet next Thursday, in preparation for the GCC-US summit in Riyadh April 21, part of their strategic partnership. — KUNA



Photo

of the day



**KUWAIT:** A glider participates in a local event in Kuwait City. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

KUWAIT MADE GOOD PROGRESS IN SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: ASO CHIEF

**CAIRO:** Secretary General of the Arab Scouts Organization (ASO) Atef Abdulmajeed said Saturday the State of Kuwait is one of the most advanced countries in the Arab region in terms of social development and care for people with special needs. Speaking on the sidelines of a regional workshop on "Integration of disabled Arab child into education and society," he praised the achievements made by Kuwaiti participants in regional scouting activities notably those relating to the social responsibility and integration of children with special needs.

The workshop gathered representatives of 12 Arab countries, including Fatima Nasser Al-Nasser, member of Kuwait Scouts Association (KSA). "We, in the ASO,

do our utmost to achieve full integration of children with special needs into the educational system in a smooth way," Abdulmajeed said. "The scouting movement aims to meet the needs of children and prepare them for serving their communities," he pointed out.

Meanwhile, Nasser said it is a duty for each society to care for children with special needs and integrate them into the educational system. The current workshop is meant to foster the skills of children in all fields and help them to contribute to the development of their society later on, she added, noting that Kuwait started integrating the disabled children in special education schools as a prelude to expanding the scope of the program to the public schools. — KUNA

WIRELESS COMMUNICATION CONFERENCE KICKS OFF

**DOHA:** The IEEE Wireless Communications and Networking Conference (WCNC16) kick-started in Doha yesterday, focusing on how to improve and boost communication quality and ensure information protection. Co-organized by Texas AM



Dr Ali Ghareeb

University at Qatar, Qatar University and Hamad bin Khalifa University, the conference is attracting more than 700 participants from around the world, along with presidents of local universities.

Speaking on the three-day event, Head of the Electrical Engineering and Computer Department of the Texas A&M University at Qatar Dr Ali

Ghareeb said it is one of the best conferences worldwide in the field of wireless communications thanks to high-quality researches presented to the gathering.

He said it is the first time that this annual conference is held in the Middle East and North Africa, adding that Doha was handpicked to play host to the event after competition with a number of world cities. The conferees will explore the best ways to develop the current wireless networks, he said, stressing the significance of coping with advancement in this field in order to address challenges faced by communication providers in the fulfillment of users' needs.

The conference features a comprehensive technical program offering numerous technical sessions with papers showcasing the latest technologies, applications and services. In addition, the conference program includes workshops, tutorials, keynote speeches from industrial leaders and renowned academics, panel discussions, an exhibition, and business and industrial forums. About 550 technical papers will be presented at the conference, given by speakers coming from more than 30 countries. — KUNA

IICO DISTRIBUTES AID TO SYRIAN REFUGEES' FAMILIES IN JORDAN



**AI-ZARQA:** A volunteering team from the International Islamic Charity Organization (IICO) launched a campaign of distributing relief materials to Syrian refugee families in four governorates in Jordan worth \$200,000.

Head of the team Mohamad Jassem Al-Houli said that this initiative comes as part of the second



stage of "We Are With You" campaign conducted by IICO to ease the suffering of the Syrian refugees in various parts of Jordan. The three-day campaign includes distribution of cash money, besides parcels of basic food goods worth \$40 weighing 35 kilograms each, to be given to Syrian refugees in areas of Al-Zarqa, Irbid, Al-Azraq and Al-Mafraq.

The campaign is done under the supervision of IICO's office in Jordan in cooperation with Jordan's Islamic Charity Society, in order to alleviate the suffering of Syrian refugees in Jordan, he added. Houli expressed IICO's appreciation to the efforts exerted by Kuwaiti political leadership and people in aiding the Syrian refugees. — KUNA

Legalese

## MARIJUANA AND THE LAW IN KUWAIT

By Attorney Fajer Ahmed

In the past ten years or so, more and more countries are leaning towards legalizing or have legalized the personal use of the drug widely known as marijuana. Even more countries have moved towards decriminalizing the drug. Decriminalizing, in simple terms, means that there aren't any criminal consequences for those that use the drug. But the use of the drug remains illegal. At least eight major countries have legalized marijuana and there are 36 other countries where marijuana is either decriminalized, tolerated or the law is 'unenforceable.'

Since this is a legal column, I will refrain from mentioning my personal beliefs towards the use of 'soft' drugs such as marijuana and the legal trends that we have been seeing mostly from western countries in the past decade. But I think it is necessary for me to mention that not all legal trends from progressive countries are necessarily right or better for our Kuwaiti society. Let me be clear: I am not advocating for such ideas.

Instead, I am writing about the legal implications of marijuana use in Kuwait due to clients' requests. I keep receiving emails from mostly younger western or western educated-clients who mistakenly think that marijuana is "not that bad" in Kuwait. In reality, Kuwait alongside other GCC countries has one of the strictest laws regarding the use of marijuana in the world.

### Consequences

**Question: What are the consequences of smoking marijuana in Kuwait?**

**Fajer:** The Penal law in Kuwait was promulgated (issued) in 1960 and has for the most part not changed regarding drug use. Drugs in Kuwait by regulations are listed into three categories regarding how serious or harmful the drug can be and therefore the punishments differ according to the category the drug is in under. Marijuana is illegal in Kuwait in accordance to article number 208, where a person that uses marijuana for personal use and in private can receive up to two years jail and/or a fine not exceeding KD 2,000.

### Facilitating

**Question: This is going to sound silly, but I heard from someone that even if a person is not smoking, but just sitting next to someone that is smoking, they could get punished? Is this true? What is the logic behind this?**

**Fajer:** Your question is not silly. I have heard the same as well many times, even in Kuwaiti shows. I think the basis to that statement is from Article number 207 of Kuwait Penal Law that states the following, "penalized for a period not exceeding seven years in jail and/or a fine not exceeding KD 7,000 for drug dealing, or making it easier for another person to use drugs."

The article above mentions that people that are not smoking but are 'facilitating' the use for others could be punishable by law as well. So a good example would be if you had your friends over and you were not smoking marijuana but you were in the same room, then technically you 'made it easier' for them to smoke and therefore could be punished up to seven years jail, yet they would only be punished up to two years jail.

**Question: I lost my wallet and it had marijuana in it. The police called me to pick up my wallet and I am worried to go and pick it up. What should I do?**

**Fajer:** In such a case you really need to hire a lawyer. Some lawyers would be more than happy to twist the facts in order to "save" you from being punished. The lawyer will also help you with what to say and what to do. Unfortunately though, I cannot answer such a question, as I need to know more specifics.

### Police report

**Question: When the police write a report about the use of marijuana how, do they differentiate between personal and commercial use? Is it by the amount of marijuana that is caught on the offender?**

**Fajer:** Well, the answer to your question depends on a few different factors. Generally speaking, yes the amount of marijuana on a person can lead the police report to be worded differently pushing towards personal or commercial use. But other factors can make a difference too. For example, if an offender is caught with a small amount of weed but he also has in his possession a weight and scissors or other equipment used to divide and measure marijuana, then he could easily be accused of possessing marijuana for commercial purposes.

As I have mentioned above, Kuwait's law is considerably strict when it comes to the use of marijuana and other recreational drugs. Therefore it is best, especially for foreigners that are here to work and find a means of living, to avoid such drugs that might be legal or decriminalized in their own country. Stay safe people.

For any legal questions or queries, email ask@fajertlawyer.com.

## PROPOSED ENERGY FEES 'TOO EXAGGERATED'

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** MP Dr Ahmad Mutee' stressed that he would firmly reject the government's project that include higher electricity tariffs, saying that the proposed fees are 'too exaggerated.' "Jumping to four folds of the current prices is unacceptable and will negatively affect citizens' income," he explained, urging the government to look for other ways to solve the budget deficit problem. Mutee' added that the new electricity fees would cause price increases in various other fields, including real estate and rent values.

The Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW) had stated Saturday that a monthly electricity and water bill would not exceed KD 70 (\$232) on basis of government's proposed tariff increase. Mashaan Al-Otaibi, MEW's Assistant Undersecretary for Planning and Training, was brushing aside social media reporting what he called "exaggerated" tariffs if the proposed increase was implemented. These reports "are not true and were based on unrealistic assumptions of the monthly consumption," he said in a statement. Otaibi said the proposed tariff increase aimed at cutting consumption of public, explaining that around 70 percent of citizens' monthly bills were below KD 50. If the public decrease consumption by 70 percent, he said, the monthly bill would not exceed KD 70.

### Development projects

Meanwhile, MP Dr Abdullah Al-Turajji strongly criticized the government over the way it handled development projects and the contracts' signed with various companies. He gave the oil pipes' deal as an example, noting that it reflects how contradicting the government acted and how it yielded to pressure and blackmail.

"What is the secret behind delaying the deal despite the fact that it meets all conditions," Turajji wondered, indicating that referring the project to the Fatwa and Legislation Department after the investor had lawfully won the deal implies a 'profiteering attempt due to some pressure'. He also warned the Finance Minister and Acting Oil minister Anas Al-Saleh of yielding to pressure. Turajji also criticized what he described as the silence of Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammed Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah over accusing the head of the Fatwa and Legislation Department of being biased. "Does this silence confirm the accusation?" he wondered.

### Violations

Chairman of the parliament's final statement and budgets committee MP Adnan Abdulsamad said that the committee discussed the budget of the public authority for Quran and prophet traditions and sciences for the year 2016-2017, and detected many violations and imbalances. Abdulsamad added that the authority was not cooperative.

## BARRAK'S 'AUDIOVISUAL LAW' CASE ADJOURNED

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** The criminal court yesterday heard a case filed by the Ministry of Information against former MP Musallam Al-Barrak and Al-Youm TV channel, accusing them of violating the audiovisual law. The ministry says that Barrak slandered a number of political and social figures during an interview aired by Al-Youm TV. The court adjourned the case until May 9, and is expected to pass its sentence then.

### Public property

A citizen was released from prison yesterday after being subjected to investigations over graffiti he reportedly drawn on a wall in Khaitan. The suspect is facing charges of damaging public property by drawing some portraits of former MP Musallam Al-Barrak.

### Embezzlement

The criminal court also sentenced a former senior oil official and a Lebanese employee of an electrical appliances company to ten years in prison each. The court found the defendants guilty of embezzling KD 86,000. The court also fined both defendants with twice as much of the money they embezzled.

### Police attacker remanded

A citizen who intentionally ran his vehicle through a checkpoint during the recent national celebrations was remanded in custody yesterday. The man's actions had left one policeman dead and several others injured.

### State security

The public prosecution remanded in custody a citizen pending further investigations, in a case filed against him by the state security over charges of slandering His Highness the Amir, public instigation, harming public security, violating the national unity law and endangering Kuwait's relations with a friendly country.

# INVESTIGATION IN TWO PERSONS' DEATH

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** Criminal evidence men responded to a call from Khaitan about the death of two persons. The two were found dead inside a vehicle in the area. Police may have identified one of the victims as an Egyptian national. The reason of the deaths is yet to be determined, and it is possible car exhaust fumes may have killed them.

### Suicide

An Egyptian woman in her twenties jumped from the fourth floor of a Mahboula building to her death. The reason for her action was not known immediately. A suicide case was filed and investigations are underway.

### Restaurants campaign

Environment police launched an inspection campaign at several restaurants in a Subhan mall, and issued tickets to 13 restaurants for throwing leftovers in the sewer and not adhering to the rules of the ministry of public works and Environment Public Authority.

### No injuries in fire

Fire broke out in four vehicles in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh near Al-Aqsa Pharmacy. Jleeb fire station responded to the call, and firemen found the fire



**KUWAIT:** Environment police carry out an inspection campaign at restaurants in a Subhan mall.



**Firefighters tackle a blaze that burned four vehicles in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh.**

was in a land power cable and spread to the cars. The fire was put out and no injuries were reported. Meanwhile, firemen fought a huge fire in a Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh house Saturday night. Jleeb, Ardiya, south Salmiya and backup centers responded to the site used to store various equipment and material such as stoves, bicycles, clothes and paint. Firemen surrounded the fire from all

sides to keep it from spreading and put it out without injuries.

### Car accident

A woman and six children were injured when their vehicle flipped over on Doha Spur near Jaber Al-Ahmad City. The woman is 30-years-old, and the children's ages vary between 5 and 11 years.



**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Fire Services Directorate's (KFS) Director General Lt Gen Yousuf Al-Ansari received the Croatian ambassador to Qatar. Both sides spoke about matters of mutual interest. — By Hanan Al-Saadoun

## The Arab Open University - Kuwait



## University Admission

The Department of Admission and Registration at The Arab Open University, Kuwait announces the opening of admissions for the summer semester for the academic year 2015-2016.

### Online Admission Period:

The admission period will open from 10/04/2016. Students may apply online through [www.aou.edu.kw](http://www.aou.edu.kw).

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1. Business Administration
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### Important Notices:

1. A KD 15 non-refundable fee, valid for only the summer semester, should be paid.
2. All applications are dealt with confidentially.

### Applications are considered void if:

1. Information provided is inaccurate.
2. An application fee of KD 15 is unpaid.
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## VACANCIES



Under the framework of the Institutional Capacity Development for Implementation of the Kuwait National Development Plan (ICDI/KNDP) project, with the coordination of the General Secretariat of the Supreme Council of Planning and Development, and the United Nations Development Programme in Kuwait

**The United Nations Development Programme - Kuwait is announcing the following vacancies:**

- 1- Project Manager (Open Only to Kuwait Nationals or Applicants Legally Authorized to Work in the Country)
- 2- Construction and Project Management Specialist
- 3- Engineering Project Evaluation Specialist
- 4- Sports Facilities Investment Specialist
- 5- Social Media Analyst

To view the complete terms of references and apply, please visit the UNDP's career website at the following link: [www.kw.undp.org/content/kuwait/en/home/operations/jobs](http://www.kw.undp.org/content/kuwait/en/home/operations/jobs)

## NO EXAM DELAYS

**KUWAIT:** Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Bader Al-Essa said yesterday that high school final exams will take place two days prior to the Holy month of Ramadan, dismissing rumors about any delay of tests. The minister said the set-up schedule for such exams has been already decided and announced by the ministry of Education.

Meanwhile, regarding the development of the curricula, Essa said there is a weekly meeting with representative of the World Bank concerning the development of curricula, and how it was taking place in parallel with the development plan's timetable.

The minister made his remarks after a meeting he had with Ministry of Education Undersecretary Dr. Haitham Al-Athari, Assistant Undersecretary for Public Education Fatema Al-Kandari, and Assistant Undersecretary for Curriculum and Education Researches Dr Saud Al-Harbi.

Essa added that the meeting also touched upon ministry's projects, including administrative and curricula modernization projects, and academic qualification for teachers. — KUNA

Crime

Report

DETECTIVES ARREST SIX HIGH-END PROSTITUTES

**KUWAIT:** An informed security source said criminal detectives, on the orders of Director General Major General Abdelhameed Al-Awadhi, ordered the deportation of six European women after discovering they had arrived in Kuwait to provide sexual services for \$1,000 per hour. The source said investigations revealed that the women, who came from two European countries, work for a prostitution network that operates through the Internet, and they were asked to come to the country and not move from their hotels until they received calls from the network's officials. The women stayed in mostly five-star hotels, entering the country taking advantage of the visa waiver scheme. The six also did not know each other. The women were arrested with some money with them. They said they do not take money directly from customers, but sometimes they get tips.

Passports forgery

Interior Ministry's Assistant Undersecretary for Nationality and Passports Affairs Major General Mazen Al-Jarrah said three Saudi brothers received Kuwait nationality using different files of Kuwaitis, as each added himself on the file of a different 'father'. The forgery did not last long, and the three were arrested and taken to the public prosecution for questioning.

Smuggling foiled

An Asian man was arrested at Kuwait International Airport for attempting to smuggle around 3 kg of marijuana hidden in a bag of vegetables. He was sent to concerned authorities. Separately, Nuwaiseeb border outlet customs officers foiled an attempt of a Gulf national to smuggle 170 illicit tablets on his arrival into the country. A customs officer said the man seemed nervous and worried, then when his car was searched the tablets were found. He was sent to concerned authorities.

Reckless driver arrested

Jahra police arrested a juvenile who drove recklessly in Sulaibiya. A security source said patrol officers saw the driver of a sports car showing off and endangering the lives of others. He was asked to stop but refused. A policeman tried to stop him by ramming his car, but the suspect was able to escape, and police spent 14 hours looking for him before he was arrested.

Liquor possession

An Asian man was sent to the Drugs Control General Department with large quantities of liquor. A police patrol officer noticed a bus on the road across from Hadiya, and when a police patrol vehicle stopped behind it, the driver fled on foot and almost was run over attempting to cross the highway, but he was caught. When the bus was searched, a large quantity of locally-made liquor was found. The suspect said he was going to sell it after getting it from Abu Halifa. —Al-Anbaa

News

in brief

KD 5 BILLION BUDGET DEFICIT

**KUWAIT:** A KD 5 billion deficit was detected in the 2015/2016 budget, and that is before deducting KD 1.3 billion for the future generations fund, or 10 percent of the total budget. Total spending in the fiscal year ending on March 31, 2016 reached around KD 18.3 billion while revenues reached around KD 13 billion. —Al-Anbaa

KD 5 million wasted

**KUWAIT:** The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) wasted an opportunity for the state to earn around KD 5 million when it failed to put the contract of Kuwait International Airport's duty free market for an auction, the State Audit Bureau said. —Al-Qabas

Mediation

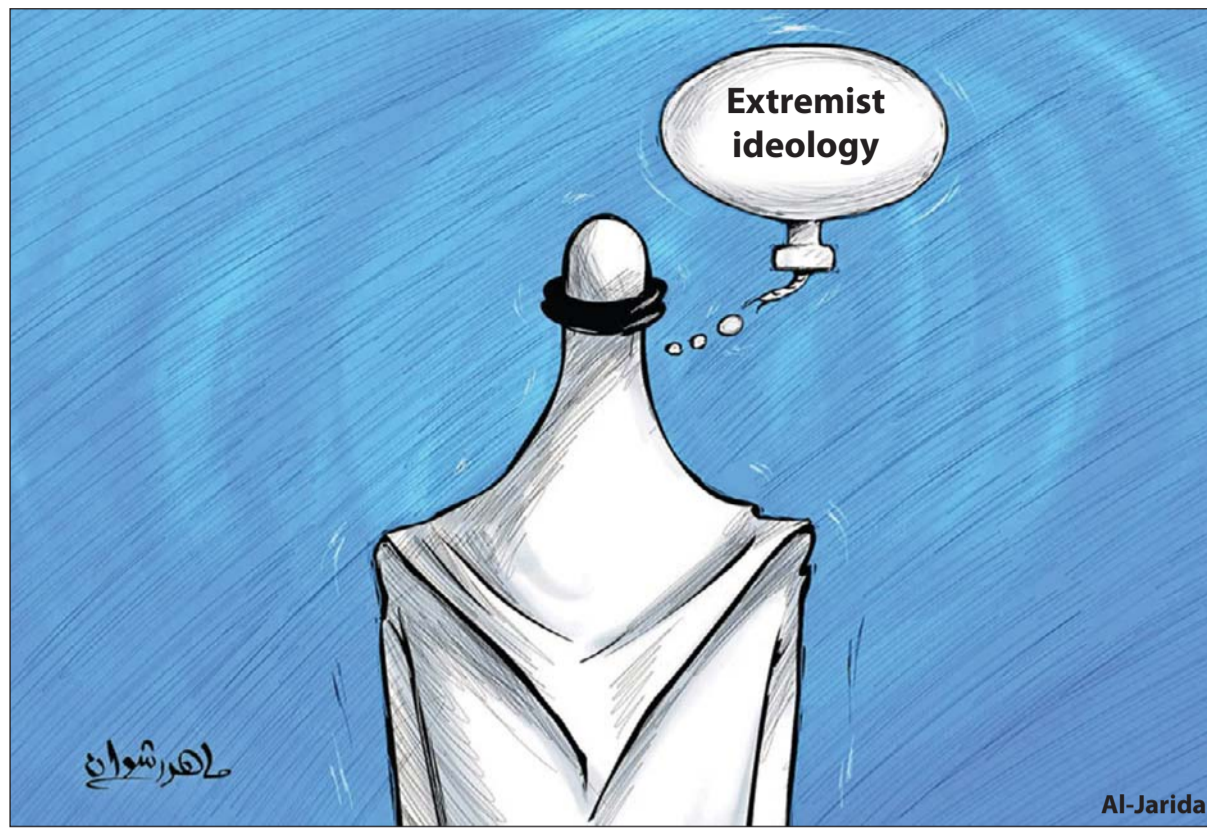
**KUWAIT:** Kuwait plays a distinguished role in mediating between regional countries in different issues, Iranian Ambassador Dr Alireza Enayati said. He reiterated the 'urgent need' for the region's countries to communicate and achieve accord that better serves their respective people. —Al-Qabas

Fingerprints

**KUWAIT:** A number of officers at Kuwait Municipality are involved in suspected actions as they used outdoor assignments as an excuse to escape from fingerprinting to register their admission to work. According to sources, some employees or officials assigned to receive foreign delegations, organize conferences or media coverage had been using those missions as excuses to avoid doing their job duties during official working hours. —Al-Rai

Security breach

**KUWAIT:** The Ministry of Interior's Criminal Investigations Department recently received a letter of appreciation from the US embassy in Kuwait in appreciation of the role played by Kuwait's security in discovering a security breach in Syrian passports, a local daily reported yesterday quoting 'well-informed security sources.' Kuwait had recently stopped a number of Syrian passport holders on arrival at Kuwait International Airport for suspecting their passports of being forged. —Al-Rai



Al-Jarida

القلمس

Al-Qabas

NAAYEM INDIGNATION

By Ahmad Shamseddeen

**N**aayem, our dear readers, is the new location of the new auto scrap yard, after it was moved from its former location in Amghara, and the indignation is, as said by more than one beneficiary and patron of this project which became the destination of those looking for cheap spare parts not available somewhere else, including Abu Amir, who runs one of the scrap stores there, that he was surprised by what Al-Shahid newspaper on March 20 wrote, that the Public Authority for Industry accuses the municipality of hindering the Naayem and scrap projects.

Abu Amir wonders, after reading the points mentioned in Al-Shahid, and the accusations PAI directed to the municipality for delaying the Naayem industrial project and Amghara scrap yard, which negatively affected activities there, and what made things worse is that there is an intention as mentioned in the accusation, and the talk is to move the scrap yard to another location other than Naayem, in addition to the many missing things the current site is suffering from.

Abu Amir, and others among owners of shops in Naayem, are wondering about the secret in such procrastinations and the manipulation of nerves, and the project

that turned into a curse instead of being a blessing for the poor owners and others, even patrons who were harmed and negatively affected by the lack of requirements represented in the total needs of electrical power and water, in addition to future uses of the area in the form of linking entrances and exits. And this is from us to those concerned in the municipality and other areas.

Um Ahmad and criminal evidence

Nurse Um Ahmad, as called by her colleagues and patrons, became more than a famous employee at the criminal evidence department in Dajeej area, as each person who gives a sample of his blood must pass by this nurse who receives patients with her familiar smile and her warm welcome, and this is the reason behind her fame. She considers herself the mother of all, and that is why she enjoys the respect of officials, employees and patrons, so greetings to her for this good reputation that she gained through her good and humane dealing with all.

This is the way life is, be good, and you will leave something good. Let us all be like Um Ahmad the nurse. —Translated by Kuwait Times

KUWAIT 'NOT YET READY' FOR TAXES

**KUWAIT:** "Do not believe the rumors; Kuwait is not yet ready for taxes," said sources that are acquainted with the taxation issue, which raises controversies about the government's confirmations of the nearness of imposing a 10 percent tax on company profits and a five percent value added tax. So, is Kuwait technically and logistically ready for taxes?

The sources added that the government is capable of imposing the law at once, but remarked that this requires setting a system to be used by the finance ministry's taxation sector. "This would at least need to double the number of tax assessors from 200 to 400 to do the extra tasks," explained the sources, adding that once the draft law is passed by the parliament, the government would not be able to put it into practice because the database of companies to be subjected to the new system would dramati-

cally increase to include Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti ones in addition to those with limited liabilities and individual-owned ones.

In addition, the sources said that the total number of tax experts operating in local market is below 100 and that this number would not be enough. "The government will need at least 18-24 months to put the new system into practice," added the sources, noting that the government would have to go through six phases during this period in order to contact various companies, get them acquainted with how their taxes would be calculated, have them seek experts' services and communicate with limited-liability companies. Moreover, the sources ironically remarked that once the taxation law is in effect, even grocery stores would need to seek help from tax experts and auditors. —Al-Rai



2-MONTH IMPOUNDING FOR VEHICLES DRIVING ON RIGHT SHOULDERS

**KUWAIT:** The Interior Ministry's Assistant Undersecretary for Traffic Affairs Major General Abdullah Al-Muhanna issued a decision allowing the impounding of cars driven on the right emergency lane for two months. Muhanna categorized violations as follows.

First: If the car is driven on the left shoulder during the allowed time with a speed over 45 km/h, a violation of police instructions will be registered.

Second: If the car is driven on the left shoulder out of the allowed time, a violation of driving on the shoulder will be recorded.

Third: Driving on the right shoulder is not allowed at all, and the car will be impounded and a ticket for driving on the shoulder will be issued.

Fourth: The violating car can be impounded according to what is mentioned in items second and third (two month impounding). —Al-Aan



Major General Abdullah Al-Muhanna



**KUWAIT:** The Saad Al-Abdullah Academy for Security Sciences received new students from the 33rd batch of the Lance Corporal rank, 86th batch of the police officer's rank and eighth batch consisting of children of Kuwaiti mothers and GCC fathers.

Al-Anbaa

ENOUGH DARK SIDES

By Salah Al-Sayer

**T**he majority of people in our country only look at the dark sides of things and none ever probes bright sides. All hearts are full of dissatisfaction. The culture of blame is dramatically prevailing. Our souls are very angry. Our minds' radars never rest, fishing for minor mistakes to magnify, highlight and promote them in a world of resentment. It seems as if we find solitude and condolence in weeping and grumbling and we have become experts in turning joys to sorrows, weddings to funerals and bright days into gloomy dark nights.

The fact that a traffic policeman gave a minister a parking ticket when his driver parked in a space allotted for the handicapped is something good and a noble manifestation of equal law enforcement on everybody including a minister in office. However, this righteous act was met with a great deal of anger, resentment and criticism. Things seem to be upside down and right things turned into bad ones, positive things turned into negative ones. The entire incident created a state of lamentation, wailing, weeping and criticism of the government.

Annoyed reactions towards ticketing the minister, which should be met with joy, admiration and praise for security men, were very odd and strange ones that create feelings of pain in a country where everybody lives as if they were cowboys in gun duels to find the fastest shooters; a country where eyes go around fishing for faults to hold special crying ceremonies dominated by sorrow and lamentation over general situations in the country.

—Translated by Kuwait Times

HANDLING COSTS AT SHUAIBA PORT UP 192%

**KUWAIT:** Construction material suppliers spoke about their suffering due to a lack of organization and randomness in handling shipments from ships at Shuaiba Port piers, and asking them to pay a higher fee for one of the two handling companies operating in the port, which presents its services at KD 0.350 per ton while the cost is KD 0.120 per ton for the other company, an increase of 192 percent.

They said competition between the two companies has gone way out of normal since three months, which calls for presenting better services at a lower price, pointing out that pressure on suppliers increases to deal with the more expensive company with the claim that it has new equipment, while the handling process needs speed in unloading shipments, which the other company is distinguished for.

They said the average annual handling bill for suppliers was KD 400,000 at the old rate, while with the new prices, it will jump to KD 1 million. They said this will reflect on prices of vital materials such as steel and gravel, which the citizen and government will bear under the development projects being executed and future projects. —Al-Qabas



22,250 VIOLENCE CASES IN SCHOOLS

**KUWAIT:** Violence in schools has spread for various reasons, as recent educational statistics found that there were 22,250 cases of verbal and physical abuse of teachers and students in various school stages. The statistics revealed that schools witnessed 2,616 verbal and physical attacks on teachers of both genders by students, 1,367 in girls' schools and 1,249 in boys', 2,318 of which were verbal and 304 physical attacks.

The statistics showed 19,585 verbal and physical attacks occurred between students in all school stages, 11,257 of which were verbal and 8,332 physical attacks. Boys' schools witnessed 10,785 cases while girls' schools 8,804 cases.

The statistics showed that the number of attacks on teachers in the secondary stage was 1,082, 938 in the intermediate and 603 in the elementary stage. Secondary stage schools saw 2,617 cases of students attacking their classmates, be it verbal or physical, but the intermediate stage saw 5,962 cases in all classes, while the elementary stage saw 11,064 cases. —Al-Qabas

MOI INVESTIGATIONS ON LAPTOPS, TABLETS

**KUWAIT:** Following the legal approval of e-signatures and using them officially, the Ministry of Interior's (MOI) Criminal Investigations Department is currently preparing an e-investigation project to be experimentally used by June in the special misdemeanor department, then in the Capital governorate before expanding the project by the beginning of next year when the investigations directorate would become 'paperless' and use electronic investigations.

Security sources said that the investigation directorate's automation committee recently met MOI's Automatic Information Center where they input investigation forms into computers so that they could be included in the center's approved electronic forms.

The source added that investigators with computer literacy would be provided laptops, while others who prefer using e-pens to fill in the forms would be provided tablets so that after filling the form, they would ask a suspect to e-sign it. "Investigations clerks would then scan, upload and attach the documents related to the case like IDs, medical reports and other certificates," explained the sources, noting that once the case was electronically referred to court, a receipt would be given.

Further, the sources referred to instructions about applying e-government procedures in a bid to end paperwork, cut down time, effort, end bureaucracy and shorten litigation time. Finally, the sources explained that investigators would undergo special training courses on how to use laptops or tablets in filling in legal forms and having suspects electronically sign them. —Al-Rai



## FLIGHTS RESUME AT BRUSSELS AIRPORT



ZAVENTEM, Belgium: Airport workers wave as a Brussels Airlines plane taxis towards the runway at Brussels Airport yesterday. — AP

**BRUSSELS:** Brussels Airport partially reopened yesterday, 12 days after it was hit by Islamic State attacks, with tearful staff applauding the first departure and an initial trickle of passengers undergoing strict new security checks. The key travel hub has been closed since two men blew themselves up in the departure hall on March 22 in coordinated blasts that also struck a metro station in the Belgian capital, killing a total of 32 people. A Brussels Airlines plane bound for the Portuguese city of Faro became the first plane to take off around 1140 GMT.

Emotional employees and government officials marked the moment with a minute's silence followed by hugs and a round of applause, AFP reporters saw. On the tarmac, fire engines and police vehicles formed a guard of honor for the Airbus A320. "We're back," Brussels Airport chief executive Arnaud Feist said after watching the plane, decked out with Belgian artist Magritte's trademark birds and clouds, take to the skies.

The departure was followed by two later flights to Athens and Turin, in what Feist called a "symbolic" reopening of the airport. The same three planes were to return to Brussels with passengers later yesterday. The restart of the airport has been hailed as the beginning of a return to normal for a traumatised country, but the shadow of the attacks loomed large. Two big white tents were serving as temporary check-in facilities to replace the blast-hit departure hall, and passengers were asked to come three hours before departure to allow time for tight new security checks.

The first several dozen travellers to arrive yesterday were met by heavily armed police and soldiers on the access roads to the airport. There was also a strong security presence inside the tents where passengers walked through metal detectors and had their bags screened before checking in and being allowed to enter the main building. A father dropping off his son and a group of friends for the Faro flight was positive about the changes. "This is the safest airport in the world right now, isn't it?" he told reporters.

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### 'We Can Overcome This'

Loukas Bassoukos, a 20-year-old IT student waiting for his flight to Athens, said it felt "a bit weird" to be among the first to return to the bomb-hit airport. "So many people died here," he told AFP. "But I think we can overcome this. I think we slowly have to start trusting the security controls." Psychologists were on hand to assist any passengers overcome with emotion. Under the new system, only passengers with travel and ID documents are allowed into the makeshift departure hall, and all bags will be checked before entering. Once inside, travellers will still have to go past the usual security barriers.

The airport will initially only be accessible by car, with no access for buses and trains. Vehicles will be screened and subject to spot checks. The number of flights will be stepped up quickly in coming days. Still, the airport will only be able to work at 20 percent capacity at best using the temporary facilities, handling 800 to 1,000 passengers an hour. It will take months to repair the departure hall, according to Feist. The damage from the blasts was severe, with pictures from

the scene showing the building's glass-fronted facade in shatters, collapsed ceilings and destroyed check-in desks. Feist said he expected the airport to start running normally again from late June or early July.

### Sing-Along

The closure of Zaventem airport has wreaked havoc on the travel industry, triggering a drop in tourist arrivals and forcing thousands of passengers to be rerouted to other airports in and around Belgium. Brussels Airport, which claims to contribute some three billion euros (\$3.4 billion) annually to the Belgian economy, has not released any figures on the economic impact of the shutdown, but top carrier Brussels Airlines has said it was losing five million euros daily.

In a setback for the airport, Delta Air Lines at the weekend said it was suspending services between Brussels and Atlanta until March 2017 due to the "uncertainty surrounding the reopening of Brussels airport and weakening demand". With 260 companies on-site employing some 20,000 staff overall, the airport is one of the country's largest employers.

In the still-grieving capital meanwhile, one thousand people took part in a sing-along in a central square that has become a shrine to the attack victims. In celebration of all things Belgian, they sang "Moules frites" by Stromae and "Bruxelles" by Jacques Brel. Belgian police are still hunting for a mystery third suspect in the Brussels attacks, dubbed "the man in the hat", who was seen in CCTV footage next to the two airport bombers. — AFP

## NAGORNO-KARABAKH CLASHES CONTINUE

**TERTER, Azerbaijan:** Clashes between Azerbaijani and Armenian forces rumbled yesterday, despite Baku announcing a ceasefire after the worst outbreak of violence in decades over the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region sparked international pressure to stop fighting. Azerbaijan said it had decided to "unilaterally cease hostilities" and pledged to "reinforce" several strategic positions it claimed to have captured inside the Armenian-controlled territory.

The Armenia-backed authorities in Karabakh - which claims independence but is heavily backed by Yerevan - said they were willing to discuss a ceasefire but only if it saw them regain their territory. Both sides accused each other of continuing to fire across the volatile frontline that has divided them since a war that saw Armenian separatists seize the region from Azerbaijan ended with an inconclusive truce in 1994. "The Armenians have continued shelling throughout the day, without interruption," Azerbaijani defence ministry spokesman Vagif Dargahly told AFP.

"Fighting with the use of tanks and artillery continues as Azerbaijan is telling lies that it halted hostilities. Azerbaijan continues shelling both Karabakh army positions and Armenian villages," Armenian defence ministry spokesman Artsrun Hovhannisyan told AFP. An AFP photographer in the Azerbaijani town of Terter - around ten kilometres from the frontline - reported hearing sporadic shooting yesterday afternoon.

Men carried a coffin draped in Azerbaijan's flag through the streets as the funeral of an Azeri soldier killed in the clashes was held. At least three houses were destroyed by shelling and women and children had been evacuated. Fierce clashes left at least 18 Armenian and 12 Azerbaijani soldiers dead Saturday after the two sides accused each other of attacking with heavy weaponry across the volatile frontline.

The Karabakh authorities said one boy was killed in the fighting, while Azerbaijan said two civilians died and ten were wounded. Armenia's President Serzh Sarkisian called the clashes the "largest-scale hostilities" since a 1994 truce ended a war in which Armenian-backed fighters seized the territory from Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan said one of its helicopters was shot down as its forces took control of several strategic heights and a village in Armenian-controlled territory. Karabakh

forces yesterday claimed they took back the strategic Lala-Tepe height in Karabakh which was captured by Azeri troops on Saturday. Baku denied the report, saying that the height remained under its control and that rebel troops sustained "serious manpower losses".

### Appeals for Calm

Both Russia and the West appealed to all sides to show restraint, with key regional power broker President Vladimir Putin calling Saturday for an "immediate ceasefire". Moscow has supplied weaponry to both sides in the conflict, but has much closer military and economic ties to Armenia and Yerevan is reliant on Russia's backing. US Secretary of State John Kerry urged the arch foes to return to peace talks under the auspices of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), reiterating "there is no military solution to the conflict". Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan meanwhile vowed to back traditional ally Azerbaijan "to the end" in the conflict. "We pray our Azerbaijani brothers will prevail in these clashes with the least casualties," Erdogan said.

Ethnic Armenian separatists backed by Yerevan seized control of the mountainous Nagorno Karabakh region in an early 1990s war that claimed some 30,000 lives. The foes have never signed a peace deal despite the 1994 ceasefire. Energy-rich Azerbaijan, whose military spending has in the past exceeded Armenia's entire state budget, has repeatedly threatened to take back the breakaway region by force if negotiations fail to yield results. Moscow-backed Armenia says it could crush any offensive. The last big flare-up occurred in Nov 2014 when Azerbaijan shot down an Armenian military helicopter.

While the reasons for the sudden surge remain unclear, analyst Thomas de Waal of Carnegie Europe wrote that the "potential for a serious outbreak of fighting has never been greater" as both sides have bolstered their arms. "It is more likely that one of the two parties to the conflict - and more likely the Azerbaijani side, which has a stronger interest in the resumption of hostilities - is trying to alter the situation in its favor with a limited military campaign," de Waal wrote in a blog posting. "The dangerous aspect of this is that, once begun, any military operations in this conflict zone can easily escalate and get out of control." — AFP



YEREVAN: Armenian volunteers wearing military fatigues and holding their weapons wait next to buses yesterday before heading to the Karabakh frontline. — AFP

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## KUWAIT BEAUTIFUL & GREEN STUDENTS ART COMPETITION

March 10<sup>th</sup> Till April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016

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HELLO ARTISTS...

Welcome to the Student's Art Competition. I hope you are ready to paint a beautiful painting and win wonderful prizes. The theme for your painting must be related to planting and greening, basically anything pertaining to our environment. We are looking for a great painting. So, please pick up your color pencils, paint brushes, crayons or whatever you prefer and start drawing and painting.

Good luck to you, our young artists.

- Competition is open to ages from (6 - 8) (9 - 11) (12 - 14) and (15 - 17) and Special needs.
- The competition is open for all schools in Kuwait (Government and Private)
- The competition will start on March 10th and will continue till April 14th 2016.
- 10 winners from each category will receive valuable prizes.
- All participants will receive a certificate of appreciation.
- All schools participating in

- the competition will receive an appreciation plaque.
- Any school or individual interested to participate in this competition is welcome to visit the office of Kuwait Times and collect the drawing sheets.
- Drawing sheets will be given to schools FREE of charge.
- Only drawing sheets provided by the Kuwait Times will be allowed.
- You can use any kind of color pencils, paint brushes or crayons.

For more information contact Kuwait Times  
Tel: 24835616/7 Fax 24835620/1 or send an email to: [ads@kuwaittimes.net](mailto:ads@kuwaittimes.net)

## OLD DISPUTE SEPARATES WESTERN SAHARA FAMILIES

**SMARA REFUGEE CAMP, Algeria:** Ergueibi Abdelahi was just nine months old when his aunt scooped him up and fled fighting in Western Sahara after Morocco sent troops into the former Spanish colony, leaving his parents and brother behind. Until he was 10, he thought his aunt was his mother. "She (my mother) was at the market on the day we ran," Abdelahi says of their escape in 1978 across the border into Algeria. "From what I was told, people fled the bombing barefoot. We arrived in the refugee camp and never left."

Abdelahi's family is just one of thousands split up in the war that broke out after Morocco annexed the vast desert territory in 1975 in a move that was not recognized by the international community. Tens of thousands of Sahrawis live as refugees in the west of Algeria, while some of their relatives remained hundreds of kilometres away in Western Sahara. Their future today looks even more uncertain after a diplomatic row broke out last month when UN chief Ban Ki-moon referred to Western Sahara's "occupation" during a visit to a refugee camp.

A furious Morocco expelled dozens of UN personnel and demanded the United Nations close its military liaison office in Western Sahara. The incident has stalled UN efforts to broker a settlement for the area that have

dragged on for a quarter century. A 1991 ceasefire ended one and a half decades of fighting between Morocco and the pro-independence Polisario Front backed by Algeria. But Rabat remains unwavering in its insistence that Western Sahara is an integral part of its kingdom. Larger than Britain but with a population of under one million people, Western Sahara has lucrative phosphate reserves, rich fishing grounds and potentially oil. Sahrawis are campaigning for the right to self-determination, but Morocco insists its sovereignty cannot be challenged.

### 'Mother, Father and Brother'

Abdelahi is now almost 40 years old and heads the editorial team at Radio Smara, a small radio station that broadcasts for three hours a day out of the Smara refugee camp near the Moroccan border. His wife and three children were all born in the same camp, near Tinouf around 1,800 km west of Algiers. It is named after a town in Western Sahara. At least 90,000 Sahrawi refugees live off international aid in five camps in the Tinouf area, according to the UN. The Algerian government says the number is closer to 165,000.

For decades, the two sides of Abdelahi's family - one in Western Sahara, the other in the refugee camp - were unsure of each other's

existence, he says. "Those who had fled thought those who stayed had been jailed or had died, and those who stayed under the occupation thought the same about those who had escaped." The Polisario Front provided Abdelahi with a second family, he says. "I've always thought the Polisario was my mother, father and brother." In 2011, he was finally able to see his family again in Western Sahara, thanks to a family visit program run by the UN refugee agency with agreement from Morocco and the Polisario. "It was very moving," he says. "But we had to go straight to the hospital to see my mother who had not been sleeping for a week."

### Boys Turned 'Old Men'

Others have not been so lucky. Mohammed Cheikh Kentaoui was 19 years old when Morocco annexed Western Sahara. He fled with a pair of military boots, determined to fight the Moroccan army. But instead the Polisario assigned him a teaching job in a refugee camp. Two decades later, he was in the Algerian capital when he heard his mother had died. Kentaoui, now an accountant with three daughters, leafs through a family photo album in the Smara camp, telling his story as his wife prepares tea. — AFP



**TINDOUF, Algeria:** This file photo taken on Feb 25, 2016 shows a Sahrawi woman and her children looking at the camera in the Smara refugee camp. — AFP



**Al-AIS, Syria:** A Nusra Front tank fires at Syrian troops and pro-government gunmen in this northern village in Aleppo province. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said 12 Hezbollah fighters were killed and dozens were wounded in Saturday's attack. The title in Arabic reads "introductory attacks with heavy weapons on Al-Ais". — AP

## SYRIAN FORCES SEIZE IS BASTION NEAR PALMYRA

### NUSRA REBELS KILL 12 HEZBOLLAH FIGHTERS

**DAMASCUS:** Syrian troops yesterday seized the key Islamic State group bastion of Al-Qaryatayn, dealing the jihadists a new blow in the country's centre a week after expelling them from Palmyra, state television said. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitoring group however said fighting was still raging in the east and southeast of the town, which is located in the desert in Homs province. "The army with backing from supporting forces (pro-regime militia) brings back complete security and stability to the town of Al-Qaryatayn, after crushing Daesh terrorists' last remaining positions there," state television said, using an Arabic acronym for IS.

But the Britain-based Observatory said the army was still fighting the jihadists in the town. "Clashes are still ongoing in the east and southeast of the town," it said. The advance came after the Russian-backed Syrian army dealt IS a major blow on March 27 by seizing the ancient city of Palmyra, known as the "Pearl of the desert", from the jihadists. Al-

Qaryatayn is located some 120 km southwest of Palmyra. Its recapture will allow the army to secure its grip over the ancient city, where jihadists destroyed ancient temples and executed around 280 people during their 10-month rule.

Once Al-Qaryatayn returns to government control, "of the whole of Homs province, IS will only hold its bastion in Sukhna" northeast of Palmyra, Observatory chief Rami Abdel Rahman said. "The recapture of Al-Qaryatayn will also allow the army to reclaim the whole of the Syrian desert" spreading all the way south to the Iraqi border, Abdel Rahman added. A ceasefire brokered by the United States and Russia but which does not apply to the fight against jihadists has enabled the Syrian army to focus its efforts on IS.

### IS Executions

The group has also lost a string of high-ranking commanders in recent weeks to strikes by the US-led coalition which launched an air campaign

against the jihadists in Iraq and Syria in 2014. A drone strike on Wednesday, likely by the coalition, killed Abu Al-Haija, a Tunisian commander summoned by IS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi from Iraq. Fifteen IS commanders accused of revealing Abu Al-Haija's position have since been executed by the jihadist group, the Observatory said yesterday. The fate of another 20 men accused of collaborating with the US-led coalition remains unknown, it added. "This is the highest number of executions of security officials by IS," Abdel Rahman said. The Observatory said yesterday that 12 fighters from Lebanon's Hezbollah were killed fighting the Al-Qaeda-affiliated Al-Nusra Front and allied rebels in the northern province of Aleppo. They died "in shelling and fighting in the south of Aleppo province, during the fierce offensive by Al-Nusra... and rebels the day before yesterday (Friday)," the group said. Hezbollah has since 2013 been openly fighting in Syria in support of President Bashar Al-Assad's regime. — AFP

## IN ISTANBUL, A BOOKSTORE ANCHORS SYRIAN REFUGEES

**ISTANBUL:** A rustic, three story-Arabic bookstore in old Istanbul has become an anchor for many Syrians who have stayed put in Turkey but crave a taste of home. The founder and owner of Pages, Samer Al-Kadri, a refugee himself, says the store strives to be a bridge between Syrians, Turks and the myriad of foreigners who visit the city. Its weekly program includes music concerts and, starting soon, language exchanges in Arabic, English and Turkish. Books are available in all three languages. Kadri is acutely aware that the language barrier "has made it difficult for Syrians to really integrate into society."

Turkey is hosting 2.7 million Syrian refugees and is due to receive many more under a plan with the European Union that aims to halt the smuggling of migrants into Europe. The deal stipulates that for every Syrian returned, another Syrian in Turkey will be relocated to a European country. The plan has drawn considerable criticism from human rights groups, who worry that Turkey is not a suitable haven for asylum-seekers and fear it could pave the way for mass deportations. Amnesty International says Turkey has already scaled down its registration of Syrian refugees and is illegally sending back refugees to its war-torn neighbor. The Turkish Foreign Ministry denies

this and says the country maintains its open-door policy and adheres to the principle of not returning Syrians. In the eyes of many Syrians, the deal has rendered them pawns in a political bargain that benefits everyone but them. Ola Suleiman, a new employee at the bookstore, says there's a touch of "evil" to the deal because "they are deciding the fate of a people". While her middle-class family is among the Syrians who are doing better for themselves in Istanbul, it hasn't been easy. The cost of life in Turkey is far higher than in pre-war or even post-war Syria. Most Syrian refugees live outside the camps and largely fend for themselves.

Suleiman and her siblings work six days a week without vacation just to keep their household afloat. Technically many Syrians do not have the right to work. Suleiman does not have a work contract let alone health insurance. This, she says, leaves Syrian workers vulnerable to exploitation while allowing Turkish business owners to evade taxes. Turkey has committed to giving work permits to its Syrian "guests" but there are signs this perk may be riddled with caveats. Still, Suleiman likes working in a bookshop and treasures the precious moments that allow her to read once again. — AP



**ISTANBUL:** Syrian refugee Samer Al-Kadri, founder and owner of Pages, a rustic three story-Arabic language bookshop, removes a book at his store on April 1, 2016. — AP

## SYRIA PARLIAMENTARY VOTE CAMPAIGN ON WAR FOOTING

**DAMASCUS:** The streets of Damascus are plastered with campaign posters and banners as President Bashar Al-Assad's regime pushes ahead with parliamentary elections despite Syria's nearly five-year-old civil war. The war is dominating the campaign for the April 13 vote, which will see nearly 12,000 candidates vying for seats in Syria's 250-seat legislature. As with the 2012 parliamentary election and a 2014 presidential vote, only Syrians living in government-held areas will be able to cast their ballots. "We stand for security," reads one campaign slogan. "For the sake of the children who were killed, we will continue," vows another.

One candidate has branded himself as "the voice of the martyrs and the injured", while another claims to represent "the martyrs of our heroic army". The upcoming vote is the second legislative election held by the Damascus regime since the outbreak of civil war in 2011. A total of 11,341 candidates aged 25 and above are competing. While Assad has hailed the "unprecedented" number of candidates running for MP, Western backers of the anti-regime revolt have lashed out at the elections. French President Francois Hollande, for one, has branded them "provocative" and "totally unrealistic".

On March 10, the domestic opposition which is tolerated in Damascus called for a widespread boycott, accusing the government of using the vote to gain leverage in peace talks. The High Negotiations Committee, the main exiled opposition body, has branded the vote "illegitimate". Key Damascus backer Russian President Vladimir Putin, however, has shot back saying the planned vote "does not interfere with steps to build the peace process". The United Nations,

for its part, has called for presidential and parliamentary elections within the next 18 months as part of the process.

### No Vote in Raqa

Syria's war, which has left over 270,000 dead, has also had a devastating impact on the economy. "Together, let's help the Syrian pound regain its former glory," one banner reads. Over the past five years, the exchange rate has soared from 50 pounds to the dollar to 500 pounds. Another poster calls for "eradicating corruption and building a new Syria". Hisham Al-Shaar, head of Syria's electoral committee, said "the elections will be held everywhere except in Raqa and Idlib provinces," both areas controlled by the jihadist Islamic State group and the Al-Qaeda-affiliated Al-Nusra Front. Also excluded are "regions where there are security problems", Shaar said, referring to rebel-held areas.

Residents of the eastern province of Deir Ezzor, much of which is controlled by IS, will be able to cast ballots "in voting stations in Damascus and its province, as well as in Hasakeh" in the northeast, he told AFP. "Together, hand in hand, we will rebuild Syria," pledges one banner put up by a candidate from Deir Ezzor, which borders Iraq. Another candidate from the same war-ravaged province proclaims: "Victorious Syria votes."

While parliamentary hopefuls are allowed to hold meetings, distribute brochures and put up posters and banners, they are banned from speaking to the press. "The aim is to ensure equality between wealthy candidates who can afford to pay for advertising in newspapers and those who can't," Shaar said. — AFP

## IN IRAQ WAR, HUNDREDS MORE DISPLACED BY ISLAMIC STATE

**MAKHMOUR, Iraq:** Fighting between Iraqi forces and militants affiliated with the Islamic State group close to Mosul, Iraq's second largest city, has displaced over 2,000 people in the past week. On one recent night, around a hundred people arrived on the outskirts of the town of Makhmour, in Iraq's semi-autonomous northern Kurdish region, having fled violence. The journey ended in a long-awaited reunion for some families torn apart by war. Sheikh Matar Kurdi Al-Bijari had left his home in the

town of Al-Zab, south of Mosul, for the city of Kirkuk in 2014 but was forced to leave his wife, daughter and son behind. When they fled to Makhmour in late March, Bijari travelled to meet them.

"Today is a very happy day for me because I am finally reunited with my wife and my kids. I hadn't seen them for a year and a month," he said, after tearfully hugging his family. Until the beginning of 2015, civilians could move easily between Kirkuk and IS-held areas, but

more recently the front lines have become almost impassable. Bijari said that his tribesmen were being targeted by IS fighters, and that those with family members in the Iraqi army or with Kurdish forces, known as the peshmerga, were singled out. The militants have been moving these families ever deeper into their territory, making it harder to escape.

Once those fleeing war arrive in peshmerga-controlled areas, they are first vetted. The peshmerga troops have been keeping new arrivals in two fenced-off soccer courts on the outer edge of Makhmour while they carry out security screening, including checking mobile phones for messages. Lt Col Mahdi Younis, a peshmerga officer, said his forces need to ensure there are no IS sympathizers among the displaced civilians. He said that once the checks have been carried out, the new arrivals are moved to a nearby camp. This camp, located in an abandoned youth and sports center, is now home to 2,000 people.

The UN estimates that there are 3.3 million internally displaced people across Iraq. The country has witnessed a surge in violence as government forces battle to contain the Islamic State group, which swept across Iraq in 2014 and still holds large swaths of territory in the north and west of the country.

The recent arrivals to Makhmour described a harrowing nighttime journey, after families made use of some bad weather and a lull in fighting to escape. Many of them left all their belongings behind or threw them away by the roadside when they could no longer carry them. A few people were separated from their relatives on the way, and appeared in shock at the suddenness of their flight.

### Relief

Many were clearly relieved to have left IS territory behind. Men who had just arrived were lighting their first cigarettes with visible impatience. Dakhr Abu Jasim, a 28-year-old who had been in Makhmour for several days, said the first thing he did after arriving here was to get a shave. Under IS's strict interpretation of Islam, smoking is not allowed and men must let their beards grow.

By last Thursday, the rain had stopped and a strong sun was beating down on the families crowded in the soccer courts. Except for a few cabins, there was no cover. "We struggled a lot. We are very tired. This kid was barely walking yesterday. I was pushing him to walk. And this morning he couldn't walk anymore," said Isra Badran, a 22-year-old mother of three, pointing toward her five-year-old son, Ali. He stood close to her, looking dazed. — AP



**MAKHMOUR, Iraq:** In this March 31, 2016 photo, Yumana, 13, wipes tears from the face of her father, Sheikh Matar, after being separated from him for over a year. — AP



## MIAMI FUGITIVE ON RUN FOR 20 YEARS FOUND IN NICARAGUA

**MIAMI:** A fugitive from Miami who has been on the run for almost 20 years is back in federal custody after he was arrested in Nicaragua. Robert Allen Lopez, 49, was arrested on Nov. 14, 2015, and deported to Miami on Saturday by a team of deputy US Marshals. According to Barry Golden, who is a spokesman for the Marshals Service, Lopez was deported because he crossed into Nicaragua by foot and was in the country illegally.

In December of 1995, Lopez pleaded

guilty to federal Medicare fraud charges. Lopez established fake companies that filed false Medicare claims totaling more than \$4.3 million on behalf of patients for services that were unnecessary or never provided. Lopez was released on bail on the condition that he would not leave the area without permission. In 1997, he was indicted by a federal grand jury on charges of failure to appear for sentencing.

Lopez eluded capture in Mexico in 2000. After his son was found wander-

ing the streets of Cancun, Mexico, and taken into custody, a person claiming to be the 10-year old's uncle came to visit. Mexican police identified that person as Lopez after obtaining his fingerprints from a cup. When Lopez fled the country, he took his two children with him but left his wife behind. Miami Dade Police later charged Lopez with interference with the custody of a child. Lopez's son returned to the US in March of 2000 and returned to his mother. Marshals said the other child, a girl, was recovered

before the boy.

Golden said the capture of Lopez was due to the efforts of the State Department, Department of Health and Human Services (who handled the original Medicare fraud investigation) and the Marshals Service. Lopez was originally arrested in Nicaragua by the Nicaraguan Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

"The arrest of Robert Allen Lopez demonstrates the commitment of the US Marshals and our federal, state and local partners to pursue those wanted

on an international level," said US Marshal Amos Rojas Jr. in a statement. "Crossing global boundaries to avoid prosecution is no longer a viable option with the substantial resources and law enforcement cooperation in place."

Lopez will appear before a federal magistrate on Monday. According to Golden, Lopez will eventually appear before US District Judge James Lawrence King, who was supposed to sentence him on the federal Medicare charges more than 20 years ago. —AP



**FALLBROOK:** Emergency personnel investigate the scene of plane crash on Saturday. —AFP

## SMALL PLANE CRASHES ON CALIFORNIA FREEWAY, HITS CAR, KILLS 1

**LOS ANGELES:** A small plane crashed on a Southern California freeway Saturday, slamming into a car stopped on the side of the road and killing a woman in the vehicle, authorities said. Five others, including the pilot and his passenger, were injured in the crash on a stretch of Interstate 15 that has been the scene of several plane landings. Witnesses said the single-engine plane appeared to be having problems before it banked west and came down, California Highway Patrol Officer Chris Parent said. One man said he didn't hear the plane's engine as it flew overhead.

The Lancair IV landed on its belly and skidded about 250 feet before striking the rear of a black Nissan Altima sedan that was stopped on the shoulder of the road in San Diego County near Fallbrook. The driver of the car had pulled over to synchronize the Bluetooth device on his phone, Parent said.

The impact crumpled the back of the car, killing a 38-year-old San Diego woman in the back seat and injuring three others in the vehicle. "The plane went completely into the trunk and pushed the rear bumper almost into the rear passenger seat," said John Buchanan, spokesman for the North County Fire Protection District.

Pilot Dennis Hogge, 62, and his passenger, who wasn't immediately named, suffered major injuries, Parent said. The driver

suffered moderate injuries, and his two passengers were expected to survive their injuries. The plane was made from a kit in 2000 by Matthew Nokes, according to Federal Aviation Administration records.

A former major league catcher by the same name landed the same make and model of aircraft on Interstate 15 on Feb. 18, 2000. Nokes told The Associated Press at the time that it was the plane's second flight and the engine quit because of a problem with the oil filter.

He guided the \$500,000 plane to a smooth landing on the busy freeway and taxied off the road. No one was injured. It was not immediately clear if that was the same plane involved in the crash. Nokes, who had an 11-year career in the majors, did not immediately return a call seeking comment.

The freeway is no stranger to unusual landings. Parent said he's aware of three other planes that have come down on that stretch of freeway about 50 miles north of San Diego in the past decade.

The FAA and National Transportation Safety Board will investigate the crash, FAA spokesman Ian Gregor said. The crash caused major backups throughout the day on the freeway that runs from the Mexican border through Las Vegas and Salt Lake City to Canada. —AP

## TRUMP ON DEFENSE AS HE TRIES TO REGAIN MOMENTUM IN WISCONSIN

### 'THIS POLITICS IS A TOUGH BUSINESS'

**EAU CLAIRE:** Following one of the worst weeks of his campaign, Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump was on defense Saturday as he kicked off a three-day sprint to Wisconsin's primary. Contenders in both parties crisscrossed the Midwestern state seeking an edge ahead of Tuesday's primaries, none more actively than Trump, who's had a rough week and faces a likely struggle against Texas Sen. Ted Cruz in the state, who has passed Trump in recent Wisconsin polls.

The Republican race is overshadowed by a persistent effort by Trump's rivals in the campaign and the party to force the nomination fight into the July convention - and by his equivocations on whether he will be loyal to the Republican Party or bolt for an independent candidacy if he feels mistreated. Trump began the afternoon with a rally in the Milwaukee suburb of Racine, where he defended a series of controversial comments in recent days on NATO, abortion and his remark that Japan and South Korea should perhaps be allowed to acquire nuclear weapons.

#### His regrets

"This politics is a tough business," said Trump. "Because you can say things one way and the press will criticize you horribly. You say it another way and the press will criticize you horribly."

Off the stage, in a more reflective moment, Trump expressed regret that he had retweeted an unflattering photo of rival Ted Cruz's wife, Heidi, paired with a glamorous photo of his own wife, Melania, a former model, as part of a bitter feud between the two men. "Yeah, it was a mistake," he told New York Times columnist Maureen Dowd. "If I had to do it again, I wouldn't have sent it." Cruz sought favor in North Dakota, which is not holding a primary or caucuses in the 2016 Republican race. He addressed Republicans at a state convention that is selecting delegates who will go to the national convention unbound to any of the presidential candidates.

Trump and Ohio Gov. John Kasich sent supporters on their behalf to make the case that they should be backed by North Dakota's delegates at the Cleveland convention in July.

#### The real competition

The Democratic race between Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders has

grown increasingly bitter, too, though it has not matched the Republican contest for raw hostility. Their attention will quickly turn to an even more consequential contest, in New York on April 19, where the Democratic front-runner dearly hopes to avoid an upset in the state she served as senator. Sanders, who was born in Brooklyn, can claim New York as his home state.

Sanders urged rally-goers to come out in droves tomorrow. "Here is the political reality," he told a young and pumped-up crowd of thousands on the University of Wisconsin's Eau Claire

the Democratic Party."

That was a swipe at Sanders, a longtime independent senator from Vermont who is expected to make a strong showing in Wisconsin. Among Trump's biggest recent missteps have been his recent comments on abortion, which have managed to unite both abortion rights activists and opponents in their criticism.

During a taping of "Face The Nation" on Friday, Trump said he believed that, when it comes to abortion: "The laws are set. And I think we have to leave it that way." His spokes-

him unelectable in a general election match-up against Clinton. In an apparent effort to address that concern, Trump said his wife will be campaigning with him today. His daughter Ivanka, who just had a baby, will also be returning to campaign with him in another week or so, he said.

Trump responded at length to criticism from both of his rivals as well as from President Barack Obama over his call to consider allowing South Korea and Japan to acquire nuclear weapons - a position the president said betrayed an ignorance of foreign



**ROTHSCHILD:** A supporter of Republican presidential candidate, Donald Trump, wears a Trump mask as he dances in the aisle before a town hall on Saturday. —AP

campus. "If there is a large voter turnout, if working people, many of whom have given up on the political process, if young people come, perhaps for the first time ... we will win on Tuesday."

Clinton sought to draw a contrast with Sanders by emphasizing her Democratic bona fides. Before hundreds gathered in a hotel ballroom in Eau Claire later Saturday, the former secretary of state stressed that she has been "a proud Democrat all my adult life and I think that's kind of important if we're selecting somebody to be a Democratic nominee of

woman, Hope Hicks, quickly issued a clarification that Trump meant that laws won't change until he's president and appoints judges who can interpret them differently.

It was the second time in days that he'd stepped in hot water over the issue. On Wednesday, he'd said women should be punished for getting abortions if they're ever banned - a position the notoriously unapologetic campaign quickly reversed.

Trump's comments raised concerns in the Republican Party about whether his unpopularity with women as measured in preference polling would make

policy and the world.

"Now I didn't say anything about letting Japan nuke," Trump said. "But I did say, perhaps if we can't do the right deal, we'll have to let them take care of themselves."

Trump said, "if that means they'll have to someday get nuclear weapons, in all fairness folks, I know the way life works, eventually they're going to probably want to do it anyway." And he later claimed that his much-panned assertion that NATO was irrelevant was suddenly being embraced by people who had "studied the organization for 30 years." —AP



**WASHINGTON:** Thousands of runners fill the eastbound lanes of the new State Route 520 floating bridge on Saturday. —AP

## WASHINGTON STATE OPENS 520 BRIDGE

**SEATTLE:** Thousands of people turned out Saturday for festivities celebrating the opening of the new State Route 520 floating bridge across Lake Washington - so many that the state Department of Transportation declared the event "at capacity" and halted buses that had been expected to shuttle additional people to the structure.

Gov. Jay Inslee cut an orange ribbon Saturday at the middle of the 1.5-mile (2.4-kilometer)-long span to commemorate the completion of work, more than 12,000 people participated in a 10K fun run, and a representative of Guinness World Records presented a certificate designating it the world's longest floating bridge - at 7,708 feet (2,349.4 meters), it's about 130 feet (39.6 meters) longer than the old one.

"This is what it's all about - seeing years of public engagement, planning, design and construction all come to fruition," said Roger Millar, acting transportation secretary. "This grand

bridge is going to serve our region well for a long, long time." The six-lane bridge, which replaces a four-lane version built in 1963, doesn't fully open to car traffic until later this month - April 11 for westbound traffic and April 25 for both directions. The state says it features heavier, stronger pontoons and anchors that allow the structure to withstand stronger winds and waves; a bus and carpool lane in each direction; a 14-foot (4.2-meter)-wide bike and pedestrian path; and system to collect and treat storm water, which will improve water quality in Lake Washington.

The old bridge is expected to be dismantled by the end of the year. On Saturday, the masses strolled along the car-free pavement and enjoyed views of the lake and the mountains on a beautiful spring day. But it was so crowded that some complained about an hour or more for shuttles to make their way off the bridge, and the lines at the food trucks were formidable. —AP

## MORMON LEADER URGES TOLERANCE

**SALT LAKE CITY:** Mormon leaders called on members to practice tolerance despite political differences, providing the faith's US members guidance at a church conference Saturday amid a presidential campaign marked by harsh rhetoric and bickering. The faith's leaders also reiterated the belief that the religion is the only true church, and that its leaders are prophets speaking for the Lord. They implored members to be more thoughtful and sensitive toward children from all backgrounds, many of whom don't come from "picture-perfect" families.

In a nod to the religion's international footprint, five of 11 men announced as new mem-

bers of a second-tier leadership council are from countries outside the United States: Guatemala, Argentina, Italy, Australia and New Zealand. More than half of the 15.6 million members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints live outside the US.

Church President Thomas S. Monson, 88, was in attendance, but he did not give any speeches. He is considered the religion's prophet. The comments on politics came from Kevin R. Duncan, a member of the Quorum of the Seventy. He said people should be wary of resenting others because they belong to another religion, hold opposing political views or even root for a differ-

ent sports team. "Let us all remember that God looketh not upon the color of the jersey or the political party," Duncan said. "In the competitions of life, if we win, let us win with grace. If we lose, let us lose with grace." Mormon leaders don't endorse candidates or parties, but they sometimes weigh in on what they consider crucial moral issues.

This presidential cycle, the church has defended religious liberty after Republican front-runner Donald Trump suggested banning Muslims from entering the US. It also renewed calls for an end to culture wars where people stake out extreme positions. Henry B. Eyring, a longtime member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, urged members to listen carefully to speeches from Mormon leaders so they can feel closer to the Lord. "This is the only true church," he said.

Neil L. Anderson of the Quorum of the Twelve urged members to embrace all the children of the faith - no matter their family situation. He said the religion has hundreds of thousands of children who live with only one parent or whose parents aren't Mormon.

He said the religion will continue to advocate for families led by married men and women who belong to the faith, but said children are welcome from any situation. "While a child's earthly situation may not be ideal, a child's spiritual DNA is perfect because one's true identity is as a son or daughter of God," Anderson said.

Anderson didn't mention children of gay parents. The church came under fire last November when it announced new rules banning baptisms for children living with a gay or lesbian parent.

Those children are still welcome to attend church services. Church leaders have said the rules were intended to prevent children from being caught in a tug-of-war between teachings at home and church. More than 100,000 Mormons are expected to attend five conference sessions over two days, with millions more watching live broadcasts from their homes. The conference is held twice a year. —AP



**SALT LAKE CITY:** President Thomas S. Monson, right, of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, gives a thumbs up as he leaves the opening session of the two-day Mormon church conference Saturday. —AP

## GERMAN MINISTER SAYS MIGRANT CRISIS MAY HAVE PEAKED

**BERLIN:** On the eve of the first expulsions of refugees from Greece to Turkey under a deal to slow the influx of migrants to western Europe, Germany's interior minister expressed cautious optimism that the crisis had peaked.

Chancellor Angela Merkel is under pressure to slow the number of arrivals of migrants after 1.1 million people entered Germany last year, fuelling fears about integration and related costs. "It is with great caution that I say

the high point of the migrant crisis is behind us," Thomas de Maiziere told Germany's Tagesspiegel yesterday.

He said the number of migrants arriving in Germany from Austria - the main entry point for refugees, many fleeing war and deprivation in Syria - had fallen to about 140 a day in March, compared to thousands just a few months ago. However, this is largely due to tighter border controls imposed by countries along the Balkan route,

including Austria. Merkel is banking on the success of the EU-Turkey deal which gives Ankara political and financial benefits in return for taking back refugees and migrants who had crossed to Greece.

Many politicians believe, however, that numbers will rise again once new routes open up, for example when migrants start crossing from Libya to Italy. "If people come via this route again, we will need to find similar solu-

tions like we did with Turkey and also start talks with North African countries," de Maiziere said.

He said reception centers in northern Africa for migrants who have been returned to Italy might be a possibility in exchange for humanitarian programs. Under the EU-Turkey deal, for every Syrian refugee returned to Turkey, another will be resettled from Turkey in the EU. About 40 migrants are expected to arrive in Germany today, an interior

ministry spokesman said. German media reported they will land at Hanover airport, in northern Germany. Merkel's own popularity has bounced back in the last month or so but her conservative bloc is still suffering.

An Emnid poll on Sunday put her conservatives down 1 percentage point at a four-year low of 33 percent.

It also put the anti-immigrant Alternative for Germany (AfD) up 1 point at 13 percent. — Reuters



**ATHENS:** Children play with a placard reading "freedom" at the port of Chios where refugees and migrants who broke out from Vial detention center camp out yesterday. — AFP

## GREECE IN COUNTDOWN FOR EU-TURKEY MIGRANT RETURNS

**LESBOS:** Greek and EU authorities were putting the final touches to an operation that could send hundreds of migrants back to Turkey today, launching a landmark deal that has been slammed by rights watchdogs.

The operation is set to begin on the Greek island of Lesbos where there are over 3,300 migrants, a term that includes refugees. But details of how the operation will proceed and who and how many migrants will be transferred are sketchy and Greek officials yesterday were tight-lipped.

Turkish Interior Minister Efkan Ala said his country had made preparations to receive 500 people on Tuesday, and that the Greeks had given the names of 400. "We have been in touch with the Greek authorities and said we could take 500 people and they have given us 400 names. Tomorrow it's possible that this figure could change," Ala was quoted as saying by the Anatolia news agency.

The mobilization could involve other Aegean islands with major refugee and migrant populations such as Chios, where agents of EU border agency Frontex were seen arriving on Sunday, an AFP reporter said. Greek state news agency ANA, in a report that has not been denied by the government, has said the first wave could entail some 750 migrants, who would be sent back between today and Wednesday.

They would be sent from Lesbos to the Turkish port of Dikili, adding that Frontex had chartered two Turkish leisure vessels for the operation, it said. Police sources on Lesbos yesterday said there had been a flurry of last-minute asylum applications by refugees and migrants seeking to avoid expulsion. Under the EU deal, all "new irregular migrants" who arrived in Greece after March 20 face being sent back to Turkey, although the deal calls for each case to be examined individually.

In addition, for every Syrian refugee being returned to Turkey from the Greek islands, another Syrian refugee will be resettled from Turkey to the EU, with numbers capped at 72,000.

The idea of this is to reduce the incentive for Syrian refugees to board dangerous smugglers' boats to Europe, as they will have hope of being resettled directly from refugee camps in Turkey. But on the Aegean islands themselves, many migrants have complained of not being given sufficient time and access to the asylum procedure. Anas al-Bakhr, a Syrian engineer from Homs, said police marked his date of arrival on Chios as March 20 — the day the EU-Turkey

migration deal nominally took effect even though he arrived on the 19th. "They said the computers were broken that day," Anas told AFP.

### Preparations in Turkey

On the other side of the Aegean, work is underway on a centre to host those sent back to the Turkish tourist resort of Cesme.

Another is being created in Dikili, opposite Lesbos - the island that has handled the bulk of the influx of people fleeing conflict and poverty in the Middle East and elsewhere. Turkish media reports say the Turkish Red Crescent is also preparing to open a refugee camp with capacity for 5,000 people further inland in Manisa.

The EU-Turkey deal is the latest attempt to stem the number of people in search of a new life in Europe. More than a million migrants entered last year, and over 150,000 people have crossed the Aegean Sea to Greece in 2016. The operation to resettle Syrians to Europe under the one-for-one arrangement also starts today. Germany expects to take in a first group of about 35 Syrian asylum seekers from Turkey today, the German interior ministry said yesterday.

Several dozen Syrians are also expected to arrive today in France, Finland and Portugal, according to German government sources. The deal has faced strong opposition from rights groups.

Amnesty International has accused Turkey of illegally forcing groups of some 100 Syrians to return every day, saying the alleged expulsions showed "fatal flaws" in the migrant deal agreed with the EU. Turkey rejects the charge, insisting it still adopts the open-door policy that for the last few years has allowed any Syrian fleeing civil war back home to seek refuge.

There are over 52,000 refugees and migrants currently in Greece, according to official figures. With most facilities already full, authorities are trying to create space for an additional 30,000 people in new camps. Adding to the urgency, sporadic violence has broken out between ethnic migrant groups in the overcrowded camps.

But many migrants are reluctant to move to organized centers, fearing that they will not be allowed to leave. German Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere, quoted by the Tagesspiegel am Sonntag weekly, voiced optimism yesterday that the refugee influx had peaked. But, he suggested, agreements with countries in North Africa may be needed to prevent mass arrivals in future. — AFP

## AUSTRIA CLAIMS MUCH OF THE CREDIT FOR EU MIGRANT DEAL

'WE PLAYED A SIGNIFICANT ROLE'

**VIENNA:** Just weeks ago, thousands of migrants a day were streaming into northern Europe. Now the influx has been dramatically cramped and Austria is claiming much of the credit.

The small country at the heart of Europe traditionally is associated with schnitzel, Mozart and "The Sound of Music." More recently, it has also gained a reputation for a hard-nosed migration stance that has shaped Europe's response to the biggest migrant arrivals since World War II.

Austria's decision to shut down its border - the main transit route into the heart of Europe for most refugees - initially caused consternation among many in Europe. But senior Austrian politicians assert the decision helped forge last month's agreement between the EU and Turkey that commits Ankara to start taking back migrants who pay smugglers to make dangerous sea crossings to the Greek islands.

"I believe that we played a significant role in ... finding a solution for the migration crisis," Austrian Foreign Minister Sebastian Kurz told The Associated Press ahead of the first expected migrant returns from Greece to Turkey today.

### The protocol

The premise behind the deal is that Europe will send back to Turkey anyone from any country who doesn't qualify for asylum or has tried to evade a rigorous asylum application process. For every person sent back, EU countries would take in one person confirmed to have made a legitimate asylum request.

Austria - and other eastern European nations - argue that their decision to close their borders leading from Greece through the Balkans and into prosperous northern Europe enabled the deal with Turkey to happen by creating new facts on the ground.

Those facts include having over 50,000 migrants pile up in Greece, as borders further north closed and boatloads of people still poured across its vast Aegean Sea border daily from Turkey. The Austrian decision meant there would be no more "waving through" of migrants as they sought to get to Austria, Sweden or



**VIENNA:** Austrian Foreign Minister Sebastian Kurz speaks during an interview with The Associated Press on Thursday. — AP

Germany, which alone accepted more than 1 million refugees last year. As the Balkan route shut down, the sufferings of migrants trapped in makeshift camps in northern Greece, notably around the border village of Idomeni, laid bare the scale of the human misery and increased pressure within the EU to act.

"The right measures were taken on the European level (only) after Austria's outcry," Austrian Chancellor Werner Faymann told reporters. Others see a more nuanced picture. Anton Pelinka, a politics professor at Eotvos Lorant University in the Hungarian capital of Budapest, says it was Hungary that played a big role in the EU's new approach. Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban was arguably the first to reject German-led attempts to allow the migrants free passage through Europe with his migrant quotas and his razor-wire border fences.

"Hungary was in fact the initiator of what then consequently was put into force in the Balkans," he said. Still, Austria's decision to impose daily caps on those seeking asylum at its southeastern border as of Feb. 19 sent ripples of alarm through countries along the migrant route, from Slovenia to Croatia, Serbia and

Macedonia. Austrian and Balkan route police chiefs on Feb. 18 called for the migrant flow "to be reduced to the greatest possible extent." A day later, Austria imposed caps both on the number of asylum seekers it would accept daily and overall for the whole year.

Five days later on Feb. 24, foreign and interior ministers from Austria and its southern neighbors made it formal - tightening border controls and announcing that a complete shutdown of the route was looming.

### Criticism

The move was initially met by harsh criticism. The EU said Austria's clampdown on asylum seekers contravened international law. Greece recalled its ambassador to Vienna and UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said the border restrictions "are not in line with international law or with common human decency." But the mood has changed.

While declining to comment on Austria's role in the migrant debate, EU migration spokeswoman Tove Ernst echoed the language coming out of Vienna, saying all members "must commit to ending the 'wave-through' approach to those who indicate an interest in applying for asylum elsewhere."

The move to shut the Balkans route was drastic - but it worked. Figures provided Friday to the AP show the number of new refugee arrivals registered by German police dropped from an average of over 2,000 daily at the start of the year to several hundred from the middle of February. Currently, about 100 people are being recorded each day.

Kurz suggested other EU nations had just been waiting for an opening to fall in line. "The fact that our path was the right one revealed itself after only a few weeks," he said, asserting that all 28 EU nations endorsed an end to the unfettered migration shortly after Macedonia, Serbia and Croatia also shut their borders. "I can stand criticism from here and there, particularly when it comes from those who after a few weeks agree to what we suggested," he said. — AP

## MASS PROTESTS AGAINST MIGRANTS' PRESENCE IN GREECE, TURKEY

**IDOMENI:** A plan to send back migrants from Greece to Turkey sparked demonstrations by local residents in both countries Saturday, two days before the deal brokered by the European Union is set to be implemented.

At the same time, migrants stranded at a makeshift camp in this small town on Greece's border with Macedonia staged a protest demanding that the border be opened and that they be allowed to continue their journeys to central and northern Europe.

The migrants' continued presence led several dozen local residents to stage a protest Saturday morning. They blocked a road for about an hour to demand the evacuation of more than 11,000 stranded migrants to "transit centers" across the Greek mainland.

"The police know what they must do ... they must be issued orders," said Georgios Georgantas, a lawmaker with the conservative opposition New Democracy party, who joined the protesters. He called for the "immediate" evacuation of the Idomeni camp "using violence, if necessary."

Idomeni residents alleged that some migrants had broken into empty homes in the town and said they no longer felt safe. In the coastal Turkish town of Dikili, hundreds demonstrated against the prospect of hosting people expelled from the nearby Greek islands, especially Chios and Lesbos, where there were over 5,000 migrants on Saturday morning.

Turkey is due to receive the first batch of returned migrants and asylum seekers on Monday. A plan to build a reception center in Dikili is unpopular with locals. "We definitely don't want a refugee camp in Dikili," said the town's mayor, Mustafa Tosun. Demonstrators expressed concern over the impact the EU deal could have on the economy, tourism and security in their town.

The EU-Turkey deal stipulates that those who reach the shores of Greece unlawfully will be returned to Turkey unless they qualify for asylum. The deal aims to break the lucrative smuggling operations that now operate out of Turkey.

In Idomeni, more than 200 refugees and migrants staged a protest on a highway linking Greece and Macedonia, demanding that Macedonia open its borders. The protesters blocked trucks from crossing into Macedonia, but not passenger vehicles. In a counter-protest, the truckers blocked the road to other vehicles as well.

Near the camp itself, some migrants have camped on the rail tracks, blocking passenger and cargo traffic for the 13th day in a row,

Quite a few migrants, including war refugees from Syria and Iraq, are still hoping that Macedonia, and other Balkan countries to its north, will open their borders. There are rumors circulating in the camp that a "European summit" today will decide to open the borders, but no such summit is scheduled.

But many others are giving up hope. Among them is Muthanna al Hashemy, 36, a refugee from Iraq, who has been waiting for 43 days, along with his wife and two boys,

aged 4 and 6. He is getting desperate.

"I do not know what to do. The only solution is to return to my country. Here, the situation is worse than the war... They want us to go to the (transit centers) where it is worse than here. I no longer have any money," he says, adding that he spent "over 2,500 euros" (\$2,800) to get to Idomeni. Still, a glimmer of hope persists. "I will wait until Monday, see what happens and then return to my country," he said. — AFP



**VATICAN CITY:** Pope Francis greets the crowd after a mass at St Peter's square as part of the Jubilee of the Divine Mercy. — AFP

## POPE ANNOUNCES SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR UKRAINE IN EUROPEAN CHURCHES

**VATICAN CITY:** Pope Francis on Sunday announced that a special collection would be taken up in all of Europe's Roman Catholic churches on April 24 to raise funds to help the people of Ukraine.

Speaking to tens of thousands of people at the end of a Mass in St. Peter's Square, he said he wanted the collection to be a "gesture of charity that, apart from alleviating material suffering, shows my personal closeness as well as that of the entire Church" to the people of Ukraine.

Violence has intensified recently in eastern Ukraine between government forces and Russian-backed rebels, international monitors

have warned. Implementation of a deal agreed in Minsk last year, which would allow for the lifting of sanctions on Russia, and a lull in violence late last year had raised hopes that the conflict that has killed more than 9,000 people could be resolved soon.

The vast majority of Christians living in Ukraine are Orthodox but there are about a million Roman Catholics and about four million Eastern Rite Catholics who are in unity with Rome.

The pope did not say how the aid would be distributed. There are about 120,000 Roman Catholic parishes in Europe, with the largest number - about 27,000 - in Italy. — Reuters

## 'LEAVE' AHEAD IN BRITAIN'S EU REFERENDUM CAMPAIGN

**LONDON:** Young people could be the deciding factor in whether Britain stays in the EU, according to an opinion poll released Sunday, which put the Leave campaign in the lead.

The online survey for The Observer newspaper found support for Britain to quit the 28-country bloc was at 43 percent, with the campaign to stay in the EU on 39 percent. Some 18 percent of the 1,966 adults asked in the Opinion online survey, conducted between Tuesday and Friday, said they were undecided on how they will vote. One percent refused to say.

There have been considerable fluctuations in the opinion polls ahead of the June 23 referendum. Telephone surveys tend to put the Remain campaign ahead while those conducted online show them to be much closer.

The Observer said turnout among

younger voters could hold the key to which way the referendum will go. "Government strategists and pollsters privately admit that the central problem for the Remain side is that its support for staying in the EU is strongest among young people, the group least likely to vote," its story said.

The poll found that 53 percent of people aged 18 to 34 wanted Britain to stay in the European Union, with 29 percent wanting out. In the 35 to 54 age group, 38 percent wanted to stay while 42 percent wanted to leave.

Amongst the over-55s, 30 percent want Britain to remain in the EU while 54 percent want to pull out. Bookmakers currently give odds of around 2/5 for Remain, compared to around 2/1 for Leave, suggesting gamblers believe overall it is more likely Britain will stay in the EU. — AFP

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## AUSTRALIA SAYS POSSIBLE MH370 DEBRIS FOUND ON MAURITIUS

**SYDNEY:** Yesterday Australia's transport minister said new debris found on the Indian Ocean island of Mauritius would be examined to see if it belonged to MH370, just weeks after two Mozambique fragments were linked to the missing flight.

The debris was found on the Mauritius island of Rodrigues by a vacationing couple, news.com.au reported citing Reunion island website Clicanoo. "The Malaysian government is working with officials from

Mauritius to seek to take custody of the debris and arrange for its examination," Australian Transport Minister Darren Chester said.

"This debris is an item of interest however until the debris has been examined by experts it is not possible to ascertain its origin." However, it remains unclear which country would examine the debris. Aviation expert Don Thompson told the Australian news website the fragment could be the internal bulkhead from the

Malaysia Airlines' Boeing 777 business or economy class cabin.

### 'Almost certainty'

The latest discovery came less than two weeks after Australian and Malaysian authorities said two pieces of debris found in Mozambique were "almost certainly from MH370". Another fragment picked up near Mossel Bay, a small town in Western Cape province in South Africa, would also be analyzed to see if it came from

MH370, South African officials said last month.

Before the latest discoveries, only a wing part recovered from the Indian Ocean island of Reunion, which lies east of Mozambique and neighbors Mauritius, had been confirmed as coming from the jet that disappeared two years ago.

Australia is leading the search for MH370 in the remote Indian Ocean, where the Kuala Lumpur-Beijing flight is believed to have diverted when it

disappeared on March 8, 2014 carrying 239 passengers and crew. Chester added that authorities "remain hopeful the aircraft will be found". More than 95,000 square kilometers of the target zone of 120,000 square kilometers has been scoured so far, but no crash site has been found. The governments of Australia, China and Malaysia have said they will end the hunt when the target area is fully searched unless new, credible information emerges. — AFP



**SUBIC BAY:** Crew members of Japanese submarine Oyashio (L) work on the deck while Japanese destroyers JS Ariake (109) and JS Setogiri (156) dock at a port of the former US naval base yesterday. — AFP

## JAPANESE WARSHIPS IN PHILIPPINES NEAR THE DISPUTED WATERWAY

### TENSIONS MOUNT

**SUBIC BAY FREEPORT ZONE:** Two Japanese destroyers and a submarine docked at a Philippine port yesterday near disputed South China Sea waters, where Beijing's increasingly assertive behavior has sparked global concern.

Manila is seeking to strengthen ties with Tokyo as tensions mount over the disputed waterway, almost all of which is claimed by

China. Japanese submarine Oyashio and destroyers JS Ariake and JS Setogiri docked in the Subic port Sunday for a routine visit at a sprawling former US naval base just 200 kilometers from a Chinese-held shoal.

"The visit is a manifestation of a sustained promotion of regional peace and stability and enhancement of maritime cooperation between

neighboring navies," Philippine Navy spokesman Commander Lued Lincuna said. The Ariake was equipped with an anti-submarine helicopter, according to an AFP photographer at the scene.

### The showcase

The port call came on the eve of war games between the United States and Filipino soldiers in the Philippines, which is seen as a showcase of a long-standing military alliance that the Philippines is counting on to deter China. Seriously outgunned by its much larger rival China, the Philippines has turned to allies like the United States and Japan to upgrade its armed forces in recent years.

In February, Japan agreed to supply the Philippines with military hardware, which may include anti-submarine reconnaissance aircraft and radar technology. Tensions in the South China Sea through which one-third of the world's oil passes have mounted in recent months since China transformed contested reefs into artificial islands capable of supporting military facilities. Aside from the Philippines, Vietnam, Brunei, Malaysia and Taiwan also have overlapping claims. Japan and China are locked in a separate dispute over an uninhabited island chain in the East Sea. The Philippines has asked a United Nations-backed tribunal to declare China's sea claims as illegal and the government expects a decision this year. — AFP

## INDIAN PRIEST KIDNAPPED IN YEMEN 'COULD BE FREED SOON'

**MUMBAI:** An Indian priest abducted by gunmen in Yemen last month is safe and could be released soon, a Catholic group said yesterday, quoting the Indian foreign minister.

Father Tom Uzhunnalil was captured from the southern Yemeni city of Aden by gunmen who killed at least 15 people at an old people's home in an attack that was condemned by Pope Francis. The Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI) said a delegation met Indian Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj who said the government was working to secure the priest's safe return.

"She has assured us Father Tom is safe and negotiations are on for his release which could happen very soon," said Father Joseph

Chinnaiyan, deputy secretary of the CBCI. Media reports last week said the priest was killed by Islamic State militants on Good Friday, although no one has claimed responsibility for last month's attack in which gunmen killed four Indian nuns, two Yemeni female staff members, eight elderly residents and a guard.

Father Chinnaiyan said the reports were inaccurate. Aden has been racked by lawlessness since Hadi supporters, backed by Gulf Arab military forces, drove fighters of the Iran-allied Houthi group from the city in July last year. International aid groups have pulled most of their foreign staff from Yemen due to security concerns. — Reuters

## CHINA'S GREY LUXURY MARKET THREATENED BY NEW TAX REGIME

**HONG KONG/PARIS:** China is raising fees on packages ordered from abroad and cracking down on smugglers who carry in suitcases full of luxury goods, in a concerted effort to encourage shopping at home and squeeze a grey market that shoppers use to avoid tax.

Although Chinese shoppers account for a third of global sales of luxury goods, sales that actually take place in mainland China account for only a fifth. The rest are purchases made abroad—either ordered from overseas websites, bought by Chinese tourists, or smuggled in by "personal shoppers" known as daigou, who fill suitcases with luxury items and sell them back home in person or online.

That costs the Chinese government tax revenue, and also discourages the domestic consumption sector, particularly for higher quality goods, that Beijing has long been trying to boost to rebalance its economy away from exports.

"China wants to attract the outbound purchases back and cultivate a domestic luxury consumption market which is also consistent with the target to develop a consumption driven economy," Yating Xu, an economist for HIS Global Insight said.

Luxury items like the latest Dolce & Gabbana bag can be around 50 percent cheaper in Milan or in Paris than in mainland China, although some brands like Chanel lowered Chinese prices last year to close the gap. Some Chinese also prefer to buy expensive items abroad because they can be more certain the goods are genuine, and can get better choice or service than at home.

Luxury firms have invested in opening boutiques in China, but they sometimes sit idle, potentially damaging their brands. The problem has gotten worse over the past year, according to figures provided by the consul-

tancy Bain & Co, which found that luxury consumption in mainland China fell 2 percent in 2015, even as purchases by Chinese buyers rose 251 percent in Japan, 31 percent in Europe and 33 percent in South Korea.

The parallel market, mostly conducted online, is crowding out bricks-and-mortar shops, said Roth Lai, deputy editorial director at Elle China, speaking at a conference on luxury in Paris this week.

"E-commerce has become really the main driving force in the luxury goods market in China," he said. "But I think the Chinese will continue to buy outside of China for the foreseeable future, until there is a major shift in economic structure in China."

### Penalties, taxes

To combat the daigou, the Chinese government last week increased penalties for false declarations and tightened customs controls. Officials are catching more and more Chinese travelers at the airport with suitcases full of luxury goods and slapping taxes on them.

Beijing also said that from April 8 it would increase taxes imposed on a range of goods either imported via the Internet or carried in by daigou. Tariffs on watches ordered from abroad were increased to 60 percent from 30 percent and on jewellery to 15 percent from 10 percent. "We expect an adverse impact on overseas purchases by Chinese daigou and tourists alike," said Exane BNP Paribas analyst Luca Solca.

China has also tightened the use abroad of UnionPay cards, the government-supported payment card network. As of January, there is an annual withdrawal limit at overseas cash machines of 100,000 yuan (\$15,471.49) per card. — Reuters



**WASHINGTON, DC:** U.S. President Barack Obama (L) speaks as Secretary of State John Kerry (2nd L) and Prime Minister of the United Kingdom David Cameron (R) listen during a scenario-based policy discussion of the 2016 Nuclear Security Summit on Friday. — AFP

## KERRY SET TO VISIT HIROSHIMA NUCLEAR MEMORIAL THIS MONTH

**TOKYO:** US Secretary of State John Kerry and fellow envoys from the G7, including nuclear powers Britain and France, will visit Hiroshima's Peace Memorial Park this month, Japan announced.

Kerry will be the first US secretary of state to have ever visited the iconic park, where he is set to lay flowers at the memorial dedicated to the victims of the world's first nuclear attack on August 6, 1945.

Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida said late Saturday: "Foreign ministers from the G7 countries will all visit Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and offer flowers at the cenotaph for the victims on April 11." The visit will take place on the sidelines of a foreign ministers' meeting this month, where the envoys are scheduled to hammer out the agenda for the G7 summit in May.

US officials are still considering a possible visit to Hiroshima by President Barack Obama during his trip to Japan for the meeting, however, no official announcement has been made. Japan has long urged world leaders to

visit Hiroshima and Nagasaki to see the horrors of the atomic bombings and join efforts to eradicate nuclear arms.

In 2008 then House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi laid flowers at the memorial park, as the highest-ever sitting US official to do so. US ambassador Caroline Kennedy and under-secretary for arms control and international security Rose Gottemoeller also attended the Hiroshima memorial service to mark the attack's 70th anniversary last year. The world's first atomic bomb killed about 140,000 people in Hiroshima, including those who survived the explosion itself but died soon after due to severe radiation exposure.

Three days later, the US military dropped a plutonium bomb on the port city of Nagasaki, killing some 74,000 people. Washington has never apologized for the attacks. The bombings are controversial in the United States, where opinion remains divided over whether their use in the closing days of World War II was justified. — AFP

## AUSTRALIA OPPOSES TRUMP'S ASIA NUCLEAR POLICY, SAYS PM

**SYDNEY:** Australia opposes Donald Trump's suggestion that Japan and South Korea should develop nuclear weapons since this would "add considerably" to the risk of regional conflict, Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said yesterday.

The Republican presidential front-runner had declared he would withdraw US troops from both countries and allow them to develop their own nuclear arsenals. But Turnbull said regional power Australia, a US ally, was "opposed to the further proliferation of nuclear weapons".

"That is absolutely not the view of Australia," the prime minister told Sky News of Trump's nuclear policy comments. "We would not support, in fact we

would strenuously oppose, I think, as a global community, the further proliferation of nuclear weapons." "Clearly... it would add considerably to tensions and the risk of conflict in the region."

South Korea and Japan last week offered muted reactions to Trump's comments. There are nearly 30,000 US troops permanently stationed in South Korea and 47,000 in Japan, with little appetite for nuclear weapons in either nations. The White House on Friday said Trump's policy would shatter doctrine held for decades with "catastrophic" consequences. Turnbull in February unveiled a major new investment in Australia's defence capabilities. — AFP



**PESHAWAR:** Pakistani vendors and residents gather beside flood waters rushing through a market area yesterday. — AFP

## RAINS KILL 24 IN NW PAKISTAN

**PESHAWAR:** At least 24 people were killed and 17 injured after heavy rain across northwest Pakistan caused the roofs of dozens of homes to collapse, officials said yesterday. About 40 houses were reported destroyed in different

areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, a provincial disaster management agency spokesman told AFP.

The deaths came during rain that started Saturday night. "The death toll from heavy rains has now risen to 24," the spokesman said,

adding reports were still awaited from several remote areas.

Poorly-built homes, particularly in rural areas, are most susceptible to collapse during heavy spring rain. Severe weather hits the country every year, with hundreds killed

and huge tracts of prime farmland destroyed in recent years.

During the rainy season last summer, torrential downpours and flooding killed 81 people and affected almost 300,000 people across the country. — AFP



Afghan boys play at sunset on Nadir Khan hilltop in Kabul yesterday. People come to the hill park for picnics and horseback riding. — AP

## INDIA, SAUDIS TO STRENGTHEN 'ANTI-TERRORISM' COOPERATION

**RIYADH:** Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Saudi King Salman agreed in Riyadh yesterday to strengthen their cooperation in fighting "terrorism" and to facilitate investments. "The two leaders expressed strong condemnation of the phenomenon of terrorism in all its forms," said an Indian foreign ministry statement after their talks. They "agreed to enhance cooperation in counter-terrorism operations" and cyber-security, "including prevention of use of cyber space for terrorism, radicalization and for disturbing social harmony," it added.

The two countries signed a memorandum of understanding on cooperation in intelligence-sharing on money laundry and terrorism financing, said a statement on the official Saudi Press Agency (SPA). Just days ahead of Modi's two-day visit to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia and the US Treasury announced joint sanctions on four individuals and two organizations with alleged links to Al-Qaeda, the Taliban and Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) - which India blames for the 2008 Mumbai attacks that killed 166 people.

Among those sanctioned was Saudi-based Muhammad Ijaz Safarash, who allegedly provided financial, material or technological support for the Pakistan-based militant group LeT. "We affirm the importance of continued cooperation and coordination with your country's government in the field of fighting terrorism," King Salman told Modi, according to SPA.

Modi arrived in the world's largest crude exporter on Saturday and has held talks with top Saudi officials, his country's



**RIYADH:** Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz welcomes India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi before a meeting in the capital yesterday. — AFP

community in the Muslim kingdom, as well as Indian workers and local businessmen. India, which imports around 80 percent of its oil needs, is keen to take advantage of low crude prices by signing overseas deals that will help secure supplies to meet its growing demand.

Indian foreign ministry official Shri Mridul Kumar has said ahead of the visit that almost 20 percent of the South Asian country's crude supplies come from Saudi Arabia and that New Delhi wants to ensure this supply continues. The Indian foreign ministry statement yesterday said that "the two leaders expressed satisfaction at their growing bilateral trade in the

energy sector."

They agreed "to transform the buyer-seller relationship in the energy sector" to focus "on investment and joint ventures in petrochemical complexes, and cooperation in joint exploration in India, Saudi Arabia and in third countries," it added. They also discussed regional and international developments, including the security situation in West Asia, the Middle East and South Asia, and agreed to bolster defense cooperation and diversify trade. Their investment authorities meanwhile signed a framework agreement to facilitate investments by the private sectors in the two countries. — AFP

## LOWER POWER TARIFFS SOUGHT FOR CITIZENS...

Continued from Page 1

Big houses consume below 10,000 kW, said Shaye, adding that according to the government, a majority of homes consume 30 percent above their needs because of cheap prices. The lawmaker said that if consumers cut usage by 30 percent, the power bill will not increase for a majority of citizens.

Shaye said Electricity and Water Minister Ahmad Al-Jassar told the committee he could not provide it with the government's view on the new proposals and that

he must discuss it with the Cabinet first. The committee gave the minister until Wednesday to present the government's response, he said.

Member of the committee MP Khalaf Dumaitheer said that the committee informed the minister of its rejection of the government's bill, adding that the minister said he will discuss the issue with the council of ministers. He expected the committee to finalize the issue on Wednesday. If the committee and the government reach an agreement, the issue is scheduled to be debated in the National Assembly on April 12.

## COORDINATION WILL STABILIZE OIL: KUWAIT

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait said yesterday that an agreement on coordination between major OPEC and non-OPEC oil producers at a meeting in Doha in mid-April would help stabilize crude prices. "When there is coordination between major producers in OPEC and non-OPEC countries, it will certainly help to stabilize prices," acting oil minister Anas Al-Saleh told reporters. "We believe that a common agreement on a positive stand will serve (oil) market stability," the minister said.

Saleh said Kuwait, OPEC's fourth-largest producer, would attend the highly anticipated meeting in Qatar, where major producers are to discuss freezing oil production to address a supply glut that has driven down prices. Qatar has said that 12 countries have so far agreed to attend the April 17 meeting, including the world's top crude producers Russia and Saudi Arabia. The United Arab Emirates, non-OPEC Oman and Bahrain, Nigeria, Algeria, Venezuela, Indonesia and Ecuador will also attend.

Saleh said last month that Kuwait would not agree to a

freeze in production unless all major producers, including Iran, accept the output cap. Kuwait, which sits on around 7.0 percent of global crude reserves, is currently pumping 3.0 million barrels per day. Iran has so far rejected attempts to freeze production and demanded an exemption to allow it to boost exports after the lifting of sanctions under its nuclear deal with world powers.

Oil prices tumbled Friday after Saudi Arabia's deputy crown prince Mohamed bin Salman said the kingdom, the world's top exporter, would only freeze output if Iran and other major producers did the same. US benchmark West Texas Intermediate for delivery in May slid \$1.55 (4.0 percent) to \$36.79 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Brent North Sea crude for June delivery, the global benchmark, finished at \$38.67 a barrel in London, down \$1.66 (4.1 percent). All 13 OPEC members in addition to major non-OPEC producers have been invited to the talks. Oil prices have plummeted more than 60 percent since mid-2014 partly because of oversupply. — AFP

Kuwait Times

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## Issues

CEASEFIRE IN  
'CURRENCY WAR',  
BUT WILL IT LAST?

By Alice Dore

A truce appears to have emerged in the undeclared global "currency war", but analysts question whether central banks have really given up manipulating exchange rates to prop up their economies. "The currency war is in reality a war between central banks who are battling to support their own interests and taken into account what their rival central banks are doing," said Sylvain Loganadin, an analyst at online foreign exchange broker FXCM. Meanwhile analysts at HSBC bank said they believe "a truce has broken out in the global currency war." "Exhausted by the battle, it seems the ECB has given up the fight to continually engineer higher inflation through a weaker exchange rate. The Bank of Japan has also come to realise the limits of currency war following the failure of a shift to negative rates to foster (yen) weakness."

The European Central Bank seems to have thrown in the sponge at its March 10 monetary policy meeting. With global financial markets roiled by volatility in the first two months of the year, the ECB seemed to give up targeting a lower level for the euro, instead announcing new measures to ease access to credit in order to support recovery of the eurozone economy. "Central banks innovate and adjust narrative," noted economists at Barclays bank.

The ECB turned its "emphasis to credit easing and stimulating domestic demand away" from an implicit strategy to weaken the euro while in a speech this past week US Federal Reserve chief Janet Yellen "also surprised markets, albeit in a different way". Instead of emphasizing the strength of the recovery of the US economy, Yellen highlighted global economic and financial risks, with the dollar falling in value as fewer hikes in interest rates are now likely this year.

## Secret Deal in Shanghai?

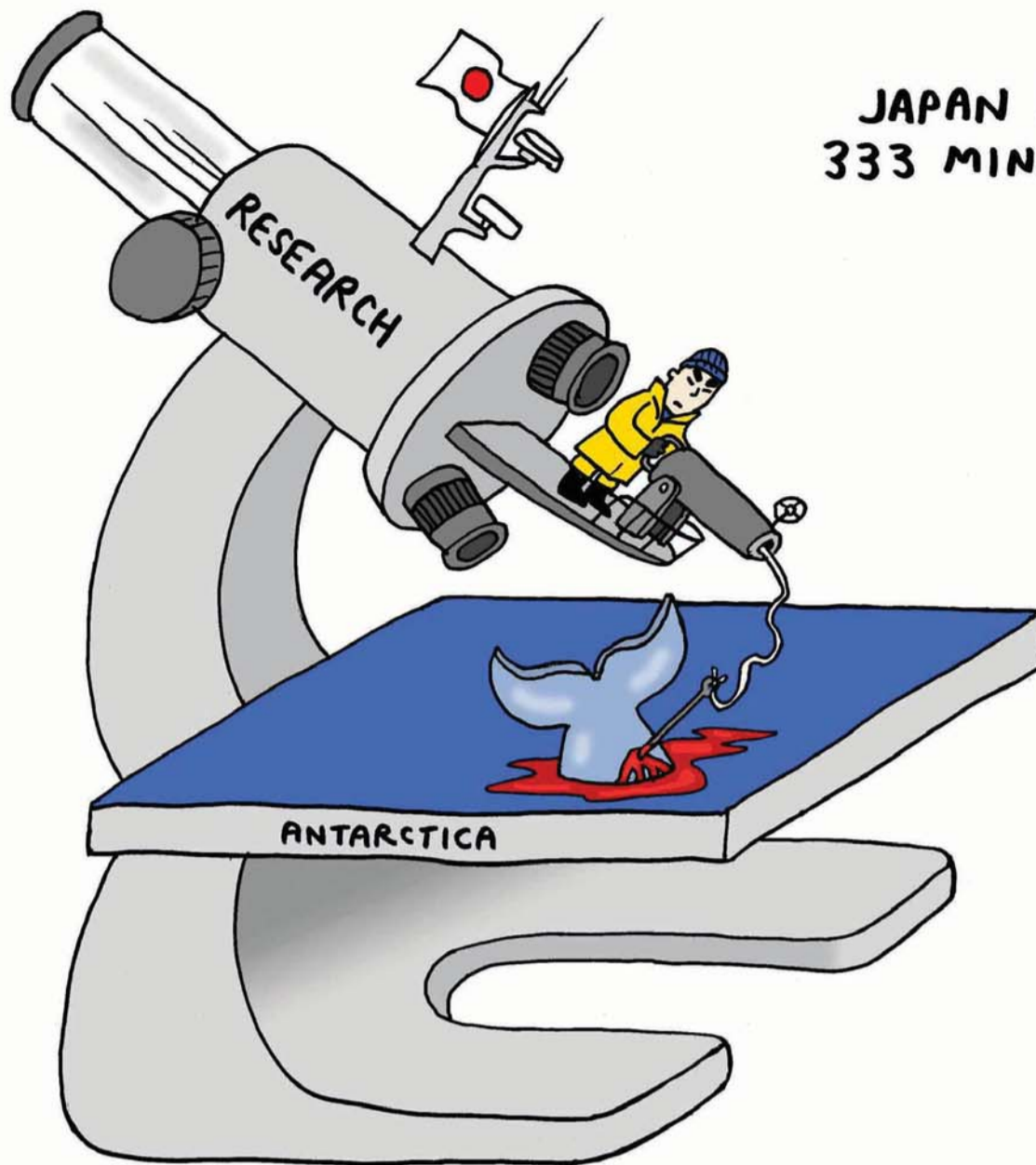
Barclays economists went as far as saying that the ECB and Fed moves, following the turbulent start of the year, "could suggest a potential 'implicit accord' between core policymakers" was made at the Group of 20 meeting in Shanghai at the end of February. For HSBC, the narrow range of the movement of the euro against the dollar means that some market participants now see greater coordination of central bank policy. But if there is such an accord, "why should it be secret", asked Capital Economics economist Julian Jessop.

"If policymakers genuinely thought that exchange rates had moved dangerously out of line with (economic) fundamentals and that the strength of the dollar was becoming a major problem, why not say so?" He noted policymakers have talked publicly of other risks to the global economy, and that a verbal intervention might have been enough to bring the dollar down.

Moreover, coordination is complicated by signs that the interests of central banks are not aligned as the BoJ, ECB and Fed each would like to see their currency weaken against its counterparts. "The aim of devaluing the currency is to boost exports to make up for flagging growth and boost inflation by increasing the price of imports," said market analyst Jasper Lawler at CMC Markets. And given that influencing the exchange rate is an easy means for central banks to achieve their policy objectives, it will be difficult for policymakers to abstain from using it. Loganadin noted that result wouldn't be desirable. "If currencies weren't controlled any longer by central banks, we'd have market movements similar to those with Bitcoin with periods of intense speculation followed by burst bubbles, which would have a dramatic effect on the real economy with alternating periods of hyperinflation and deflation," said Loganadin.

But the prospect for any truce is at the mercy of China, which still controls its currency. China's central bank "has a tendency to go it alone and adopt surprise measures" that have effects on the United States and Europe, noted Loganadin. That unpredictability from the world's second largest economy is a source of concern for currency traders. —AFP

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JAPAN KILLS  
333 MINKE WHALES...

## NEW SIGNS WARN OF MINES IN UKRAINE

By Yulia Silina

"**D**anger! Mines! Do not leave the road!" warns a billboard painted with an ominous skull and crossbones on a blood-red background that stands on a roadside in war-torn eastern Ukraine. Though fighting between Kiev's forces and pro-Russian rebels has dwindled after nearly two years, mines scattered across the vital industrial region that is home to some three million people continue claiming lives at an alarming rate.

A March report prepared by the United Nations Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine said explosive devices had killed 21 people and injured 57 in the preceding three months. In the absence of massive artillery shelling, landmines remain the main cause of civilian casualties, the report said. Ukraine's emergency services report clearing the Donetsk and Lugansk provinces that are partially run by the rebels of more than 44,000 mines and booby traps by the start of December.

But the warring sides and foreign monitors struggle to estimate how many such devices remain. To reduce the number of victims, the International Committee of the Red Cross began installing huge billboards along a seven-kilometre (four-mile) stretch of a road that juts through the no-man's land splitting the two sides' fighters and their respective checkpoints. It has only put up 15 of them for the moment, but locals appear grateful nonetheless. Until now, the only visible warnings appeared on small handmade boards set up mostly by soldiers.

"These signs are needed," says Olga, a 28-year-old nurse who refused to give her last name for security reasons. "They will make this area safer," she said while watching the first billboard being put up in Berezhove, a so-called "grey zone" village about 10 km south of the separatists' de facto capital of Donetsk.

Once a month, Olga picks up a heavy suitcase and crosses the demarcation line to visit relatives who live in a pro-Western government controlled part of the impoverished east European state. On each journey, says Olga, she fears being maimed or worse by the invisible threat.

completely invisible, and there are absolutely no warnings," the young woman says. Nearly 9,200 people have been killed and more than 21,000 injured since fighting that Kiev and its Western allies accuse Russia of instigating erupted in April 2014. Moscow denies sponsoring the war in reprisal for Ukraine's Feb 2014

Ukraine sign up to a truce and political reconciliation agreement in Feb 2015. That deal has calmed the worst violence but has done little to settle the political future of rebel-controlled lands that run near the Russian border, which militias control. Ukraine says it must deploy its forces along the porous frontier before any political resolution is reached - a seemingly distant goal. In this latest in a series of conflicts to plague other contested regions of the former Soviet Union, groups like the Red Cross do what they can to help stranded civilians survive.

## Lacking De-Mining Efforts

The Red Cross installed its first sign at the end of March in Berezhove, where the global humanitarian organisation pinpointed 15 mine blasts in the past six months, killing one civilian. "This is very dangerous territory," Red Cross member Anna Cheptunova says. Cheptunova explains that most casualties occur when buses packed with civilians veer off roads to avoid checkpoints at which vehicles are sometimes forced to wait for hours, forming kilometres-long queues.

The most recent such reported incident killed three people when their minibus tried to get past the checkpoint by driving off into a mine-studded field on Feb 10. The Red Cross intends to put up more billboards in the future south of Donetsk. But some residents say the effort was insufficient and that the two foes should focus on de-mining efforts to make the region safer. "These preventive billboards are a necessity," says 55-year-old Georgy, waiting for his bus near a checkpoint. "But what is even more necessary is for the guys with the guns on both side to start clearing" the war zone, he says. —AFP



Red Cross employees install billboards reading "Danger! Mines! Do not leave the road!" on a roadside near the Ukrainian village of Berezhove in the Donetsk region on March 28, 2016. —AFP

"It can happen at any moment: a bus can hit a mine or some pedestrian will try to walk along the side of the road" in a field where most of mines are scattered, she says.

"I live in (rebel-run) Olenivka, near the checkpoint, and it also happens that people hit booby traps and mines. They are

ousting of its Russian-backed president and subsequent decision to forge an alliance with the European Union and possibly even seek NATO membership.

One of Europe's bloodiest and most diplomatically-damaging crises since the Balkans wars of the 1990s prompted Germany and France to help Russia and

## LONDON HUNTS 'WIMBLEDON PROWLER'

By Edouard Guihare

Cunning gentleman thieves have seduced romantics from the days of Robin Hood through to Hollywood's heyday - and now London is transfixed by the real-life antics of the "Wimbledon Prowler". The prolific burglar is suspected of carrying out hundreds of break-ins around one of London's most exclusive neighborhoods, making off with assets worth more than £10 million (\$14 million). The quaint, upscale neighborhood of Wimbledon Village in the British capital's smart southwest is sheltered from the hustle of city life, and known mainly for its famous tennis tournament and multi-million pound mansions.

But fear now stalks the leafy streets in the form of the "Wimbledon Prowler", as the light-fingered criminal has been nicknamed by the British press. In a decade of deception, the thief has committed more than 200 burglaries, making mockeries of locks, alarms and security camera systems to pilfer luxury watches, jewellery and cash, detective inspector Dan O'Sullivan told AFP. The intruder's high-profile targets have included German tennis legend Boris Becker and French former Real Madrid and Arsenal footballer Nicolas Anelka, who chased the burglar from his house. His biggest single trophy is believed to be a 1955 Rolex Submariner watch valued at around £500,000.

## Disciplined Professional

"In the UK there is no one that gets close to him, in terms of the period of time that he's been offending and the financial gain," said O'Sullivan. "The law of averages says that you're going to make a mistake one day,

but we've never actually got close to him, which indicates he's very good. He's disciplined." That the crook remains at large is not for the lack of trying, with media reporting that police have even hidden in trees to catch him in the act.

Starved of solid leads, Scotland Yard launched an appeal for witnesses in March after a particularly productive period for the

burglar between last September and early 2016, with three to four break-ins committed per week. "When you look back at the history of the last 10 years, that is what he seems to do," O'Sullivan said. "He seems to smash 20 to 30 jobs over a couple of months and then he seems to go to ground." From the scant evidence, police believe the crook is a man aged around 35,

of medium height and is described as athletic, agile, organized, disciplined and likely knowledgeable about police investigation techniques. The thief leaves no evidence behind such as fingerprints and is aware of the location of surveillance cameras, hiding his face with his hand. O'Sullivan did not rule out the possibility that the hunted man could be a former soldier, given his self-control and attention to detail.

## 'Thrill of the Chase'

"This individual seems to be one of the 10 percent of burglars who plan a crime," said retired policeman Calvin Beckford, who now operates The Crime Prevention Website, the largest open-source online resource of its kind in Europe. "This guy is clearly very cautious, is security-aware and spends time making observations, minimizing his chances of being seen and detected," he told AFP, advising Wimbledon residents to review their security systems.

O'Sullivan believes that the felon is motivated by more than just money, saying he was probably seduced by the "kick, the thrill of doing it". None of the burglaries have led to physical harm, with one victim telling AFP: "He comes and goes, but so far there's never been any evidence of any violence." "We don't think he's life-threatening, we don't lose sleep but we hope that he'll be caught," the victim added - but that may be a while in coming. "He's now gone to ground," explained O'Sullivan. "We're just waiting for him to come again and when he comes again, we'll be ready for him. Like him, for us, it's the thrill of the chase because one day, we're going to get lucky." —AFP



(Left) This handout picture shows the suspect caught on camera during a burglary in Wimbledon in southwest London in 2008. (Right) Detective Inspector Dan O'Sullivan poses for a portrait at Wimbledon Police Station in south London on March 22, 2016. —AFP

## RUSSIA'S KUKSENKOV TEST POSITIVE FOR MELDONIUM

**MOSCOW:** European champion gymnast Nikolai Kuksenkov has become the latest Russian sportsman to test positive for the banned drug meldonium, local media reported yesterday. "The sample which Kuksenkov gave for testing on March 15 showed the presence of the traces of meldonium," the Allsport agency quoted Russia's national gymnastics team head coach Valentina Rodionenko as saying. Rodionenko added that the gymnast took meldonium last year, before the drug has been included into the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) prohibited list on January 1. The 26-year-old Kuksenkov, who competed for Ukraine before 2012, finished fourth in the all-round event at London Olympics. He won the 2014 European championship and was the top Russian gymnast at the 2015 World Championships, finishing sixth in the all-around after joining the Russian team. Meldonium was propelled into the headlines last month after Russian tennis star Maria Sharapova announced she had tested positive for the drug at the Australian Open in January. Since then, a string of Russian athletes, including Olympic swimmer Yulia Efimova and figure skating Olympic champion Yekaterina Bobrova have admitted to testing positive for the drug. —AFP



## DAY HEADS STELLAR CAST TO SET UP A MASTERS SPECIAL

**AUGUSTA:** If a standout movie is guaranteed by a stellar cast, then the Masters is shaping up as one of the best in recent memory with all of the game's leading players having produced superb form over the past three months.

World number three Rory McIlroy is the only player ranked in the top six who has not claimed at least one tournament win so far this year, though he came close with a tie for third at the WGC-Cadillac Championship in Miami last month.

Second-ranked American Jordan Spieth, the reigning Masters champion, triumphed at the Hyundai Tournament of Champions in January while red-hot Australians Jason Day and Adam Scott have each landed two PGA Tour titles over the past five weeks.

World number four Bubba Watson, a double winner at Augusta National, clinched the Northern Trust Open in February and his good friend, fifth-ranked fellow American Rickie Fowler, won the European Tour's Abu Dhabi Championship in January.

"Everyone is running in good form," Northern Irishman McIlroy said while preparing for the April 7-10 Masters, the first of the year's four major championships. "And they're all good champions, a few of them are Masters champions. You want your game rounding into form and playing to the best of your abilities this time of year. I feel like I'm close. I'm probably not quite where they are, and I haven't had the confidence of getting a win this year, but I feel like it's close." Aged just 26, McIlroy has already claimed four major titles and next week he will be bidding for his first Green Jacket at the picturesque 'Cathedral of Pines' in Georgia, to complete a career grand slam of golf's four blue riband events.

And he likes his progression at the Masters where he tied for eighth in 2014 before finishing a career-best fourth last year. "I'm very positive and optimistic going back to Augusta because the last few years I've improved my performance there," said McIlroy. "Last year, I played the golf course pretty much the way I wanted to. Had a good weekend. Played the par-fives very well ... it worked out pretty well."

### RED-HOT DAY

World number one Day is the game's hottest player, having won six times in his last

13 starts, and the long-hitting Australian will be difficult to beat at Augusta National where he tied for second in 2011 and placed third in 2013. "It's been good momentum for me, confidence-wise, over the last two weeks," Day said after following his victory at the Arnold Palmer Invitational with further success at the elite WGC-Dell Match Play in Texas.

"But I can't get comfortable with how I'm playing right now, I can't get lazy, because I've got to understand that what I'm doing is working. So I've got to keep working on the things that have caused me to win over the last two weeks, keep doing that and then stay focused and hopefully put on the Green Jacket."

Short game wizardry and the ability to minimise three-putts are musts for any would-be Masters champion at an iconic venue renowned for its lightning-fast, severely contoured greens. A comfort factor at Augusta National is another significant factor so expect defending champion Spieth, 2013 winner Scott and left-hander Watson, who wound up with the coveted Green Jacket in 2012 and 2014, to flourish next week.

"No disrespect to any other event, but I absolutely love that golf course," Spieth, 22, said of Augusta National where he triumphed by four shots last year after matching Tiger Woods' tournament record low of 18-under 270 for 72 holes.

"It is my favourite golf course in the world, it's just an easy week. The roars, the echoes, the memories, the history from watching it growing up, being on the same golf course."

"I expect to play well on a course I feel very comfortable on," said Spieth, whose form has been inconsistent since his victory at the Hyundai Tournament of Champions in January. American Watson, who is renowned for his prodigious length off the tee and brilliant shot-making, also loves the picture-postcard layout at Augusta National. "It's a special place, it's the perfect golf course," said Watson. "It gives me goosebumps every time I come down Magnolia Lane (to reach the clubhouse). It just gets you excited, makes us feel like a kid again. You become energised." Other likely contenders include long-hitting American Dustin Johnson, his compatriot Phil Mickelson who will be seeking a fourth Masters victory, 2013 U.S. Open champion Justin Rose of England and rising Japanese talent Hideki Matsuyama. —Reuters

## HERMAN, LOVEMARK TIED AFTER 54 HOLES AT HOUSTON OPEN

**HOUSTON:** Jim Herman and Jamie Lovemark, two players who have never won a PGA Tour event or played in the Masters, shared the lead going into the final round of the Houston Open.

A win and they get to tee off at Augusta National next week. The 38-year-old Herman shot a 5-under 67 Saturday to position himself for a breakthrough. "There's a lot to play for tomorrow," said the pro from Cincinnati, whose best finish this season has been a 10th-place tie. "I had a couple of good par saves, especially on the last hole. I'm committed to going to the first tee (Sunday) and hitting that first fairway. I've got to try to not put any extra pressure on myself."

Lovemark, 28 and a former NCAA champion at USC whose professional career was derailed by major back surgery, wasn't able to build on his fast start, which saw him birdie three of the first four holes. He stayed in the hunt with a 70 after opening rounds of 67 and 68. "My confidence is good," Lovemark said. "I've got to keep doing what I've been doing. It's going to be a tough battle tomorrow. It'll be a shootout."

Herman and Lovemark were at 11 under par through 54 holes and just a stroke ahead of Henrik Stenson, Dustin Johnson and Russell Hensley. The Swede Stenson, No. 7 in the current world ranking, posted the day's best round with a 66 after also birdieing three of the first four holes. Henley had a 68 Saturday and Johnson a 70. "The first two days I've hit the ball quite nicely but haven't been putting well," Stenson said, "so I worked again yesterday afternoon on that. I got it going a bit better today. I was more comfortable, found some lies and made a couple of beauties out there."

### FIRST MAJOR CHAMPIONSHIP

The two players ahead of Stenson in the world ranking, No. 2 Jordan Spieth and No. 5 Rickie Fowler, remained in contention at 6 under and 7 under, respectively, after both carding 70s.

The 22-year-old Spieth, who stayed alive with three birdies on the back side, lost in a three-way playoff here last spring, then went on to win the Masters in resounding fashion, leading start to finish for his first major cham-

ampionship. "I felt like I played well," said Spieth, who also won the 2015 US Open but has struggled with his consistency over the last several weeks. "We had some unreal wind flips on the first six, seven holes, and we were on the wrong end of about six in a row. It's really tough to stay patient through that."

"I'm playing really, really solid golf. But it just hasn't come through in a (round of) minus 6 or minus 7. Hopefully that means we're saving them for tomorrow - or next week." Another shot back at 9 under was Roberto Castro, who also scored 70 and is trying to become the first Houston-born player to win the Houston tournament. —AP



**HUMBLE:** Jim Herman hits his second shot on the 15th hole during the third round of the Houston Open golf tournament, Saturday, in Humble, Texas. —AP

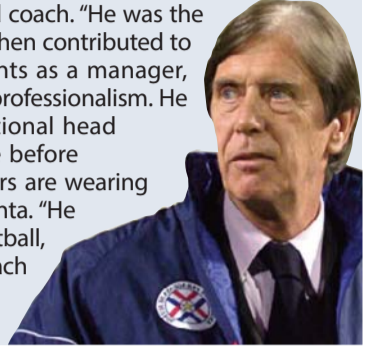
## F1 DEFERS DECISION ON NEW QUALIFYING SYSTEM

**SAKHIR:** Formula One organizers and teams will vote on an all-new qualifying format on Thursday after a meeting yesterday in which the sport's governing body, the FIA, and commercial chief Bernie Ecclestone ruled out teams' request to immediately return to the old system. The FIA put forward a new format and while participants in the meeting wouldn't publicly confirm what it was, Red Bull team principal Christian Horner said one option was for "an aggregate time of two laps rather than a single lap but it needs to be properly thought out."

The current rolling-elimination format - in which the slowest driver is eliminated every 90 seconds - was used in Australia and Bahrain but was heavily criticized due to fan confusion and lack of on-track action. Teams had resolved after the Australian Grand Prix to return to the 2015 format but when it went to the F1 Commission, they couldn't reach the requisite unanimous agreement to change rules midseason. —AP

## FORMER MILAN CAPTAIN CESARE MALDINI DEAD

**MILAN:** Football is in mourning following the death of former AC Milan and Italy legend Cesare Maldini at the age of 84. In a statement yesterday, the club remembered Maldini as "a man who was destined for immense achievements at Milan." His son Paolo followed his footsteps to play at Milan, while a grandson, Christian, plays for the under-19 team Milan Primavera. Tributes have been flooding in from across football. "A great man has left us, a true legend of Italian football," Italian Football Federation President Tavecchio said. "He made history first as player and then as head coach. He was the first Italian ever to lift the European Cup; he then contributed to the development of countless Azzurri talents as a manager, always fulfilling his position with exemplary professionalism. He embodied perfectly the essence of the national head coach role." There will be a minute's silence before every league game today, while Milan players are wearing black armbands in their match against Atalanta. "He was one of the greatest figures of Italian football, both as a footballer and as a coach," Italy coach Antonio Conte said. —AP



**EAST RUTHERFORD:** In a Sunday, April 7, 2013 file photo, wrestler John Cena, top, chokes Dwayne Douglas Johnson, known as The Rock as they wrestle during WrestleMania, in East Rutherford, N.J. WWE bills WrestleMania as its Super Bowl, and is headed to a stadium worthy of a Super Bowl. The WWE has lofty expectations of stuffing 100,000 fans inside AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas. — AP

## WWE'S WRESTLEMANIA LOOKS TO UPSTAGE NCAA FINAL FOUR

**TEXAS:** WWE bills WrestleMania as its Super Bowl. WrestleMania is always the biggest, baddest fight night of the year - and tonight, maybe of all time.

Forget the Final Four. The true extravaganza this weekend in Texas is WrestleMania.

WWE is headed to a stadium worthy of a Super Bowl, and has lofty expectations of stuffing 100,000 fans inside AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas. The roughly five-hour card is highlighted by three matches worthy of the main event. "Triple H" Hunter Hearst Helmsley defends the WWE world heavyweight championship against Roman Reigns; former UFC champion Brock Lesnar fights Dean Ambrose in a no-holds barred street fight; and Shane McMahon takes on The Undertaker in a Hell in the Cell match.

"I love being in the ring, I always have," Lesnar said. "I believe somewhere deep down when God created me that I was to be a performer in some way, shape or form, whether it was in the octagon, the wrestling mat or the squared circle." WWE has high hopes that not only will WrestleMania 32 top the 93,173 fans at WrestleMania III in 1987 and set the company's attendance mark, but that it can showcase the grandest card of all time.

Just like in sports, injuries fractured chairman Vince McMahon's fantasy story lines.

Superstars John Cena, Seth Rollins and Randy Orton will all miss the show. Daniel Bryan, who won the WWE championship two years ago at WrestleMania, retired this year because of lingering effects of concussions. Sting, in one of the main bouts last year, is the headliner at the WWE Hall of Fame induction ceremony on Saturday night. Even undercard wrestlers like Luke Harper, Neville, Nikki Bella and Tyson Kidd are out with injuries.

### SHOW GOES ON

It's akin to the Golden State Warriors losing Steph Curry, Draymond Green and Klay Thompson right before the playoffs. But the show goes on.

Not unlike at the college basketball Final Four in Houston, there are benchwarmers (The Social Outcasts), bricks (a potential street fight weapon), flops (paging Ric Flair), jumpers (Kalisto's ring entrance), even big 3s (The New Day). Every good game needs The Rock.

Dwayne Johnson takes a break from filming his latest blockbuster to return to an unspecified role at WrestleMania. He had UFC star Ronda Rousey by his side last year in a verbal smackdown with Triple H and Stephanie McMahon that had fans clamoring for some sort of match at this year's WrestleMania. Perhaps on Sunday, Johnson will return to aid his real-life cousin Reigns and layeth the smackdown on some bad guys.

"Been working on a surprise or two for months now for the most important part of the show - the fans," Johnson wrote on an Instagram post.

But each saucy storyline needs a twist, and maybe Reigns ending the show with his finishing spear on Johnson and holding the title belt high over his head as 100,000 fans boo him could become his one shining moment. It's fantasy booking for sure, so don't bet on that finish.

The actual matches, though, are fair game. An online gambling company based in Canada, Bovada, lists Reigns at minus-700 to top Triple H and has Kevin Owens and The New Day among the other favorites on the card. Such odds aren't offered in Las Vegas, which prohibits betting on

contests where the outcome is known in advance.

### MEMORABLE MOMENTS

For fans watching on TV, WWE makes the show available on its own network for \$9.99 a month - and for \$59.95 on pay-per-view - and new subscribers will get WrestleMania for free as part of a monthlong trial at WWENetwork.com. The Hall of Fame ceremony and a WrestleMania kickoff show includes the Andre the Giant Memorial Battle Royal as part of the weekend's programming.

One of the company's top box-office attractions, Lesnar only wrestles on WWE Network events. Working on a part-time basis, Lesnar upped his schedule over the past year and has wrestled on the occasional live show. "Vince got his checkbook out and he's writing more checks," Lesnar said. "But I have a limit and we're at that limit right now."

Lesnar has wrestled in some of Mania's more memorable moments - such as landing on his head during a failed flip off the top rope against Kurt

Angle, getting booed out of Madison Square Garden in his final WWE match before a lengthy hiatus. He was WWE champion last year and lost the belt in a convoluted finish where he wasn't even pinned. "This is a job and I'm not caught up into it like maybe I'm supposed to be," he said. "I approach this as, I'm a skilled worker. I clock in, I clock out. People pay to watch me and, by chance, I guess they find me entertaining. ... When I look back and what I'm proud of is the money in my bank account."

Forbes released this week its list of highest-paid wrestlers and Lesnar was No. 2 with an estimated \$6 million in earnings last year. Cena topped the list at \$9.5 million.

"There could be five people in the stands or 100,000 people, I don't treat it any differently," Lesnar said. "I approach the competition the same. That's just my mentality. I don't get caught up in the business. I show up, I do my job, I collect my check and I go home." — AP

## FORMULA ONE QUALIFYING FORMAT REMAINS UNDECIDED

**MANAMA:** Formula One teams and stakeholders failed to agree a fix for the sport's failed new qualifying format at the Bahrain Grand Prix yesterday and agreed instead to go away and consider a compromise by next Thursday. "No decision has been made, we haven't reached the conclusions on how we want to continue yet," said Mercedes motorsport head Toto Wolff after an hour and a half long meeting at the Sakhir circuit that hosts the season's second race. Team bosses said various new formats were discussed, as well as staying with the current one, but there would be no going back to 2015 qualifying because both the governing FIA and commercial rights holder were opposed. "It's not on the table," Wolff said of going back to the 2015 format, a move that the teams had proposed unanimously after the new system was panned on its debut in Australia on March 19.

Williams deputy-principal Claire Williams said there was a belief that "just going back to 2015 will create more confusion than is necessary."

The new elimination format, which sees drivers knocked out at timed intervals during the three sessions, was introduced hurriedly before the start of the season in a bid to add excitement and shake up starting grids. Instead, drivers have been eliminated while sitting in the garages in the final stage rather than battling for pole on track as in the past.

The situation has been a major talking point of the season so far, triggering uproar on social media and dominating much of the talk in the paddock.

"They (the FIA and Ecclestone) said that 2015 was not acceptable to them as it was not good enough. We have to just acknowledge that," said Wolff, who added that teams felt the sport could not afford any more experiments. Red Bull principal Christian Horner said a new proposal had been presented by the FIA but would not give details. "It just needs a bit more investigation perhaps with an aggregate time of two laps

rather than a single lap," he told reporters.

He swerved a question about whether the situation was more to do with a 'power play' over who calls the shots in the increasingly-troubled sport.

"The bottom line is, if we don't agree to a compromise then we are stuck with what we've got and I think everyone agrees that what we've got isn't right," said Horner. Former world champion Niki Lauda, who attended the meeting as non-executive chairman of the Mercedes F1 team, told Reuters all options had been discussed. "We went forward and backward and then we said we have to stop now because the race is on," said the Austrian. "Next Thursday we are going to see what is going to happen." Any change to the 2016 regulations needs to be approved unanimously by teams. —Reuters



**Bernie Ecclestone**

## BARNHART, REDS BEAT PIRATES AS PITTSBURGH OPENS SEASON

**INDIANAPOLIS:** Tucker Barnhart got three hits and the Cincinnati Reds took advantage of the windy conditions to beat the Pittsburgh Pirates 13-6 Saturday in a spring training wrap-up.

With periods of snow flurries, light rain and gusts estimated at 40 mph, Pittsburgh made five errors. The Pirates open the 2016 major league season Sunday afternoon, hosting St. Louis. Reds starter Alfredo Simon gave up four runs in four innings. David Freese and Max Moroff homered for the Pirates.

Pittsburgh manager Clint Hurdle said playing in adverse weather conditions may come in handy as colder tempera-

tures are predicted for the Pirates' opener. "The weather was interesting and challenging," Hurdle said. "We didn't want to challenge anyone too much on a day like this, but today may get us ready for tomorrow because I hear we could have conditions like this in Pittsburgh."

Barnhart, who played high school baseball in nearby Brownsburg, had a wind-aided bloop double and two singles. He singled during a seven-run burst in the third inning that included two singles by Joey Votto.

"Whenever you're anywhere and you're able to put some good swings on

some balls and get some hits it's a good thing," Barnhart said. "But especially being home in front of my family being able to see it is really pretty special."

### STARTING TIME

**Reds:** Simon was not nearly as sharp as he was in his other two spring outings, but Reds manager Bryan Price said a lot of that had to do with the blustery conditions.

"Just like their pitchers and our relief guys, I think he was affected by the weather," Price said. "It was hard to field the ball, hands were cold and it was not a great environment in which to pitch.

He had been very sharp his first two games. I don't think today was any indication of how prepared he is actually for the season." Price said he was pleased that Simon was able to face 19 batters and throw more than 80 pitches.

**Pirates:** RHP Wilfredo Boscan struggled with his control and was responsible for the eight runs Cincinnati scored in the first three innings, though only five were earned.

Hurdle said prior to the game that all of the pitchers he used Saturday were players who would start the season in the minor leagues. Five pitchers saw action for the Pirates.

### TRAINER'S ROOM

**Reds:** C Devin Mesoraco was a late scratch from the starting lineup because of hip soreness. He appeared in just 23 games for the Reds last season after having season-ending surgery on June 29 to repair and impingement in his left hip.

### UP NEXT

**Reds:** RHP Raisel Iglesias will get the opening day start for Cincinnati on Monday against the Phillies. Pirates: LHP Francisco Liriano will get the opening day start for Pittsburgh on Sunday against the St. Louis Cardinals. — AP

## PEARSON, LAPIERRE HEAD AUSTRALIA'S TEAM FOR RIO

**SYDNEY:** Defending hurdles champion Sally Pearson and long jumper Fabrice Lapierre spearhead Australia's medals challenge for the Rio Olympics in the Australian track and field team named yesterday.

Pearson, 29, who won gold in the 100-metres hurdles in London in 2012, is about to resume competition for the first time since her compound fracture on the track nearly 10 months ago.

Australia's top athlete broke two bones and dislocated her wrist in a tumble during the Rome Diamond League meet in June last year.

Pearson also won a silver medal in the event at the 2008 Beijing Olympics and was world champion at the 2011 Daegu World Championships.

"We have experienced campaigners like Fabrice Lapierre ready to add an Olympic medal to his world championships achievements, and you can't forget defending Olympic champion Sally Pearson," said Athletics Australia head coach Craig Hilliard.

"Sally is worth her weight in gold. She's been there and knows what it takes to win a silver and then step up to the top of the podium.

"She will give guidance and advice to

the younger athletes that will be invaluable."

Twenty-eight new athletes were announced at a dinner in Sydney following the end of the Australian championships. By mid-July the athletics section of the Australian team could be 50-strong the largest of any sport wearing the green and gold in Rio.

"The athletes named so far are a fantastic mix of youth and experience, making us well placed for Rio and for beyond to Tokyo," Hilliard said.

"There have been a lot of young athletes that have stepped up in the Olympic year such as Damien Birkinhead, Brooke Stratton, Ella Nelson, Alexander Hartmann, Morgan Mitchell, Josh Clarke and Cedric Dubler to name a few."

Commonwealth high jump champion Eleanor Patterson at 19 is the youngest team member and 3000m steeplechaser Victoria Mitchell is the eldest of four 33-year-olds. Four of the team — Alana Boyd, Benn Harradine, Pearson and Dani Samuels are off to their third Olympics.

The marathon athletes are scheduled to be nominated to the Australian Olympic Committee from Athletics Australia later this month. — AFP



**BOSTON:** World Figure Skating Championships gold medalist Evgenia Medvedeva, center, of Russia, silver medalist Ashley Wagner, left, of the United States, and bronze medalist Anna Pogorilaya, of Russia, display their medals during ceremonies following the free skate program, Saturday in Boston. — AP

## MEDVEDEVA, 16, WINS WORLD TITLE WITH RECORD FREE SKATE SCORE

**BOSTON:** Sixteen-year-old Evgenia Medvedeva started giggling when she learned her free skate score at the world championships had set a record. Then she summed it up in English: "Wow."

The Russian teen capped a dominant debut season Saturday with a world title, earning 150.10 points to break Yuna Kim's record from the 2010 Olympics. Medvedeva moved up from third after the short program to add to her Grand Prix Final and European titles.

American Ashley Wagner skated last and sent the home crowd into a frenzy with a personal best score that moved her from fourth to second, the first U.S. woman in a decade to win a medal at worlds. Another Russian teen, Anna Pogorilaya, took bronze. American Gracie Gold, who led after the short program, fell on her opening triple-triple combination to drop to fourth.

Medvedeva looked a bit hesitant during Thursday's short program in her first senior worlds. But she was captivating from the start Saturday. She landed seven triple jumps with never a hint of trouble, throwing an arm above her head on many of them. "I won't realize quickly I won today because one year ago I was still skating juniors," she said through a translator.

It was a performance both youthful and mature at the same time. The program opens with Medvedeva peering out into the crowd with a look of wide-eyed wonder.

When it was over, she thrust both fists into the air in triumph. "Actually I don't really have any emotions right now - I left everything on the ice," she said afterward. Sitting in the kiss-and-cry area, the teenager came back out. She bopped her head to the music as she waited for her scores, squeezing her eyes shut and clutching a stuffed animal tight as the marks were about to be announced.

She finished with a total of 223.86 points, following in the footsteps of Adelina Sotnikova, who won the Olympic gold medal at age 17 in 2014, and Elizaveta Tuktamysheva, who won last year's world title at 18.

No American woman had finished on the podium at worlds since Kimmie Meissner took gold and Sasha Cohen bronze in 2006. Even with Gold's mistakes, her score guaranteed that the drought would end - it was just a question of whether it would be Gold or Wagner.

Wagner had the crowd shrieking from the moment she landed her triple flip-triple toe loop combination, and the powerhouse program to the "Moulin Rouge" soundtrack earned her a big score for choreography and expression despite two under-rotated jumps. She received 142.23 points for 215.39 total.

As the music ended, her jaw dropped in exhilaration, an ending that couldn't have been more different from the "horrific experience" the last time she competed in Boston. At nationals in 2014, she came in as the two-time defending champion then fell twice in her free skate to finish a distant fourth. With Wagner still haunted by those memories earlier this week, best friend Adam Rippon - who went on to finish sixth in the men's competition Friday - reminded her that in 2014, she was out of shape, overweight and under-trained.

### NOT ANYMORE

"Because of 2014, I'm sitting here today," Wagner said. She was still selected for the 2014 Olympic team because of her previous successes, but the debate about whether she deserved the berth in Sochi stung.

"I have so many people that for so many parts of



**BOSTON:** Meagan Duhamel and Eric Radford, center, of Canada, Wenjing Sui and Cong Han, left, of China, and Aliona Savchenko and Bruno Massot, right, of Germany, stand during the awards ceremony for the pairs in the World Figure Skating Championships, Saturday, in Boston. — AP

my career say this has been given to me; I don't deserve this," she said.

"The fact that I have a world silver medal because of something I did, not because of something everybody else didn't do," Wagner added, "that is so sweet."

Skating after Gold, Wagner could tell from the crowd's reaction that a mistake had occurred. She realized there was an opening for a medal but quickly banished the thought from her mind. There's a picture on a wall at TD Garden of the podium from the 2014 U.S. Championships - Wagner is cropped out of it. Now she'll forever be in all the photos from the 2016 worlds, a feat she achieved at the age of 24, when many skaters have retired. "It definitely gets harder. I see this one over here," she said, motioning to Medvedeva, "do long program run-throughs with triple-triples on the end of every combination, and I just think, 'Oh, to be 16 again.' Then I remember that at 16 I couldn't

do that." Pogorilaya, 17, was the least accomplished of the three Russians coming in, finishing third behind Medvedeva and Elena Radionova at both the national championships and European Championships. But she skated two clean programs in Boston to again finish third - this time against a much deeper field. She received 139.71 points for 213.69 total. Even after her fall, Gold still had a chance to pass Pogorilaya and secure a medal. But she also did a double lutz instead of planned triple and lost potential points because of the edge on her triple flip takeoff. She earned 134.86 points for 211.29 total. "I feel really ashamed of how I skated and I want to apologize to my country and to the crowd here - there's really no excuse for it," a dismayed Gold said later. "It just shows that I'm not up there with the rest of the world. ... I still have hopes for the 2018 Olympics, but we'll have to step back and re-evaluate what's realistic for my future skating." — AP



**MARSEILLE:** Clermont's Patricio Fernandez (R) vies for the ball with RC Toulon's New Zealand centre Ma'a Nonu (L) during the French Top 14 rugby union match between RC Toulon and ASM Clermont-Auvergne at the Velodrome stadium yesterday in Marseille, southern France. — AFP

## KENYA'S KOTUT WINS PARIS MARATHON

**PARIS:** Kenya's Cyprian Kotut won yesterday's 40th edition of the Paris marathon, adding to his victory in the half-marathon here less than a month ago.

Kotut, 24, finished in an official time of 2hr 07min 11sec, well short of Kenenisa Bekele's course record from two years ago, but comfortably clear of his previous personal from his debut in Milan last year. Kotut was one of eight runners in contention after 35 kilometres, before Ethiopia's Gebretsadik Abraha upped the pace heading into the final 4km. Kotut then pulled clear shortly afterwards and held off his rivals as he cruised across the line unchallenged, with fellow Kenyans Laban Korir and Stephen Chemlany joining him on the podium. "I wasn't too sure if I needed to speed up or not because I still don't really

know the course layout. I simply planned to beat my own personal record," said Kotut, competing in just his second marathon. "There were still some really strong guys, I didn't expect to be as far ahead."

Visiline Jepkesho, also of Kenya, claimed the women's title in 2hr 25min 53sec, ahead of Ethiopian pair Gulume Chala and Dinknesh Tefera. Jepkesho actually ran a slower time than when she finished third in last year's race and was almost five minutes behind the course mark set by Boru Tadese of Ethiopia in 2013. Security was on high alert in the French capital following terrorist attacks in Paris and Brussels, but Sunday's race, which according to organisers featured just over 46,000 runners, took place without incident in sunny conditions. — AFP



## BENN BROTHERS SCORE IN DALLAS' 3-2 WIN OVER KINGS

**LOS ANGELES:** Jordie Benn scored the tiebreaking goal with 4:58 to play, as the Dallas Stars rallied from a third-period deficit to assert their Western Conference supremacy with a 3-2 victory over the Los Angeles Kings on Saturday. Benn scored his first goal since December 21 after Patrick Eaves tied it early in the third. Jamie Benn also scored his 41st goal for the Stars, who claimed a late-season meeting of division leaders. Coach Lindy Ruff won his 700th career game as Dallas (48-22-9) moved four points ahead of St. Louis atop the Central Division and eight points ahead of Los Angeles (46-27-5) in the conference standings. Jeff Carter scored his fifth goal in four games and Jonathan Quick stopped 36 shots for the Kings, who have lost five of seven.

### PENGUINS 5, ISLANDERS 0

The Penguins clinched a playoff berth behind Matt Murray's 23 saves for his first NHL shutout. Surging Pittsburgh improved to 45-25-8 with its fifth straight win and has outscored opponents 25-10 in that stretch. The Penguins made the postseason for the 10th straight year and solidified their grip on second place in the Metropolitan Division. Oskar Sundqvist, Patric Hornqvist, Matt Cullen, Phil Kessel and Tom Kuhnhackl scored for Pittsburgh, and Sidney Crosby got his 600th NHL assist. Crosby, the NHL's first star for March, played in his 704th game as a Penguin, passing Brooks Orpik for fifth place on the franchise's all-time list. The Islanders' playoff outlook dimmed with the loss as they chase a wild-card spot.

### FLYERS 3, SENATORS 2

The Flyers got two power-play goals from Wayne Simmonds and a strong effort from goaltender Steve Mason as they continued to surge toward the playoffs. Thanks to the Islanders dropping a home game against Pittsburgh, the Flyers moved within two points of the first wild-card spot in the Eastern Conference. The Flyers built a 2-0 lead on power-play goals in the second period after a sloppy, scoreless first. Their first goal came when Jakub Voracek, playing the point, intercepted a failed clearing attempt by Ottawa's Jean-Gabriel Pageau. Voracek, uncovered at the point, quickly fired the puck toward the net to a wide-open Simmonds, who redirected the puck past Andrew Hammond 1:30 into the second period.

### SABRES 4, RANGERS 3

Ryan O'Reilly scored two first-period goals in a 2:52 span as the Buffalo Sabres put a hold on the New York Rangers' hopes of clinching a playoff berth. Zangus Girgensons and Matt Moulson also scored on a night the Sabres sent Henrik Lundqvist to the bench in less than 21 minutes and had the sellout crowd at Madison Square Garden booing several times. Chad Johnson had 33 saves and Buffalo killed off a late two-man disadvantage in improving to 6-2-2 in its last 10 games, and snapping a nine-game losing streak against the Rangers dating to April 2013. Kevin Hayes, J.T. Miller and Derek Stepan scored for the error-prone Rangers.

### LIGHTNING 3, DEVILS 1

Brian Boyle scored the go-ahead goal on a third-period power play to help the Tampa Bay Lightning beat the New Jersey Devils. Boyle made it 2-1 on Tampa Bay's seventh power play and third of the third period on a backhand rebound with 8:28 to play. Victor Hedman and Nikita Kucherov also scored for the Lightning, who remained two points behind Atlantic Division-leading Florida. Ben Bishop stopped Mike Siso's breakaway shot in the first and finished with 25 saves. Lightning captain Steven Stamkos will miss 1-to-3 months with a blood clot in his right arm, and is scheduled to have surgery Monday to repair it. New Jersey got a goal from Adam Henrique. Cory Schneider, who hadn't played since March 4 due to a right knee injury, was

back in the lineup and made 33 saves.

### RED WINGS 3, MAPLE LEAFS 2

Brad Richards and Mike Green each had a goal and an assist as the Detroit Red Wings beat the Toronto Maple Leafs. Jimmy Howard made 32 saves for the Red Wings, who moved past the Boston Bruins for third place in the Atlantic Division with 91 points. Kyle Quincey also scored for Detroit, which is trying to extend its streak of making the playoffs to 24 straight seasons. Colin Greening and William Nylander scored for Toronto, and Garret Sparks made 23 saves.

### PANTHERS 4, CANADIENS 3

Aleksander Barkov scored the winning goal with 28.1 seconds left as the Florida Panthers rallied from a three-goal deficit to beat Montreal. Barkov finished with two goals and two assists, and Jaromir Jagr and Jonathan Huberdeau also scored for Florida. Aaron Ekblad also had a pair of assists, while Huberdeau and Brian Campbell had one each. Brendan Gallagher scored in his return to the Montreal lineup, and David Desharnais and Torrey Mitchell added goals. Joel Hanley, Max Pacioretty, Lars Eller, Paul Byron, Darren Dietz and Tomas Plekanec recorded assists. Montreal's Mike Condon made 34 saves, while Roberto Luongo had 24 for Florida.

### BLUE JACKETS 5, HURRICANES 1

Brandon Saad scored three goals for his first career hat trick as the Columbus Blue Jackets beat the Carolina Hurricanes. Boone Jenner and Oliver Bjorkstrand also scored, and Alexander Wennberg and David Savard had two assists apiece. The last-placed Blue Jackets scored three goals in the second period and snapped a four-game losing streak. Jeff Skinner scored and Eddie Lack made 22 saves for the Hurricanes, who were mathematically eliminated from the playoff race. They had kept their long-shot postseason bid alive by earning points in 12 of their previous 14 games.

### SHARKS 3, PREDATORS 2, SO

Logan Couture scored the only goal of the shootout to lead the San Jose Sharks to a comeback victory over the Nashville Predators. Tomas Hertl scored a pair of third-period goals and Joe Thornton assisted on both for San Jose, winners of three of four. Shea Weber and Calle Jarnkrok had the goals for the playoff-bound Predators, who have lost four straight. Despite the skid, Nashville clinched its second consecutive playoff berth Friday night when the Washington Capitals defeated the Colorado Avalanche in regulation.

### COYOTES 3, CAPITALS 0

Mike Smith stopped 31 shots for his second shutout since returning from injury, and Shane Doan and Oliver Ekman-Larsson scored 27 seconds apart early in the third period as the Arizona Coyotes beat the NHL-leading Washington. Brad Richardson also scored in the third and Max Domi had two assists in teaming with Doan on a dominant night by Arizona's second line. Philipp Grubauer made 24 saves filling in for No. 1 goaltender Braden Holtby in the Capitals' second loss in three games since claiming the Presidents' Cup for best record in the NHL.

### FLAMES 5, OILERS 0

Joni Ortio made 28 saves for his second career shutout, while Johnny Gaudreau and Mikael Backlund each scored two goals as the Calgary Flames snapped a two-game losing skid with victory over Edmonton. Joe Colborne also scored for the Flames, who played their final game against their Alberta rivals at Rexall Place in Edmonton, with the Oilers moving into a new downtown arena next season. It was Ortio's first shutout of the season, and first since blanking Vancouver 1-0 on Jan. 10, 2015. The Oilers have lost three straight and five of their last six, and were shut out for the third time in their last eight home games. — AP

## NHL results/standings

Pittsburgh 5, NY Islanders 0; Philadelphia 3, Ottawa 2; Dallas 3, Los Angeles 2; Detroit 3, Toronto 2; Tampa Bay 3, New Jersey 1; Florida 4, Montreal 3; Buffalo 4, NY Rangers 3; Columbus 5, Carolina 1.

### Western Conference

Central Division						
	W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PPTS
Dallas	48	22	9	259	223	105
St. Louis	46	23	9	211	192	101
Chicago	45	26	7	218	196	97
Nashville	39	26	14	219	207	92
Minnesota	38	30	11	214	196	87
Colorado	39	35	4	207	222	82
Winnipeg	31	39	8	199	230	70
Pacific Division						
Los Angeles	46	27	5	213	183	97
Anaheim	43	24	10	206	184	96
San Jose	44	29	6	233	205	94
Arizona	35	36	7	203	200	77
Calgary	33	40	6	218	251	72
Vancouver	29	36	13	179	225	71
Edmonton	30	43	7	194	239	67

### Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division						
	W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PPTS
Florida	44	25	9	225	194	97

Tampa Bay	45	28	5	217	186	95
Detroit	40	28	11	204	216	91
Boston	41	29	8	229	214	90
Ottawa	36	34	9	224	240	81
Montreal	36	37	6	211	228	78
Buffalo	33	35	11	193	214	77
Toronto	28	39	11	189	229	67

### Metropolitan Division

Washington	55	17	6	241	182	116
Pittsburgh	45	25	8	229	192	98
NY Rangers	43	26	9	225	207	95
NY Islanders	42	26	9	214	201	93
Philadelphia	39	25	13	201	202	91
Carolina	34	29	16	192	216	84
New Jersey	37	34	8	176	200	82
Columbus	31	39	8	203	242	70

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



**NEW YORK:** Derick Brassard #16 of the New York Rangers skates against Rasmus Ristolainen #55 of the Buffalo Sabres during their game at Madison Square Garden on Saturday in New York City. — AFP



**KOLKATA:** West Indies's Stafanie Taylor (L) and Hayley Matthews run between the wickets during the World T20 cricket tournament women's final match between Australia and West Indies at The Eden Gardens Cricket Stadium in Kolkata yesterday. — AFP

# WINDIES STUN AUSSIES TO CLAIM WOMEN'S T20 CROWN

**KOLKATA:** Powerful half-centuries from Hayley Matthews and skipper Stafanie Taylor fired the West Indies to their maiden women's World Twenty20 crown in a thrilling last-over win against Australia in yesterday's final in Kolkata.

Chasing a competitive 149 for a win against the three-time champions, West Indies rode a blistering 120-run opening stand between Matthews (66) and Taylor (59) to triumph with three balls to spare.

The Windies won by eight wickets at the Eden Gardens stadium as they picked up their first win against Australia at their ninth attempt. "Words can't explain what I'm feeling right now. Means so much for us and especially the people of the Caribbean," said Windies wicketkeeper Merissa Aguiliera.

Player of the match Matthews and Taylor, who looked determined from the word go, acquired 16 runs off the sixth over, including a

humongous six from Matthews.

A destructive Matthews clobbered three sixes and six boundaries during her 45-ball blitz that made the Aussie bowling attack appear pedestrian. Taylor played a more sedate but commanding innings to lead the Windies to an historic title after three previous failed semifinal attempts. Leg-spinner Kristen Beams got Matthews caught at mid-wicket in the 16th over and 18 balls later Rene Farrell saw the back of Taylor but the wickets only proved to be minor hiccups on the Windies' road to victory. Wild celebrations erupted from the Caribbean dugout as Britney Cooper hit the winning runs to script a new chapter in Windies women's cricket. The Caribbean women danced with their male counterparts, who play England in the men's final later.

The West Indies men can now complete a rare hat-trick after the Under-19 boys lifted the

youth World Cup in February.

Earlier after electing to bat, skipper Meg Lanning and Elyse Villani helped Australia post 148 for five against a sloppy West Indies fielding display. The Aussies lost opener Alyssa Healy early but a 77-run second wicket partnership between Lanning (52) and Villani (52) set the tone for a formidable score.

Villani's 37-ball knock was laced with nine fours as she and Lanning were helped by some shoddy West Indies fielding as captain Taylor juggled seven bowlers.

Medium-pacer Deandra Dottin was the pick of the Windies bowlers with two wickets, those of Villani and Elyse Perry, the latter of whom chipped in with 28 runs off 23 balls including the only two sixes of the Aussie innings.

"Full credit to the West Indies they came out with the bat, did not quite get the result we wanted," Lanning said afterwards. —AFP

## AFRIDI QUILTS CAPTAINCY, WANTS TO CONTINUE PLAYING TWENTY20S

**ISLAMABAD:** Shahid Afridi stepped down from the captaincy of Pakistan's Twenty20 team yesterday, but decided to continue playing the shortest format of the game. "Today I wish to inform my fans in Pakistan and all over the world that I am relinquishing the captaincy of the T20 Pakistan team of my own volition," Afridi said in a statement.

"For me it was great honor to lead my country in all the three formats of the game," Afridi, 36, was criticized for the team's poor performance at the World Twenty20 where Pakistan lost three of its four group matches that included defeat against arch rival India. Pakistan's solitary win came against Bangladesh, which qualified for the Super 10 stage.

Team officials also questioned Afridi's leadership at the World Twenty20 with manager Intikhab Alam saying in his tour report that the captain was "absolutely clueless."

Afridi said after losing the last group match against Australia at Mohali that he was under a lot of pressure at the World Twenty20 and felt he was not the right man now to lead Pakistan. Last year after the World Cup, Afridi had quit playing ODIs and had said he will quit T20s after the World Twenty20.

However, he made a U-turn earlier this year, saying he is under huge pressure from his family and friends to continue playing T20s. "I would also like to inform that InshaAllah (god willing) I intend to continue to play the game for my country and league cricket etc., and request my fans for kindly keep praying and supporting me for my best future performances for Pakistan (as a player); and in all other arenas of the game, world over," Afridi said in his statement. Afridi led Pakistan in 43 T20s, winning 19 and losing 23. He replaced Mohammad Hafeez as T20 captain in 2014. —AP



Shahid Afridi

## PREMIER LEAGUE CLUBS HIT OUT AT DOPING CLAIMS

**LONDON:** Top English football clubs, including Premier League leaders Leicester City, have all angrily denied a newspaper report that a doctor who prescribed performance-enhancing drugs treated their players.

Leicester, defending champions Chelsea and Arsenal were cited in a Sunday Times report in which London-based private doctor Mark Bonar was secretly filmed talking about providing professional athletes with banned substances. All three clubs have strongly denied the allegations.

"Leicester City Football Club is extremely disappointed that The Sunday Times has published unsubstantiated allegations referring to players from clubs including Leicester City when, on its own admission, it has insufficient evidence to support the claims," the East Midlands side said in a statement.

Chelsea were equally vehement, saying: "Chelsea Football Club has never used the services of Dr Bonar and has no knowledge or record of any of our players having been treated by him or using his services."

Fellow London club Arsenal also issued a strident statement, slamming "false claims without foundation" and adding: "We strictly adhere to all guidelines set by the World Anti-Doping Agency and our first-team players participate in approximately 50 random drugs tests during each football season. "None of our players has ever failed such a test."

The Sunday Times, which has been at the

heart of several doping exposes involving international athletics over the last 12 months, conducted an undercover operation on anti-ageing doctor Bonar. The 38-year-old medic claims to have had a network of "secret clients".

The broadsheet said Bonar named athletes from several different sports. Those contacted but not named by the paper either denied being treated by him or declined to comment.

The newspaper was quick to add they had no independent evidence that he treated the unnamed players.

### BANNED TREATMENTS

Bonar, who was filmed covertly, is heard telling reporters he had also worked with an England cricketer, British Tour de France cyclists, a British boxing champion, tennis players and martial arts competitors.

"In the past six years he has treated more than 150 sports people from the UK and abroad variously with banned substances such as erythropoietin (EPO), steroids and human growth hormone, and the sports performance improvements were phenomenal," the report said.

In the newspaper's footage, Bonar is filmed saying: "Some of these treatments I use are banned on the professional circuit. It's how you do it," he said, adding: "You want to do it off-cycle or between races."

"The truth of the matter is drugs are in sport." UK Anti-Doping (UKAD), the agency responsi-

ble for protecting British sport from drug abuse, confirmed they were aware of Bonar two years ago, but said they had no power to investigate him. UKAD said it interviewed a sportsman in April and May 2014 who, in hoping to reduce his sanction, provided them with more than 100 names, 69 of which related to sport.

UKAD said it could only investigate athletes and their entourage (including medics) who fall under a sporting governing body.

It added that the General Medical Council (GMC), which controls Britain's register of doctors, could investigate possible medical malpractice but after assessing the information it had, UKAD said it did not believe there were grounds to refer the case. The GMC said the allegations were serious and it would investigate them "as a matter of urgency".

### PROBE LAUNCHED

In response to the expose, Bonar said it was irrelevant that some of his clients were professional athletes.

"If they have proven deficiencies on blood work and are symptomatic, I will treat them," he said. "I do not 'dope' or treat patients for the sole purpose of performance enhancement even though these treatments may enhance performance as a secondary effect." Britain's sports minister John Whittingdale said he was "shocked" by the allegations and has demanded an urgent independent investigation. — AP

## MADRID CAN WIN LA LIGA AFTER CLASICO COMEBACK: BALE

**BARCELONA:** Real Madrid star Gareth Bale believes his side can still win La Liga after coming from behind to inflict Barcelona's first defeat in 40 games with a 2-1 victory in El Clasico.

Madrid still trail Barca by seven points with seven league games to play, but Bale also highlighted the importance of the victory to Madrid's confidence ahead of their return to Champions League action against Wolfsburg in the quarter-finals on Wednesday.

"If we wanted to win the league this was a game we had to win," said the Welshman.

"You never know, football does funny things to teams when you lose and you never know what could happen. All they need is a few bad results, we need a few

good ones and we're right back in it.

"The most important thing today was to get the win to build confidence for the rest of the season.

"There's still the Champions League as well, which we're really looking forward to." The win was a huge turnaround for Madrid in Zinedine Zidane's first Clasico in charge after suffering a 4-0 thrashing at home to Barca earlier in the season.

Gerard Pique's towering header early in the second half put Barca in front, but Karim Benzema quickly levelled as Madrid tore the hosts apart on the counter-attack after the break.

And despite going down to 10 men when captain Sergio Ramos was sent off seven minutes from time, Bale crossed for Cristiano Ronaldo to strike the winner

moments later to spark belief Madrid can end a difficult season on a high.

Real were embarrassingly thrown out the Copa del Rey in December for fielding an ineligible player, but Bale believes having played a competition less than Barca has allowed them to arrive fresher to the business end of the season.

"Maybe being out of the Copa del Rey helps a little bit, we've had less games. We're feeling strong, confident now, and it's one final push until the end of the season. "Tonight really does put us mentally in a strong position, we can beat anyone on our day and we showed that."

"Barcelona have been saying they're the best team and we beat them in their own back yard tonight.

"We had a game plan, we know we've

got speed on the counter-attack so we used that to our advantage. We know obviously if you attack them they're not the best defensive team in the world."

Zidane also hailed the confidence boost victory gives his side ahead of their trip to Wolfsburg.

"We know what we want to do in the Champions League. Very few teams win here and I am happy for the players and for the fans who can be proud of their players. "For confidence it is very important to win here for the rest of the season and just before playing a Champions League game in Germany."

However, the Frenchman quelled suggestions Madrid were back in the title hunt with Atletico Madrid still separating Barca and Real at the top. "First we have

to get past Atletico, we are still third and then we will see. "To win here is a huge reward for the players. They played a huge game." Next up for Barca is a Champions League clash with Atletico on Tuesday and coach Luis Enrique insisted he has already turned the page as Barca look to become the first side to retain the trophy in the Champions League era.

"This game already doesn't exist for me," said Enrique. "There is no pain. We came into the game on the back of many games without losing, but defeats can teach you things and the players know that. "Every title has its difficulties, especially when you are playing against opponents with the same objectives." —AFP

## PELLEGRINI MAKES HIS POINT AFTER CITY STROLL

**BOURNEMOUTH:** Manuel Pellegrini hit back at the critics after Manchester City warmed up for their Champions League quarter-final against Paris Saint Germain with an impressive 4-0 victory at Bournemouth.

Goals by Fernando, Kevin De Bruyne, Sergio Aguero and Aleksandar Kolarov at Dean Court on Saturday tightened City's hold on fourth place in the Premier League and boosted confidence ahead of Wednesday's first leg in Paris.

A poor run of five losses in seven league matches before the international break, including three successive home defeats to title rivals Leicester and Tottenham and in the derby against Manchester United, caused some to doubt that City manager Pellegrini, due to be replaced by Pep Guardiola next season, could still motivate his players.

City's dominant display on the south-coast was the perfect answer and left them in control of their own destiny in the race to qualify for next season's Champions League.

Even without Joe Hart, Yaya Toure, Vincent Kompany and Raheem Sterling, City were too good for Bournemouth and Pellegrini took the opportunity to make a point to the doubters.

"The best way to prepare for the next game was to focus on this game, return to our style of play, try to recover the normal performance of our important players," Pellegrini said.

"We have had a lot of criticism this season but although we have had so many injuries to important players, it is one of the merits of this squad that we are the team that continues to fight in every competition to the end.

"We are the last English team in the Champions League, we won the League Cup, we were forced to go out of the FA Cup because we had several players injured and we prioritised the Premier League and the Champions League. "Unfortunately for us we lost three games at home, to Leicester, Tottenham and Manchester United."

"Of course if you have your players all fit together you win games more easily and that's the way we started the season, winning the first five games.

"If you play without Kevin (De Bruyne), without Yaya (Toure), without (Vincent) Kompany, of course it's another team. But I am very happy with the response of the squad.

"It has not been a bad season apart from the last three home games. I hope we are going to finish the season the same way we started."

### WINNING MENTALITY

Although City trail 12 points behind Leicester, Pellegrini would not even rule out the possibility of winning the Premier League title.

"If you have a winning mentality you must always think you can do it if the mathematics allow you to do it," he said.

"Of course if you drop points in the way we did it in the last few games it is more difficult. And we don't depend on just what we can do."

Pellegrini admitted Belgium midfielder De Bruyne, outstanding at Bournemouth on his return from a two-month absence caused by ankle ligament and knee injuries, had made a welcome return ahead of the PSG clash. "He's a very important player," Pellegrini said. "Before he was injured he was playing well, one of the players who was scoring and it was unlucky for him to have that injury.

"He gives Aguero more space. From watching him in training, I was sure he would play the same way he was playing before his injury.

"We played him for only 55 minutes so we'll see how he recovers." Bournemouth manager Eddie Howe, whose team are effectively safe from relegation even though he refuses to admit it, joined in the praise for City's performance.

"The game became very difficult because they are so good at keeping the ball," he said. "They were better in all areas today and we have to accept that. They are the team we want to become." —AFP



**SAN ANTONIO:** San Antonio Spurs' Kawhi Leonard (2) blocks the shot of Toronto Raptors' Terrence Ross (31) during the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game, Saturday, in San Antonio. —AP

## ALDRIDGE, LEONARD LEAD SPURS TO FRANCHISE RECORD 64TH WIN

**SAN ANTONIO:** Kawhi Leonard had a career-high 33 points, LaMarcus Aldridge had 31 points and 15 rebounds as the San Antonio Spurs beat the Toronto Raptors 102-95 Saturday night for their franchise-record 64th victory. San Antonio never trailed and topped its 63-win season in 2005-06. The Spurs also extended their NBA-record home winning streak to start the season to 39 games. Toronto sat Kyle Lowry and DeMar DeRozan for rest. The Spurs closed it out at the free-throw line, capturing their 48th straight home victory dating to March 2015. Patrick Patterson's intense effort helped the Raptors outscore the Spurs 52-36 in the paint. Norman Powell had 17 points, Jonas Valanciunas and Cory Joseph added 16 points and Patterson had 12 points for the Raptors.

### TRAIL BLAZERS 110, HEAT 93

C.J. McCollum had 24 points and made all six of his 3-point attempts to help the Portland Trail Blazers beat the Miami Heat for their seventh straight home win. Despite the loss, the Heat still clinched a playoff spot after the Chicago Bulls fell 94-90 to Detroit earlier in the evening. Miami came into the game tied for the third seed in the East but dropped to sixth with the loss. The Blazers made 10 3-pointers to break a franchise record for 3-pointers in a season with 808. They are in sixth place in the Western Conference and have not clinched a playoff spot yet. Damian Lillard did not play in the fourth quarter and finished with 18 points for the Blazers. Gerald Henderson came off the bench to score 17 points. Hassan Whiteside led the Heat with 21 points and 13 assists. Guard Dwyane Wade missed his second straight game because of back and neck injuries sustained during Wednesday's game against the Los Angeles Lakers.

### PISTONS 94, BULLS 90

Reggie Jackson scored 22 points and Tobias Harris added 21 as Detroit overcame Jimmy Butler's first career triple-double to beat Chicago. Marcus Morris had 16 points and Andre Drummond had 11 points and 11 rebounds for the Pistons, who remain on track for a playoff spot. Butler had 28 points and career highs of 17 rebounds and 12 assists. Pau Gasol had 16 points and 14 rebounds. Detroit is a half-game ahead of Indiana for seventh in the Eastern Conference and 2 1/2 games up on ninth-place Chicago.

### PACERS 115, 76ERS 102

C.J. Miles scored 25 points, including a go-ahead 3-pointer with 3:39 left as Indiana rallied to beat short-handed Philadelphia. Paul George added 20 points, eight rebounds and seven assists for Indiana, the eighth seed in the NBA's Eastern Conference. Rodney Stuckey scored 17 points. Isaiah Canaan had 24 points for Philadelphia (9-68), which needs one victory in its remaining five games to avoid matching the 1972-73 Sixers for the worst full-season record in NBA history. Jerami Grant had 20

points and nine rebounds for Philadelphia, which has lost 13 straight and 25 of 26. Carl Landry scored 19 points.

### KINGS 115, NUGGETS 106

Rudy Gay had 25 points and nine rebounds and Seth Curry scored 17 points to help Sacramento beat Denver to sweep the three-game season series. Darren Collison had 14 points and eight assists and Willie Cauley-

Stein and Ben McLemore scored 14 points each for Sacramento, which played without DeMarcus Cousins and Rajon Rondo. The Kings left Cousins and Rondo - their two best players - in Sacramento for the one-game trip. Cousins averaged 38 points, 14.5 rebounds and three blocks in two wins over the Nuggets this season. Gary Harris led Denver with 19 points and Emmanuel Mudiay and Joffrey Lauvergne had 15 apiece. — AP

### NBA Results/Standings

Indiana 115, Philadelphia 102; Detroit 94, Chicago 90; San Antonio 102, Toronto 95; Sacramento 115, Denver 106.

Eastern Conference				Western Conference			
Atlantic Division				Northwest Division			
W	L	PCT	GB	Oklahoma City	53	23	.697
Toronto	51	25	.671	Portland	41	36	.532
Boston	44	32	.579	Utah	38	38	.500
NY Knicks	31	46	.403	20.5	Denver	32	46
Brooklyn	21	55	.276	30	Minnesota	25	51
Philadelphia	9	68	.117	42.5	28		
Central Division				Pacific Division			
Cleveland	54	22	.711	-	Golden State	68	8
Detroit	41	36	.532	13.5	LA Clippers	47	28
Indiana	40	36	.526	14	Sacramento	31	46
Chicago	38	38	.500	16	Phoenix	20	56
Milwaukee	32	44	.421	22	LA Lakers	16	59
Southeast Division				Southwest Division			
Charlotte	44	31	.587	-	San Antonio	64	12
Atlanta	45	32	.584	-	Memphis	41	35
Miami	44	32	.579	0.5	Dallas	38	38
Washington	37	39	.487	7.5	Houston	37	39
Orlando	32	44	.421	12.5	New Orleans	28	47

## ALL EYES ON LIVERPOOL FOR DORTMUND'S 'KLOPP DERBY'

**DORTMUND:** Borussia Dortmund coach Thomas Tuchel says his team's confidence is sky-high for Thursday's Europa League quarter-final, first-leg, at home to Liverpool in what has been dubbed the Jurgen Klopp derby.

The Liverpool manager enjoyed seven stellar years at Signal Iduna Park and can expect a warm welcomed in Dortmund, ahead of the return leg at Anfield on April 17.

Klopp steered Dortmund to the Bundesliga title in 2011, the league and cup double in 2012 and the 2013 Champions League final, but walked away at the end of last season when they finished seventh in Germany's top flight.

Tuchel, his successor, has given Dortmund fresh impetus and they are second only to Bayern Munich in Germany this season.

Winger Henrikh Mkhitaryan is enjoying a stellar season alongside Germany star Marco Reus and Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, who has scored 23 league goals, to form a trio which has netted 43 times in the Bundesliga.

But it was super subs Shinji Kagawa and Adrian Ramos who netted late goals in Dortmund's 3-2 fight-back win over Werder Bremen on Saturday as they warmed up for Liverpool.

The win, which secured Dortmund's place in the Champions League next season, was down to their 'diligence and attitude', according to Tuchel, while Klopp dubbed Borussia's gritty team 'monsters of mentality' during his reign.

"To come from behind and stay calm showed a great reaction from the team," said Tuchel.

"It's an extra quality to have someone like Ramos who can come on, but it is a testament to all the players how intensive our training sessions are.

"My players are setting the standard in terms of attitude and diligence.

"Due to the number and type of our victories this season (36 wins in 46 games in all competitions), the team has developed a great confidence. "I didn't get the feeling that the Liverpool game was a factor, but from now on we'll be concerning ourselves with the 'Reds'."

Tuchel had his three first-choice centre-backs missing against Bremen with Neven Subotic injured, Sokratis ill and Mats

Hummels rested.

Nevertheless, Aubameyang opened the scoring in the second-half before Kagawa put them level and Ramos headed the late winner after Bremen had gone 2-1 up on 74 minutes thanks to an own goal from Gonzalo Castro and a neat strike from Zlatko Junuzovic.

While Tuchel was not talking about Klopp's return, Dortmund's CEO Hans-Joachim Watzke certainly was and he says his friendship with the Liverpool manager will be put aside until the final whistle.

"We will be clear opponents on Thursday, there is no need for mucking around in a friendship," Watzke told broadcaster ZDF.

"My concern is that he will bring the (home) fans to his side and create an atmosphere like you get in a friendly." —AFP



**Liverpool's manager Jurgen Klopp.**



**VIGO:** Celta Vigo's Serbian midfielder Nemanja Radoja (C) heads the ball with Deportivo La Coruna's defender Fernando Navarro (L) during the Spanish league football match RC Celta de Vigo vs RC Deportivo at the Balaidos stadium in Vigo yesterday. —AFP

## HIGUAIN FROM HERO TO ZERO AS UDINESE DENT NAPOLI HOPES

**MILAN:** Gonzalo Higuain hit his 30th Serie A goal then saw red as Napoli's hopes of a first title in 26 years were dealt a blow in a bad-tempered 3-1 defeat to Udinese.

Napoli, who last won the title when Diego Maradona played his penultimate season at the club in 1990, were left with a six-point deficit to Juventus after the champions' 1-0 win over Empoli on Saturday. Trailing 2-1 at half-time thanks to a Bruno Fernandes double which included a spot-kick and a spectacular overhead kick, Napoli failed to recover after falling behind to Cyril Thereau's strike just before the hour. Having seen coach Maurizio Sarri sent from the touchlines before the interval for protesting a second penalty award, Napoli suffered another blow when Higuain was given his marching orders in the final quarter

hour. After an angry exchange with the match referee, the Argentine striker had to be restrained by teammates as he tried to remonstrate with Udinese players. If Napoli fail in their title bid on the final matchday on May 15, this loss will be seen as the turning point.

Napoli's first reverse since a 1-0 defeat to Juventus two months ago leaves them second at six points behind four-time consecutive champions Juventus with seven games remaining.

Roma are away at Lazio in the capital derby later looking to close their seven-point gap to second place although defeat for Luciano Spalletti's visitors would brighten the Champions League qualifying hopes of both Fiorentina and Inter Milan, who are five points further behind. But Sarri was defiant: "We can't take anything away from Udinese, they

played great while we just never got to play at our usual level. "The defeat will make us angry for a day or so, but it will also give us enough fuel for the next seven games. "We're having a great campaign. We have to pick ourselves up as soon as possible." Juve's win on Saturday prompted coach Massimiliano Allegri to proclaim: "I hope Napoli drop points."

Adding to the pressure, Napoli were without injured 'keeper Pepe Reina (calf) for a fixture they had not won at the Friuli since September 2007. Udinese, despite their poor recent form, had Reina's replacement, Gabriel, flapping in the Napoli net soon after kick-off prior to which a minute's applause was held and AC Milan legend Cesare Maldini, who died at the age of 84. But coach Gigi De Canio affirmed: "We didn't turn up here

just to make up the numbers. It was a great performance against a top side, and one that should give us the belief that we can do it again."

Senegal defender Kalidou Koulibaly was clumsy with his shoulder charge on Emmanuel Badu and after the referee pointed to the spot Fernandes stepped up to squirm a tame shot under the body of Gabriel. Napoli were back on level terms soon after, Higuain hitting a crisp first-timer past Orestis Karnezis on 24 minutes after Jose Callejon's drive was charged down.

But less than a minute later, Udinese earned another penalty when Silvan Widmer was tripped from behind by Faouzi Ghoulam. This time, Gabriel blocked Fernandes's poorly-hit shot but the save did not calm the nerves of Sarri, whose protestations on the touchlines

prompted his expulsion. Udinese remained a threat, Gabriel rushing out to punch at the feet of former Napoli striker Duvan Zapata after Badu's overhead kick had sent the ball towards goal. Zapata flashed a header wide following cross from Thereau soon after while at the other end Higuain fired over and Lorenzo Insigne skewed just wide of the near post. Napoli were stunned on the stroke of half-time when a Gabriel's poor control gave possession to Zapata, who twisted and turned before sending a cross over for Fernandes to fire an overhead kick into the empty net. Gabriel was left stranded again although Napoli's defence was primarily at fault 13 minutes after the restart when Thereau got between Raul Albiol and Elseid Hysaj a yard from goal to guide a cross from the right past the keeper. — AFP

## JUVE SIGHT RECORD AS ROMA ROUT LAZIO

**MILAN:** A record-equalling fifth consecutive crown moved a step closer for Serie A champions Juventus yesterday as Roma maintained their Champions League push with a 4-1 humiliation of derby rivals Lazio.

Juventus looked to be down and out of the title race only months after securing a league and Cup double last year in Massimiliano Allegri's first season in charge.

But from a dismal start to the campaign that left the Turin giants only a handful of points above the relegation zone, Juve have pulled six points clear of rivals Napoli following their shock 3-1 defeat at Udinese.

Juve, who last won a fifth straight crown in 1935, managed only a 1-0 win from a dominant performance at home to Empoli on Saturday but it was enough for Allegri to proclaim "I hope Napoli drop points" at Udinese. The 48-year-old's wish came true.

Although Argentine striker Gonzalo Higuain hit his 30th league goal of the campaign, Napoli imploded in a bad-tempered display at the Stadio Friuli that saw coach Maurizio Sarri sent off for dissent and Higuain see red after an angry altercation in the closing quarter hour.

Napoli's dream of securing a first scudetto since Diego Maradona played his penultimate season with the club in 1990 looks to be slipping away, especially as Juve have an arguably easier run-in.

But Sarri says it's not over yet: "The defeat will make us angry for a day or so, but it will also give us enough fuel for the next seven games."

"No one can point the finger at us because we're six points behind Juventus. We're having a great campaign and I have a squad of 25 players who will pick themselves back up and show great determination to finish the season on a high."

Although still in the title race, Napoli will now feel the heat from third-placed Roma, who humiliated Lazio 4-1 in what may have been Francesco Totti's final derby appearance.

### DEADLOCK

Although Totti is hoping for a 24th and

final year's contract, club president James Pallotta is trying to steer the 39-year-old into a director's role instead.

Having made only six appearances amid an injury-hit season, Totti started on the bench as Roma maintained their push for a third consecutive runners-up spot albeit in a virtually empty stadium as fans largely heeded boycott calls in protest at new security measures.

Coach Luciano Spalletti told Premium Sport: "I'm sorry Totti didn't have a chance to come on but as coach I have decisions to make and I have other players who are just as strong as him."

The visitors broke the deadlock on 16 minutes when Stephan El Shaarawy got his head to a cross to claim his maiden goal in the "Derby della Capitale".

Lazio's few positive notes came from highly-rated Brazilian forward Felipe Anderson in an otherwise disappointing first half. "We suffered in the opening half because it was just too difficult to take possession from them," said coach Stefano Pioli. "On their goals, we made big mistakes but I don't think the score is a true reflection of the game. "In such a difficult season we wanted to give some joy to the fans. All we can do now is give everything we have till the end of the season."

Roma resumed in similar fashion and minutes after replacing El Shaarawy on the hour, Edin Dzeko fired home the rebound from Diego Perotti's drive when it came off the post. German veteran Miroslav Klose, who had replaced Alessandro Matri on 56 minutes, changed Lazio's prospects by rising to head the ball into the path of Marco Parolo for his easy poke into the net on 75 minutes. But Roma finished in style, Alessandro Florenzi pouncing on Gil Patric's poor headed clearance to fire a first-timer past Marchetti, who was left clutching at thin air minutes later when Perotti curled inside his far post.

A win for Inter Milan over Torino will see Roberto Mancini's men move past Fiorentina into fourth place to sit five points behind Roma. — AFP



**LEICESTER:** Southampton's Jose Fonte, right, jumps over Southampton's goalkeeper Fraser Forster chased by Leicester's Daniel Drinkwater during the English Premier League soccer match between Leicester City and Southampton at the King Power Stadium in Leicester, England, yesterday. — AP

## MORGAN SENDS LEICESTER SEVEN POINTS CLEAR



**LEICESTER:** Leicester City captain Wes Morgan scored his first goal in almost a year as the Premier League fairytale-title chasers edged Southampton 1-0 yesterday to establish a potentially decisive seven-point lead.

Tottenham Hotspur's 1-1 draw at Liverpool on Saturday had given Claudio Ranieri's men an opportunity to strengthen their grip on first place and they duly took it courtesy of Morgan's 38th-minute header. It was Leicester's fifth 1-0 victory in six matches and with just six games of the season remaining, the 132-year-old club's first ever top-flight title is now tantalisingly within sight.

The east Midlands side were bottom of the table a year ago, but require just 12 points from a possible 18 to complete one of the most sensational underdog triumphs in world football history. Ronald Koeman's Southampton, who had two penalty appeals for handball turned

away, remain seventh and face an uphill battle to force their way into the Europa League berths.

With chairman Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha laying on free doughnuts and bottles of beer for home fans to mark his birthday and 'Leicester City Champions 2016' scarves for sale on the walk to the ground, the atmosphere could barely have been more festive at a sun-soaked King Power Stadium. In a bid to counter Leicester's two-pronged strike-force of Jamie Vardy and Shinji Okazaki, Southampton deployed a back three and while the home side made the early running, the clearest opportunities of the first half fell to the visitors.

Their best chance saw Graziano Pelle free Sadio Mane, who rounded Kasper Schmeichel and shot, only for the ball to strike Danny Simpson's right forearm as he came across to cover the vacant goal.

Southampton appealed for a penalty, but the right-back's arm had remained close to his body so referee Michael Oliver waved play on.

### AUSTIN APPEAL

Pelle also headed over from a Cedric Soares cross, while Jose Fonte fully extended Schmeichel with a rising drive from 25 yards and Jordie Clasie shot narrowly over after out-muscling Riyad Mahrez.

But with Southampton poised to poop the

party, Leicester struck, Christian Fuchs guiding a cross into the box from the left flank and Morgan outjumping Clasie to plant a captain's header inside the left-hand post. Dusan Tadic replaced Matt Targett at half-time for Southampton, who changed to a 4-2-3-1 system, but they were almost undone within seconds of the restart, with Victor Wanyama booked for putting an arm in Vardy's face as the England striker looked to burst clear.

Just past the hour, it took a superb one-handed stop from Southampton goalkeeper Fraser Forster to prevent Fonte steering Danny Drinkwater's cross into his own net.

Ten minutes later Forster was at it again, parrying from right on the goal-line after Simpson took aim at a gaping goal from Vardy's low cross. Koeman had seen his side come from 2-0 down to beat Liverpool 3-2 in their previous game and he threw caution to the wind by sending on Charlie Austin and James Ward-Prowse for Clasie and Steven Davis. Seconds after coming on Austin had a strong penalty appeal when his shot struck Robert Huth's outstretched left hand, but to the frustration of Southampton and Tottenham, Arsenal and Manchester City-Oliver was again unmoved.

Vardy might have settled the home nerves late on, only for Forster to repel his prodded effort, but it mattered not. — AFP



**TURIN:** Juventus' Alvaro Morata goes for the ball during a Serie A soccer match between Juventus and Empoli, at the Juventus Stadium, Turin, Italy, Saturday. — AP

## DUTCH AJAX FANS PAY TRIBUTE TO CRUYFF

**THE HAGUE:** Hundreds of Dutch football fans yesterday paid further tribute to legendary late player Johan Cruyff, marching between two Amsterdam stadiums ahead of a match by his old team Ajax. "Johan rest in peace," proclaimed a large black banner bearing a picture of the Amsterdam boy, who rose to become one of football's greatest players, carried at the front of the procession.

The large crowd estimated at around 1,500 people sang songs in praise of their hero as they walked from De Meer Stadion, the former home of Ajax, to the bigger 53,000-capacity stadium ArenA in the Dutch city. Many of them were wearing the number 14 shirt which was Cruyff's tag during his years with the team.

Cruyff, 68, died on March 24 after a brief struggle with cancer, triggering a global outpouring of mourning for a man recognised as having left a huge footballing legacy.

"It is wonderful that so many people have joined in, it's very special," said Sjaak Swart, a

former Ajax forward who played a record 600 games with the club.

Cruyff "deserves it more than anyone else. It is awful that he has died from this terrible disease. We should make it a day to remember," Swart added. The march came before a game between Ajax and FC Zwolle later Sunday, when there was also to be a minute's silence before kick-off. About 150 former players from the Amsterdam club were also to attend the game, the Dutch news agency ANP said.

Outside Cruyff's former home in the Amsterdam district of Betondorp, fans also set off red fireworks. Having led Ajax to the European Cup three times in 1971, 1972 and 1973, Cruyff also led the Netherlands to the 1974 World Cup final where despite losing 2-1 the Dutch won admirers the world over. About 90,000 Barcelona fans on Saturday also took part in a spectacular pre-match display to honour Cruyff—a former player and coach with the Spanish team. — AFP

**BERLIN:** Borussia Moenchengladbach climbed into the Bundesliga's Champions League places yesterday with a 5-0 hammering of Hertha Berlin as Andre Hahn scored his first goal since his horror injury. Gladbach routed third-placed Hertha 4-1 in Berlin last October and again ran riot at Borussia Park as Thorgan Hazard scored twice with Germany winger Patrick Hermann and Ibrahima Traore joining Hahn on the score-sheet. The result sees Gladbach climb from seventh to fourth and are now just three points behind Hertha with Andre Schubert's team hunting a return to the Champions League next season.

It was Gladbach's highest scoring league win for five years. Gladbach took the lead when Hertha's goalkeeper Rune Jarstein made a hash of his clearance kick on 14 minutes. Borussia's Mahmoud Dahoud intercepted the ball and his pass found Hazard, who fired home.

Gladbach doubled their tally with an hour gone when Hahn marked his first start in five months with a superb individual effort. Having received the ball with his back to goal, Hahn made enough space to turn and hit the top left-hand corner.

It marked his sweet return to Gladbach's starting line-up after a horror tackle by Schalke's Johannes Geis left him with a fractured leg and

knocked him out of the team last October.

The floodgates opened in the last 15 minutes as Herrmann finished a move he started with Hazard on 76 minutes before the Belgian claimed his second on 80 minutes.

With the Hertha defence in disarray, Ibrahima Traore replaced Hazard and scored two minutes after coming off the bench to claim Gladbach's fifth. Later Hoffenheim escaped the relegation

places with a dramatic 1-1 draw at home to Cologne as Kevin Volland's equaliser came in the 91st minute. The single point lifts Hoffenheim from 16th to 14th and pushes Augsburg into the bottom three.

On Saturday, Franck Ribery's spectacular bicycle kick sealed Bayern Munich's 1-0 win over second-from-bottom Eintracht Frankfurt to keep Pep Guardiola's side five points clear. — AFP



**MOENCHENGLADBACH:** Moenchengladbach's Andre Hahn scores his side's second goal during the German Bundesliga soccer match between Borussia Moenchengladbach and Hertha BSC Berlin in Moenchengladbach, Germany, yesterday. — AP

# Sports

Medvedeva, 16, wins world title with record free skate score

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Morgan sends Leicester seven points clear

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ALDRIDGE, LEONARD LEAD SPURS TO FRANCHISE RECORD 64TH WIN Page 18



KOLKATA: The West Indies men's and women's team pose for a group photo after winning their finals matches of the ICC World Twenty20 2016 cricket tournament at Eden Gardens in Kolkata, India, yesterday. — AP

## BRATHWAITE LEADS WINDIES TO WORLD T20 TITLE

**KOLKATA:** Carlos Brathwaite hit four consecutive sixes in the last over as the West Indies stunned England to lift the World Twenty20 title in Kolkata yesterday.

The Windies went into the last over needing 19 to win and with expert death bowler Ben Stokes handed the ball, it looked like England would see out the win. But Brathwaite held his nerve to fire the Windies to an unlikely four-wicket win with two balls to spare, leaving Stokes devastated on the field.

"To see Carlos play like that at his debut World Cup was just tremendous," an emotional West Indies skipper Darren Sammy said afterwards. England captain Eoin Morgan refused to blame Stokes. "It's not his fault, we're all in this together, we enjoy our wins, and the pain will be shared tonight," he said.

Marlon Samuels anchored the West Indies' run chase of 156 with an unbeaten 85, including nine boundaries and two sixes, after England had posted 155-9 in their 20 overs.

After being reduced to 11 for three, Samuels single-handedly kept the Caribbean team in the hunt with his 66-ball blitz. Brathwaite finished on 34 not out off just 10 balls as the 2012 champions completed a hat-trick of titles after the women's clinched their maiden trophy earlier on Sunday.

The Under-19 team had already lifted the youth World Cup in February. "Everybody in the West Indies is a champion," beamed Sammy.

The Windies also became the first team to lift the World T20 twice. England's batting hero Joe Root had hit Windies hard with a double strike when he shared the new ball with David Willey to get the West Indies' openers trudging back to the dug out.

Root struck on his first ball as Johnson Charles skied a

catch to mid-wicket but the really big wicket came on the third delivery when Chris Gayle departed.

Gayle tried an ambitious slog after hitting a first-ball boundary but could only find the fielder at long-on to trigger wild celebrations in the English camp.

Willey then got semi-final star Lendl Simmons out leg before wicket for nought to leave the Windies tottering at 11 for three.

### SAMUELS UNBEATEN 85

Samuels counter-attacked by hitting Chris Jordan for three boundaries in the sixth and last over of the powerplay that cost England 16 runs.

Samuels, who was given an early life after wicketkeeper Jos Buttler grassed a caught behind, stitched a 75-run partnership with Dwayne Bravo (25) to help the Windies rebuild.

Willey turned up for his second spell with a double strike to hurt Windies' hopes of reviving their chase as the asking-rate kept growing, but new man Brathwaite had other ideas.

Brathwaite managed an unbeaten 54-run stand with man-of-the-match Samuels to stun England. Earlier West Indies' bowlers justified captain Darren Sammy's decision to field first as Samuel Badree and Andre Russell put England on the backfoot at only 23 for three in 4.4 overs.

Opening the attack for the Windies, leg-spinner Badree got Jason Roy clean out for a second ball duck and also accounted for struggling English skipper Eoin Morgan (5) in his third over.

Root (54), who struck his third half-century of the tournament, and Buttler (36) then came up with a fine re-building act to manage a 61-run fourth wicket partnership.

### SCOREBOARD

**KOLKATA:** Scoreboard from the World Twenty20 final between West Indies and England at Kolkata's Eden Gardens stadium yesterday:

England	West Indies	
J. Roy b Badree	0	Bravo 4-0-37-3, Brathwaite 4-0-23-3, Sammy 1-0-14-0
A. Hales c Badree b Russell	1	<b>West Indies</b>
J. Root c Benn b Brathwaite	54	J. Charles c Stokes b Root
E. Morgan c Gayle b Badree	5	C. Gayle c Stokes b Root
J. Buttler c Bravo b Brathwaite	36	M. Samuels not out
B. Stokes c Simmons b Bravo	13	L. Simmons lbw b Willey
M. Ali c Ramdin b Bravo	0	D. Bravo c Root b Rashid
C. Jordan not out	12	A. Russell c Stokes b Willey
D. Willey c Charles b Brathwaite	21	D. Sammy c Hales b Willey
L. Plunkett c Badree b Bravo	4	C. Brathwaite not out
A. Rashid not out	4	Extras (lb 3, w 6)
Extras (lb 4, w 1)	5	Total (for six wickets, 19.4 overs)
Total (for nine wickets, 20 overs)	155	Did not bat: D. Ramdin, S. Badree, S. Benn
Fall of wickets: 1-0 (Roy), 2-8 (Hales), 3-23 (Morgan), 4-84 (Buttler), 5-110 (Stokes) 6-110 (Ali), 7-111 (Root), 8-136 (Willey), 9-142 (Plunkett)		Fall of wickets: 1-1 (Charles), 2-5 (Gayle), 3-11 (Simmons), 4-86 (Bravo), 5-104 (Russell), 6-107 (Sammy)
Bowling: Badree 4-1-16-2, Russell 4-0-21-1, Benn 3-0-40-0,		Bowling: Willey 4-0-20-3, Root 1-0-9-2, Jordan 4-0-36-0, Plunkett 4-0-29-0, Rashid 4-0-23-1, Stokes 2.4-0-41-0

Medium-pacer Brathwaite got Buttler against the run of play when Bravo took a good catch at deep mid-wicket before celebrating with his customary 'Champions' dance.

Sammy soon cashed in on Bravo's catch to bring him on to bowl and the medium-pacer obliged with two wickets in his second over.

England's batting soon crumbled after Brathwaite got dangerous Root trudging back as a scoop shot turned out to be the in-form batsman's undoing.

Brathwaite and Bravo shared three wickets apiece to hit England hard. David Willey's late cameo of 21 was studded with a boundary and two sixes and to give the England total some respect. (See Page 17) — AFP

## MARTIAL THE MATCH-WINNER AS UNITED HONOUR CHARLTON



**MANCHESTER:** Anthony Martial scored the only goal of the game as Manchester United beat Everton 1-0 in the Premier League at Old Trafford yesterday to climb within a point of fourth-placed local rivals Manchester City.

Martial's 54th-minute strike gave the French striker his 13th goal of the season and helped United celebrate the fact that Old Trafford's south stand had been renamed in honour of club great Bobby Charlton in fine fashion. Victory kept alive United boss Louis van Gaal's hopes of qualifying for the Champions League—the top four clubs in England get a spot—and thus satisfying the minimum demand on an Old Trafford manager. This was United's fourth successive home win, a feat they managed for the first time since a six-match streak in April last year. United have now won four of their last five league games, including the Manchester derby at the Etihad Stadium.

Everton, as befits a side with a better away record than at Goodison Park, began with clear attacking intent and the United defence had to be on its toes to deal with Ross Barkley and Romelu Lukaku.

Barkley was a lively influence and in the 12th minute he found Gerard Deulofeu on the right,

the Belgian cutting into the penalty area past two tackles without being able to have a clear shot before Matteo Darmian cleared the danger.

Everton continued to delight their travelling contingent with their attacking style, and Leighton Baines saw one of his trademark free kicks diverted for a corner as the first half approached the halfway mark. Lukaku finally had a glimpse of a chance when England goalkeeper-half Chris Smalling slipped but United centre-half David de Gea had anticipated the danger and won the race to hack clear.

Daley Blind once more won a one-on-one duel with Lukaku as the Belgian threatened to break away, while at the other end right back Seamus Coleman had to be precision-perfect with a challenge to deny the raiding Marcos Rojo in Everton's penalty area.

United's measured build-up does not always please their fans, but a patient passing move almost resulted in the breakthrough only for defender John Stones to halt Martial in the area.

### DELIGHTFUL PASSING

Everton resumed after half-time in determined mood, and Blind did well to block Lukaku's effort in the area when Baines threaded a pass through to the Belgian with his back to goal.

However, it was Martial who broke the deadlock when he got on the end of a delightful passing move that started with Juan Mata, was enhanced by a neat backheel by Marcus Rashford and completed by the striker, who converted at the far post when Coleman failed to connect with an attempted clearance. It was Manchester United's 1,000th home goal in the Premier League. — FP

## ROSBERG ROMPS TO FIFTH WIN IN A ROW

**SAKHIR, Bahrain:** Mercedes driver Nico Rosberg became the eighth man in Formula One history to win five consecutive races with a victory at the Bahrain Grand Prix yesterday, and will now aim to do what all the other seven did: Go on to capture the championship title. Rosberg made it back-to-back wins to start the new season, and five in a row dating to 2015, with a comfortable victory, capitalizing on a first-corner collision involving teammate Lewis Hamilton and an engine failure that prevented Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel from starting the race.

He led throughout to win by 10.2 seconds at the Sakhir circuit over Ferrari's Kimi Raikkonen, with Hamilton recovering from the collision with the Williams of Valtteri Bottas and finishing third. "It was a really good getaway on the dirty side of the grid and that really made my race in the end," Rosberg said. "From then on the car was feeling great and just controlling the pace and playing it safe. Two wins in a row now, good points, that's where my focus is. Five wins, three wins in a row, doesn't make a difference."

Red Bull's Daniel Ricciardo was fourth and Romain Grosjean fifth in another encouraging performance by the new American-based Haas team. Toro Rosso teenager Max Verstappen was sixth and Red Bull's Daniil Kvyat seventh, ahead of the Williams drivers Felipe Massa and Bottas, with McLaren's Stoffel Vandoorne in 10th to take a point on his F1 debut.

There was drama on the warm-up lap as smoke began pouring from the back of Vettel's Ferrari and he immediately parked the car. It was the second reliability failure for Ferrari already this season after trouble struck Raikkonen in Australia. Pole-sitter Hamilton



**SAKHIR:** Mercedes driver Nico Rosberg of Germany holds the trophy on the podium after he won the Bahrain Formula One Grand Prix yesterday. — AP

again got off to a poor start, like he did in Melbourne, as he adjusts to the new rule restricting drivers to a single clutch at the start. "Two separate incidents, but both equally as painful, perhaps this one today more painful," Hamilton said. "It was just not a good getaway by myself and nothing technical."

The Briton was running behind Rosberg at the first corner when Bottas made an ambitious move on the inside, braked too late and collided with the right side of the Mercedes, dropping

Hamilton down to seventh at the end of the first lap. Bottas was blamed by stewards and was forced to do a pit lane drive-through penalty. "Everyone seemed to go very tight inside and it was too late," Bottas said. "I was trying to brake as hard as I could. I got a penalty and I'm sure he lost some places because of that. It's a shame."

With his chief rivals out of the equation, Rosberg sailed away up front, and pushed his lead to 8.5 seconds after six laps and more than 14 by the first round of pit stops for the top cars, beginning on lap 12. The top three matched tire strategy except for Hamilton being put onto the hardest-available medium compound for his middle stint while Rosberg and Raikkonen were on softs. Despite that, Hamilton made his second stop before the pair in front of him.

Raikkonen has finished on the podium in Bahrain eight times without winning, and acknowledged that Ferrari must get on top of its engine troubles if it's to pose a threat to Mercedes this season. "I had a bad start and after a few laps we were one straight behind Nico and it's hard to recover from that," Raikkonen said. "We have some work to be done. It costs a lot of points for the drivers as well as the team."

Hamilton carried damage on the right side of the chassis throughout the race after the first-corner collision. "I had so much damage on the car I could not keep up with Kimi," Hamilton said. "I lost a lot of performance on the car. Whoever was on the inside (in the collision) was in the blind spot; I couldn't see them." The next round of the championship is the Chinese Grand Prix in Shanghai on April 17. — AP

# Kuwait Times BUSINESS

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PORT TALBOT: Steelworkers wait for British Business Secretary Sajid Javid (not pictured) to leave Tata Steel's steel plant. — AFP

## BRITAIN MOVES TO BOLSTER FALTERING STEEL INDUSTRY 'TATA WILL ISSUE AN OFFER DOCUMENT VERY SOON'

**LONDON:** The government will do all it can to keep Britain's biggest steelworks running, Business Secretary Sajid Javid said yesterday, in the face of a crisis threatening the country's steel industry. Indian steel giant Tata Steel announced Tuesday it was putting its loss-making British business up for sale, including the Port Talbot plant on the south Wales coast. Javid said he thought there was time to find a buyer for the plant and Tata Steel's other

UK assets. "Tata will issue an offer document very soon," he told BBC television. The government is "also going to have to offer support to clinch that buyer and give that steel plant a long-term, viable future". Tata Steel employs around 15,000 staff in Britain.

However, Port Talbot is reportedly losing £1 million (1.3 million Euros, \$1.4 million) a day in the face of high energy costs and plunging prices caused by a chronic global oversupply

of steel and a glut of cheap imports, particularly from China.

### Nationalization not the answer

The facility is Wales's biggest single employer. "It wouldn't be prudent to rule anything out at this stage, but I think that nationalization is rarely an answer in these situations," said Javid.

"I do feel, though... that there will be

enough time to find the right buyer working with the government and being able to take this forward. "We will look at everything we can do to allow a sale going ahead."

Metal processing company Liberty House is looking at some of Tata's British assets. The group's president Sanjeev Gupta was quoted by The Sunday Telegraph newspaper as saying he was not interested in all of Tata's British assets but was prepared to enter negotiations.

"We would need a proper partnership with the government. I don't know what that would entail at this stage," he said, adding that he was heading to Britain today.

"We are in the process of starting a discussion with Tata. "If the company, its people, its workers and the government would be willing to consider my suggestions, then I'm willing to engage in a discussion about what role we will play in that." — AFP

## GULF MARKETS RETREAT AS OIL TUMBLES AGAIN

**KUWAIT:** Gulf stock markets retreated yesterday after Brent crude oil pulled back below \$39 a barrel, while Egypt's bourse erased early gains. Brent fell 3 percent last week, although it finished the first quarter up 6 percent. In response, Riyadh's stock index fell 1.6 percent to a five-week low of 6,126 points, breaking technical support at its mid-March low of 6,202 points.

Yesterday, the Saudi market started trading at 10 am local time (0700 GMT), an hour earlier than previously, and closed at 4 pm local time, half an hour earlier, as part of efforts to develop the market and link trading with other regional bourses.

The petrochemical sector fell 2.2 percent. With first-quarter financial results due in a few weeks, analysts anticipate a further profit squeeze in the sector after the government, to save money, cut gas feedstock subsidies at the end of last year. Riyadh-based NCB Capital expects the sector's net income for 2016 to fall 9.7 percent to 20.0 billion riyals (\$5.33 billion).

There is also uncertainty over economic policy. Deputy crown prince Mohammed bin Salman told Bloomberg at the weekend that the Public Investment Fund would eventually control more than \$2 trillion, partly by taking over shares in national oil giant Saudi Aramco, gaining more financial clout to make further investments and earnings for the government.

There is unease over how this process would be managed and the effect on the stock market. "It seems that retail investors want to sit on some cash for the time being until there is more clarity regarding the National Transformation Plan," said a Jeddah-based analyst. The insurance sector, favored by speculative day traders, tumbled 3.9 percent. But Saudi Arabian Mining (Ma'aden) added 3.5 percent after it said commercial output had begun at the Ad Dawayhi gold

mine in western Saudi Arabia. The impact would begin to appear in second-quarter financial results.

National Shipping Company (Bahri) added 1.9 percent after the oil transporter said it had signed a murabaha, or Islamic finance, facility with Riyad Bank worth 1.425 billion Riyals (\$380 million) to finance construction of five very large crude carriers.

### Dubai, Egypt down

Dubai's index fell 1.6 percent in modest volume to 3,303 points, retreating from technical resistance on the March peaks of 3,397-3,421 points. Shares that have recently witnessed a rally of more than 10 percent from their mid-January lows were sold off, with Arabtec and developer Dubai Parks and Resorts dropping 1.8 percent and 2.3 percent respectively.

Energy-related stocks were the main drag on Abu Dhabi's index, which slid 0.7 percent. Abu Dhabi National Energy Co (TAQA) dropped 6.1 percent, erasing most of a 6.5 percent gain which it posted on Thursday after reporting a narrower fourth-quarter loss of 1.22 billion Dirhams (\$332.2 million) versus a net loss of 3.63 billion Dirhams a year ago. Qatar's benchmark fell 1.2 percent in the lowest volume since Jan. 12 as most blue chips were sold. Barwa Real Estate and Vodafone Qatar each dropped more than 1.5 percent.

Cairo's main index failed to hold onto early session gains and fell 0.1 percent in the lowest volumes since the devaluation of the Egyptian pound on March 14. Real estate investment firm Amer Group declined 2.3 percent. But investment firm Qalaa Holdings, the most heavily traded stock on the bourse, rose 3.7 percent; it had jumped 8.5 percent in record volume on Thursday. The shares are up 29.7 percent since the devaluation of the pound. — Reuters

## GOLD PRICES PLUMMET TO LOWEST LEVEL IN 5 WEEKS

**KUWAIT:** Gold price dropped to USD 1,207 per ounce, the lowest level since five weeks ago, affected by US employment reports for March, said Sabaek Al-Kuwait Company yesterday. The American reports contributed to boosting the US dollar against major European currencies and precious metals, where the gold lost USD 30 of its price, dropping from the highest level it reached last Thursday.

The gold dropped from 1,246 per ounce to USD 1,207. However, it remained the safe haven for investors and despite pressure, it settled on Friday at USD 1,223, thus ending

Q1 2016 with a 16.6 percent rise. Sabaek said the US dollar rebound, buoyed by the American reports and bearish European currencies, may stem the Gold bullish trend in the coming days. But the report forecast showed that it would go up to USD 1,280 per ounce later this month.

Nevertheless, Sabaek speculated that it might cross the USD 1,200 level and reach USD 1,185, due to the bullish greenback, particularly in case the American central bank raised the interest. As to silver, the report said its price reached USD 14.80 per ounce adding that it averaged USD 15.08 in

Q1 2016. The report however anticipated that it would jump to USD 16.

Platinum rose by USD 20 closing at USD 959. Palladium closed at USD 565 losing USD 14 as compared to the price early last week. Local gold retail markets were generally calm since started of the past week, affected with impact of the upward trend of the precious metal.

The market witnessed some activity with customers buying 18-21 karat pieces. The past week was better than the previous ones, when the dollar was up but trades were very limited in the local market. — KUNA



LONDON: This file photo taken on September 13, 2015 shows protesters taking part in a flashmob performance, protesting against British Petroleum's (BP's) sponsorship of the British Museum. — AFP

## IRAN OIL EXPORTS SURPASS 2 MILLION BARRELS PER DAY

**TEHRAN:** Iran's oil exports have surpassed 2 million barrels per day following the lifting of sanctions under its nuclear deal with world powers, Oil Minister Bijan Zanganeh said yesterday. "Iran's oil and gas condensate exports are now at more than 2 million barrels per day" after rising by 250,000 bpd since March 1, the ministry's Shana news service quoted Zanganeh as saying.

Iran has doubled exports since its nuclear accord took effect on January 16. Iran, an OPEC member, has the world's fourth-largest oil reserves but its exports were long hampered by sanctions over its nuclear program. It has moved ahead with an increase in exports despite global concerns over a supply glut that has pushed oil prices to below \$40 a barrel, from more than \$100 a barrel in mid-2014.

Top exporter Saudi Arabia has said it is willing to consider an output freeze to help shore up prices. But in an interview published Friday, Saudi deputy crown prince Mohammed bin Salman reiterated Riyadh's position that other major producers, including Iran, would need to do the same. His remarks drove down oil prices, with US benchmark West Texas Intermediate for delivery in May sliding \$1.55 (4.0 percent) to \$36.79 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. — AFP

# MEGA INDIA COAL PROJECT AWARDED MINING LEASES

**SYDNEY:** A controversial India-backed giant coal project near Australia's Great Barrier Reef was yesterday awarded mining leases, but developer Adani said it would not commit to a final investment decision until legal challenges against it were resolved.

The Queensland state government said the Aus\$21.7 billion (US\$16.7 billion) project to build one of the world's biggest mines was awarded three leases. "This is a major step forward for this project after extensive government and community scrutiny," Queensland Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk said in a statement. "Stringent conditions will continue to protect the environment, landholders' and traditional owners' interests, and our iconic Great Barrier

Reef." The state government added that the mining leases at Carmichael in the Galilee Basin were estimated to contain 11 billion tons of coal. Adani welcomed the announcement, saying the leases gave the Indian conglomerate certainty and the firm had the "clear aim of commencing construction in calendar year 2017" pending the finalization of some second-tier approvals. But the company slammed legal challenges by conservationists, which along with the need for state and federal consent, has seen the approvals process stretched to some six years.

"(The) conclusion of second tier approvals and resolution of politically-motivated legal challenges is the company's principal focus, prior to a final investment

decision being made," an Adani spokesman said in a statement. "Having previously sought to progress to the construction phase in 2015, Adani is keenly aware of the risks of proceeding on major works in advance of the conclusion of these matters."

The awarding of the leases came two months after state authorities gave the project environmental approval subject to some 140 conditions. Conservationists have argued the mega-mine would threaten the heritage-listed Great Barrier Reef, the world's biggest coral reef ecosystem. Adani faces two legal challenges—one from an indigenous group and another mounted by an environmental organization. The organization, the Australian Conservation

Foundation, slammed the decision and said its case in the Federal Court would be heard next month. "By granting a license for this massive coal mine the Palaszczuk government is bowing to the demands of big polluters, not listening to the needs of the people," the foundation's chief executive Kelly O'Shanassy said in a statement.

### 'Reef threatened'

Researchers say the reef is currently experiencing the worst bleaching on record in its pristine north, with few corals escaping damage. The biodiversity site is also threatened by climate change, which conservationists said causes the bleaching, as well as farming run-off, development and the coral-eating crown-of-thorns starfish. A

research paper published Saturday warned authorities' efforts to reduce the discharge of land-based pollutants into the reef were "unlikely to be sufficient to protect the GBR ecosystems from declining water quality within the aspired time frames".

Canberra in March last year unveiled the "Reef 2050" plan to save the major tourist attraction ahead of a United Nations decision in July that kept the reef off its endangered list. The government was required to report back to the UN on its progress in implementing the plan by December 1 this year. But the new paper's co-author, principal research scientist Frederieke Kroon of the government's Australian Institute of Marine Science, said water quality targets might be missed. — AFP



**FUKUSHIMA:** This March 11, 2016 photo shows the crippled Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant in Okuma town. — AP

# ICE WALL AT FUKUSHIMA PLANT TURNED ON, BUT WILL IT WORK?

**TOKYO:** The operator of Japan's destroyed Fukushima nuclear plant switched on a giant refrigeration system on Thursday to create an unprecedented underground ice wall around its damaged reactors. Radioactive water has been flowing from the reactors, and other methods have failed to fully control it. The decontamination and decommissioning of the plant, damaged by a massive earthquake and tsunami in 2011, hinge of the success of the wall.

tion pipes designed to create a 1.5-kilometer (0.9-mile) barrier of frozen soil around four damaged reactor buildings and their turbines to control groundwater flowing into the area and prevent radioactive water from seeping out. The pipes are 30 meters (100 feet) deep, the equivalent of a 10-story building. Engineers say coolant in the pipes will freeze the surrounding soil to minus 30 degrees Celsius (minus 22 Fahrenheit), creating the wall over several months.

melted during the accident and must be cooled constantly with water to keep them from overheating again. The cooling water becomes radioactive and leaks out through damaged areas into the building basements, where it mixes with groundwater, increasing the volume of contaminated water. Nearly 800,000 tons of radioactive water have been pumped out, treated and stored in 1,000 tanks that now occupy virtually every corner of the Fukushima plant, interfering with its decontamination and decommissioning and adding to the risk of further leaks of water into the nearby ocean.

### Q. What is an ice wall?

A. Engineers installed 1,550 underground refrigeration

### Q. Why is an ice wall needed?

A. The cores of three of the damaged reactors

### Q. Are there risks?

A. Construction officials say the coolant is environmentally safe. There were doubts that the huge refrigeration system could effectively freeze the soil while groundwater continues to flow in the area. The operator, Tokyo Electric Power Co, says results from a test of part of the wall last summer were mixed but suggest the system has sufficient capability. Experts are also concerned that an ice wall cannot be adjusted quickly in an emergency situation, such as a sudden increase in the flow of contaminated water, because it takes several weeks to freeze or melt. Electrical costs for running the refrigeration system could be steep. TEPCO says the wall, once formed, can remain frozen for up to two months in the event of a power failure.

### Q. Who made the ice wall?

A. The 35 billion yen (\$312 million) project was funded by the government and built by Kajima Corp, which has used similar technology in smaller projects such as subway construction. The wall was delayed by technical uncertainties and was finished last month, a year behind schedule. — AP

# DEATH BY OVERWORK RISES AMONG JAPAN'S WORKERS

**TOKYO:** Japan is witnessing a record number of compensation claims related to death from overwork, or "karoshi", a phenomenon previously associated with the long-suffering "salary man" that is increasingly afflicting young and female employees.

Labor demand, with 1.28 jobs per applicant, is the highest since 1991, which should help Prime Minister Shinzo Abe draw more people into the workforce to counter the effect of a shrinking population, but lax enforcement of labor laws means some businesses are simply squeezing more out of employees, sometimes with tragic consequences.

Claims for compensation for karoshi rose to a record high of 1,456 in the year to end-March 2015, according to labor ministry data, with cases concentrated in healthcare, social services, shipping and construction, which are all facing chronic worker shortages. Hiroshi Kawahito, secretary general of the National Defense Counsel for Victims of karoshi, said the real number was probably 10 times higher, as the government is reluctant to recognize such incidents.

"The government hosts a lot of symposiums and makes posters about the problem, but this is propaganda," he said. "The real problem is reducing working hours, and the government is not doing enough." The labor ministry did not respond to requests for comment. Kawahito, a lawyer who has been dealing with karoshi since the 1980s, said 95 percent of his cases used to be middle-aged men in white-collar jobs, but now about 20 percent are women.

Japan has no legal limits on working hours, but the labor ministry recognizes two types of karoshi: death from cardiovascular illness linked to overwork, and suicide following work-related mental stress. A cardiovascular death is likely to be considered karoshi if an employee worked 100 hours of overtime in the month beforehand, or 80 hours of overtime in two or more consecutive months in the previous six.

A suicide could qualify if it follows an individ-

ual's working 160 hours or more of overtime in one month or more than 100 hours of overtime for three consecutive months. Work-related suicides are up 45 percent in the past four years among those 29 and younger, and up 39 percent among women, labor ministry data show.

### Two-tier workforce

The problem has become more acute as Japan's workforce has divided into two distinct categories - regular employees, and those on temporary or non-standard contracts, frequently women and younger people.

In 2015 non-regular employees made up 38 percent of the workforce, up from 20 percent in 1990, and 68 percent of them were women. Lawyers and academic say unscrupulous employers operate a "bait-and-switch" policy, advertising a full-time position with reasonable working hours, but later offering the successful applicant a non-regular contract with longer hours, sometimes overnight or weekends, with no overtime pay.

Refusing overtime pay and break time are illegal, and the applicant could refuse the job, but activists say companies tell them they will be given regular contracts after six months or so. They say young applicants often accept due to lack of experience, while women trying to re-enter the workforce after childbirth often feel it would be difficult to get a foothold elsewhere.

Emiko Teranishi, head of the Families Dealing with Karoshi support group, said she hears lots of complaints about hiring tactics, with some companies telling new hires that their salary includes 80 hours of overtime, and they must reimburse the company if they work less. "Some people don't even make minimum wage under this system," said Teranishi, whose own husband committed suicide after working long hours. Such abuses have become so common in the past 10 years that such companies have been dubbed "black" companies in the media. — Reuters



**SANAA:** Unemployed Yemeni manual laborers eat as they wait for work offers on a sidewalk. — AFP

# ISRAEL RECORDS STABLE GROWTH, LOWEST JOBLESS RATE IN DECADES

**JERUSALEM:** Israel last year recorded stable economic growth of 2.5 percent and its lowest unemployment rate in three decades, the central bank announced yesterday. Israel's economic growth was hampered in part by a decline in exports due to the faltering global economy and its strengthening currency, the shekel, the Bank of Israel said.

At the same time, the drop in unemployment to 5.3 percent was attributed to an increase in "employment-intensive commerce and business services" and a boost in public service jobs in the country of eight million people. The unemployment rate was 5.9 percent in 2014 and has declined for the past five years, resulting in 2015 in the lowest figure since the mid-1980s.

However, as in other countries, the number includes only those actively seeking work. That means it does not count those in Israel's substan-

tial ultra-Orthodox Jewish community who choose to pursue religious studies over employment. The Bank of Israel projects 2.8 percent economic growth for 2016. It recorded 2.6 percent growth in 2014. The cost of living has been a major issue in Israel, and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) said in January that while the country's economy was sound, it continues to have "a high level of inequality."

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu welcomed Sunday's data, saying "the economy is at full employment." "The key to the future depends on growth," he said. "It must be understood that everything that we want to achieve vis-a-vis budgets, services and improving infrastructures, everything that is important for a citizen, requires growth." — AFP

## EXCHANGE RATES

### AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES	
Japanese Yen	2.711
Indian Rupees	4.593
Pakistani Rupees	2.889
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.083
Nepali Rupees	2.848
Singapore Dollar	225.900
Hongkong Dollar	39.410
Bangladesh Taka	3.859
Philippine Peso	6.581
Thai Baht	8.630
GCC COUNTRIES	
Saudi Riyal	80.763
Qatari Riyal	83.194
Omani Riyal	786.642
Bahraini Dinar	804.300
UAE Dirham	82.457
ARAB COUNTRIES	
Egyptian Pound - Cash	34.400
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	34.479
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.413
Tunisian Dinar	151.730
Jordanian Dinar	426.730
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.018
Syrian Lira	2.158
Morocco Dirham	31.863
EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES	
US Dollar Transfer	302.700
Euro	347.800
Sterling Pound	433.920
Canadian dollar	234.650
Turkish lira	108.110
Swiss Franc	319.640
Australian Dollar	233.308
US Dollar Buying	301.500

GOLD	
20 Gram	247.540
10 Gram	126.690
5 Gram	64.190

### UAE EXCHANGE CENTRE WLL

CURRENCIES	TELEX TRANSFER PER 1000
Australian Dollar	201.91
Canadian Dollar	219.82
Swiss Franc	306.95
Euro	336.85
US Dollar	299.90
Sterling Pound	431.04
Japanese Yen	2.67
Bangladesh Taka	3.817
Indian Rupee	4.375
Sri Lankan Rupee	2.083
Nepali Rupee	2.732
Pakistani Rupee	2.860
UAE Dirhams	0.08161
Bahraini Dinar	0.7970
Egyptian Pound	0.03819
Jordanian Dinar	0.4265
Omani Riyal	0.7788
Qatari Riyal	0.08269
Saudi Riyal	0.07994

### DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	303.250
Canadian Dollar	230.325
Sterling Pound	429.535
Euro	339.765
Swiss Franc	297.075
Bahrain Dinar	802.260
UAE Dirhams	82.805
Qatari Riyals	84.020

Saudi Riyals	81.545
Jordanian Dinar	427.185
Egyptian Pound	34.053
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.063
Indian Rupees	4.538
Pakistani Rupees	2.891
Bangladesh Taka	3.857
Philippines Peso	6.540
Cyprus pound	577.595
Kenyan Shilling	3.675
Syrian Pound	2.375
Nepalese Rupees	3.835
Malaysian Ringgit	76.000
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	46.930
Thai Bhat	9.565
Turkish Lira	105.085

### BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
Europe		
British Pound	0.424518	0.433518
Czech Korune	0.004783	0.016783
Danish Krone	0.042338	0.047338
Euro	0.0339505	0.0347505
Norwegian Krone	0.032603	0.037803
Romanian Leu	0.086774	0.086774
Slovakia	0.009011	0.019011
Swedish Krona	0.033372	0.038372
Swiss Franc	0.309690	0.319890
Turkish Lira	0.101221	0.111521
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.224386	0.235886
New Zealand Dollar	0.202846	0.212346
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.227243	0.235743
US Dollars	0.298400	0.302900

US Dollars Mint	0.298900	0.302900
Asia		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003438	0.004012
Chinese Yuan	0.045291	0.048791
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036929	0.039679
Indian Rupee	0.004287	0.004677
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002625	0.002805
Kenyan Shilling	0.003102	0.003102
Korean Won	0.000253	0.000268
Malaysian Ringgit	0.073683	0.079683
Nepalese Rupee	0.002867	0.003037
Pakistan Rupee	0.002682	0.002962
Philippine Peso	0.006485	0.006765
Sierra Leone	0.000067	0.000073
Singapore Dollar	0.221487	0.227487
South African Rand	0.014652	0.023152
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001695	0.002275
Taiwan	0.009172	0.009352
Thai Baht	0.008284	0.008834

Arab		
Bahraini Dinar	0.795818	0.803818
Egyptian Pound	0.030675	0.035793
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000191	0.000251
Jordanian Dinar	0.422651	0.430151
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000151	0.000251
Moroccan Dirhams	0.020627	0.046627
Nigerian Naira	0.001247	0.001882
Omani Riyal	0.779294	0.784974
Qatar Riyal	0.082378	0.083591
Saudi Riyal	0.079780	0.080730
Syrian Pound	0.001282	0.001502
Tunisian Dinar	0.148393	0.156393
Turkish Lira	0.101221	0.111521
UAE Dirhams	0.081378	0.082527
Yemeni Riyal	0.001367	0.001447

## PARCHED FIELDS FORCE THAILAND TO LOOK BEYOND RICE

**NONHABURI:** Thailand has long served as one of the globe's main rice bowls, but chronic water shortages are pushing the country to move away from a grain that dominates its fields and has defined a way of life for generations. Laddawan Kamsong has spent the past forty years coaxing rice from her plot in central Thailand, but she is tired of watching her farmland squeezed dry by increasingly severe droughts.

"I plan to replace some rice paddies with limes," she said after attending a government-run workshop urging farmers to diversify their crops. Thailand is one of the world's top rice exporters. But four consecutive years of below-average rainfall have drained water reserves and strangled production, pushing many farmers into debt.

The current drought, the worst the country has seen in decades, has hit nearly a third of Thailand's 76 provinces, particularly in the rice-heavy central and northeast. Reservoirs are also dropping to historically low levels. The kingdom's military government is now organizing training sessions to encourage millions of rice farmers to diversify into crops



**BANGKOK:** This picture taken on March 23, 2016 shows a farmer walking at his drought-hit rice field in Nonthaburi province. — AFP

that require less irrigation.

Unlike nearly all other crops, rice grows best in a flooded field, with the stalk's base

completely submerged for most of the growing season. At an army-run workshop held in a patch of shade in a field in Nonthaburi

province near Bangkok, Laddawan was sold the merits of cultivating fruit trees.

In other regions, they are suggesting sugarcane or peas. These alternatives will drastically reduce water consumption but also break the monoculture that has deteriorated Thai soil for decades. "We have no choice, we need to adapt," Laddawan said, explaining that she used to plant three rice crops annually, but next year will only have enough water for one.

### Rivers run dry

As the drought bites, some 2,000 Thai villages are surviving off water delivered by the government, while 'rainmaking' airplanes are flying over parched plains, sending an iodine solution into the air in an effort to seed clouds.

After last year's especially weak rainy season—which falls between June and October—the ruling military junta asked farmers to abandon their winter rice crop, which is normally cultivated through irrigation and not rainfall. "The amount of water in storage is low and now we expect that this year's rainy

season will be delayed because of El Nino," said Suphot Tovichakhaikul, who leads the country's water management department.

The El Nino weather phenomenon tends to weaken the annual monsoon, which is a lifeline to farmers across the region. According to a study from the University of the Chamber of Commerce, the drought could have between 0.5 and 0.8 percent off Thailand's GDP growth, with its annual rice production predicted to drop almost 30 percent to 25 million tonnes.

Thailand is also facing increasing competition from Vietnam and India, who have been jockeying for the top exporter spot and at times surpassed Thailand's output in recent years. The junta says Thai rice is no longer sustainable on its current scale. "We must find a way to motivate rice producers to switch to other crops," Junta chief Prayut Chan-o-cha said in a recent speech. His military government, which grabbed power in a 2014 coup, has struggled to revive Thailand's flat economy, which is beset by falling exports, high household debt and low consumer confidence. — AFP

## CHINA FACTORIES SCENT A HINT OF SPRING, EU CHILLS

**LONDON/SYDNEY:** Activity in China's vast factory sector grew for the first time in nine months during March to bring a hint of spring to the global economy, although growth remained weak in Europe, leading to a muted response in financial markets. A survey due later on Friday is expected to show the United States enjoyed a return to growth after five months of contraction alongside another strong jobs report.

Headlining in Asia was a rise in the official version of the Chinese Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) to 50.2, beating forecasts and above the 50-point mark that separates growth from contraction. The private Caixin/Markit PMI found output, total new orders and output prices all returned to growth, while a survey of the service sector surprised with its strength.

"It does seem to indicate that the manufacturing sector is warming up a bit," said Raymond Yeung, senior economist at ANZ in Hong Kong. "New orders were up 2.8 points, which is a very strong figure." "We think there are basically two factors driving the recovery: the first is a possible acceleration in infrastructure spending. The second is a broader pickup in external demand." However, while euro zone factories rounded off the first quarter in slightly better shape than initially thought the growth in activity remained weak despite the deepest price-cutting since late 2009. The euro zone survey suggested manufacturing is still dragging on the wider economy. It came soon after the European Central Bank unleashed a bold easing package in its latest attempt to spur growth and drive up inflation - which at -0.1 percent in March was nowhere near its 2 percent target goal - but it doesn't seem to be working yet.

Despite the price-cutting and ECB stimulus, Markit's PMI for the euro zone only rose to 51.6 from February's year-low of 51.2, only slightly better than an earlier flash estimate of 51.4. The bloc's economy grew just 1.6 percent in 2015 and the first quarter's PMIs suggest there will be little improvement anytime soon.

"The softening of forward looking components in the past two months is consistent with our scenario of a slower growth in Q2-Q3," said Apolline Menut at Barclays. Looking at the

country breakdowns, growth remained weak in Germany and activity contracted in France but Spain, Italy, the Netherlands, Austria and in particular Ireland saw robust expansions. In Britain, outside the currency bloc, manufacturing growth edged up in March from its weakest level in nearly three years, suggesting the sector will contribute little to economic growth in early 2016.

### Chinese spring

he relatively upbeat Chinese surveys should give some comfort to Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen who this week cited the global risks emanating from there as one reason to be cautious on raising US rates. Yet, China watchers still suspect more support will be needed from Beijing, especially if it wants to avoid a politically unsettling rise in unemployment. Ratings agency Standard & Poor's underlined the need for faster reform when it changed China's credit outlook to negative on Thursday.

The economic pulse across the rest of Asia was more erratic. South Korea's PMI bounced to within a whisker of 50 in March while stronger shipments of smartphones and steel saw exports decline at the slowest pace in four months. Indonesia put an end to 17 straight months of contraction as its PMI popped up to 50.6, with output, new orders and employment all improving. Japan, however, was busy going backwards as the Markit/Nikkei PMI of 49.1 was the lowest since February 2013. That echoed a gloomy survey of manufacturers from the Bank of Japan which found sentiment at its darkest in nearly three years, a result that lopped 3 percent off the Nikkei.

All of which heightened pressure on Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and the central bank to do more to shore up the stuttering economy. "This data confirmed the very cautious stance of Japanese firms reflecting the market volatility since January. There's no signs of corporate sentiment bottoming in coming months," said Mari Iwashita, chief market economist at SMBC Friend Securities. "There's more than a 50 percent chance the BOJ will consider easing policy further this month." — Reuters



**KAMPUNG BARU:** In this picture taken March 22, 2016, shows children playing near their house. — AFP

## MALAYSIAN SEEKS TO FREE VILLAGE 'TRAPPED IN TIME'

### RUSTIC ETHNIC-MALAY ENCLAVE REMAINS AN ANOMALY

**KAMPUNG BARU:** In the shadow of Kuala Lumpur's mammoth Petronas Towers lies an urban anomaly: the rustic ethnic-Malay enclave of Kampung Baru, where chickens and barefoot children dart across streets little changed in a century. Authorities hope to change all that.

The last remaining large tract of undeveloped land in the capital's urban core, Kampung Baru is targeted for a historic redevelopment, part of larger plans to upgrade the metropolis of seven million people. But many residents of the languid 120-hectare neighborhood, known for its unique Malay-only land-ownership and proud sense of identity, won't budge.

"Do you want to live in the squalid conditions your grandparents did 50 years ago?" said an exasperated Affendi Zahari, head of a government entity tasked with spurring the redevelopment. He added: "We don't want to see this place trapped in time." British colonizers, mindful of balancing Malaysia's competing ethnicities, set aside Kampung Baru ("New Village") in 1900 for members of the typically rural Muslim ethnic Malay majority to prevent the industrious Chinese minority dominating the then fast-growing city.

### It takes a village

Kampung Baru experienced some of the deadly Malay-Chinese ethnic strife the capital faced in 1969 and its residents participated in huge demonstrations for political reform in the late 1990s. But as Chinese-fueled development raised the skyline higher, Kampung Baru remains essentially a country village, the symbolic heart of Kuala Lumpur's Malay identity. Its weathered wooden homes are packed in along

narrow, maze-like, rain-puddled lanes clogged with parked cars and shaded by overgrown mango and frangipani trees. On most corners, traditional open-air eateries pile high foods like spicy fried chicken, curries and banana fritters, as grilled fish sizzles over coals and longtime neighbors discuss the news. Hashimah Yun's grandparents scraped together enough money to buy a plot well before Malaysia's independence in 1957. The modest original house gradually expanded into a sprawling, ramshackle home for a dozens-strong extended family that has priceless emotional and cultural value, she said.

"My grandparents opened this land with their blood and money. We won't sell at any price," said Hashimah, a feisty 56-year-old retired bank employee, her head swaddled in a green Muslim headscarf. A government master plan, however, would jerk Kampung Baru, whose land is estimated to be worth over \$1 billion, into the 21st century. The futuristic proposals include glass-and-steel developments fusing hotels, modern apartments, parks, pedestrian walkways, even a man-made lake.

The scheme is part of a larger facelift for Kuala Lumpur, already one of Southeast Asia's more modern capitals, to remain attractive for investors as regional competition increases. Upcoming billion-dollar projects include a new financial district, a city-wide mass transit system, high-speed rail links to Singapore, and a 630-metre skyscraper that would outstretch the Petronas Towers by 180 metres.

Last October, Prime Minister Najib Razak appealed to Kampung Baru's people to embrace change or risk being viewed as "squatters". Malay developers are

offering residents around 500 ringgit per square foot for land, sharply lower than prices in nearby areas due to Kampung Baru's lack of modern infrastructure.

Officials say progress has been negligible. With land prices rising rapidly in Malaysia, Hashimah fears her family would struggle to stay together elsewhere. Like others, she called instead for government investment in Kampung Baru's decrepit infrastructure to improve resident's lives, and suggested that intentional neglect was aimed at driving landowners away. They want to "grab our land, chase us out and make money," she said.

### 'Tough process'

As a cautionary tale, many locals cite a 1980s debacle in which some residents lost their land when a developer's plans went bust. Chan Wai Seen of JS Valuers Research & Consultancy said Kampung Baru's unbeatable location offers tantalizing potential, but unlocking it is a challenge.

Hurdles include the poor infrastructure, rising costs of land and construction, a slowing economy, and the Malay-only ownership, he said. "We need to ask just how competitive Kampung Baru will really be," Chan said. The government is leaving Affendi to try to facilitate private deals rather than wade in directly, wary of angering locals. A trickle of landowners have sold in recent years, but momentum is further constrained by the fact that many of the thousands of parcels are jointly held by several owners, complicating deal-making. "It's a tough process," lamented Affendi, tacitly admitting that Kampung Baru's village-in-the-city atmosphere will survive for the time being. — AFP



**BEIJING:** Visitors take photos at an exhibition showcasing the toys given out in the past 25 years that McDonald's has operated in mainland China. — AP

## GREECE DEMANDS EXPLANATION OVER LEAKED DEBT TRANSCRIPT

**ATHENS:** Greece demanded an explanation from the International Monetary Fund after an apparent leaked transcript suggested the IMF may threaten to pull out of the country's bailout as a tactic to force European lenders to offer more debt relief.

EU/IMF lenders will resume talks on Greece's fiscal and reform progress in Athens today, aiming to conclude a bailout review that will unlock further loans and pave the way for negotiations on long-desired debt restructuring. The review has been adjourned twice since January due to a rift among the lenders over the estimated size of Greece's fiscal gap by 2018, as well as disagreements with Athens on pension reforms and the management of bad loans.

Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras's office said yesterday that Tsipras had asked IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde to clarify the Fund's stance, after Internet whistleblowing site Wikileaks published what it said was the transcript of a March 19 conference call of three senior IMF officials.

The officials were discussing tactics to apply pressure on Greece, Germany and the EU to reach a deal in April. They were quoted as discussing a threat that the fund might not participate in Greece's third bailout program as a way to force EU

creditors, especially Germany, to reach a deal on debt relief before Britain's June referendum on whether to stay in the European Union.

"He (Tsipras) sent a letter to Lagarde last night, asking her to clarify the Fund's official stance in the negotiations," an official at Tsipras's office told Reuters. "He also expressed his concern about the credibility of the negotiations after the leaks." An IMF spokesman in Washington said on Saturday that the Fund was not commenting on "leaks or supposed reports of internal discussions" but added the IMF had made its position known in public.

"We have stated clearly what we think is needed for a durable solution to the economic challenges facing Greece - one that puts Greece on a path of sustainable growth supported by a credible set of reforms matched by debt relief from its European partners," the spokesman said. German government and finance ministry spokespeople declined to comment on the leaked transcript. Germany has in the past said the IMF is an important player in the Greek rescue but it does not support the debt relief demanded by the IMF. Some German officials also say that they believe there are different views on Greece within the IMF. German Chancellor Angela Merkel is due to meet Lagarde in Berlin on Tuesday.

### Tsipras says IMF 'playing games'

The purported conversation on the conference call involved Poul Thomsen, head of the IMF's Europe department, Delia Velculescu, leader of the IMF team in Greece, and IMF official Iva Petrova. They discussed whether Greece could apply more austerity as a condition for receiving more aid ahead of big debt repayments in July and voiced frustration at the European Commission's reluctance to side with IMF pressure on Athens. They also suggest that Brussels is sticking to unrealistic assumptions about Greece's budget shortfall to minimize the need for debt relief, which is unpopular with Germany and other northern euro zone hawks. If concluded the review will unlock a fresh tranche of about 5 billion euros (\$5.7 bln), which Greece needs to pay off state arrears and European Central Bank and IMF maturing debt. Greece has no major debt redemptions due until July. The Greek government interpreted the leak as revealing an IMF effort to blackmail Athens with a possible credit event to force it to give in on pension cuts which it has rejected. However the transcript, if genuine, appeared to suggest Thomsen saw more prospect of the IMF applying pressure on Chancellor Merkel to concede debt relief to keep the Fund involved in the bailout and secure Greek cooperation in managing Europe's pressing refugee crisis. — Reuters

## HUAWEI REPORTS REVENUE OF \$60.8 BILLION IN 2015

**DUBAI:** Yesterday Huawei announced its financial results for 2015, reporting that its Carrier, Enterprise, and Consumer Business Groups (BGs) all achieved strong year-on-year growth. The three BGs generated CNY 395 billion (US\$60.8 billion) in annual revenue worldwide, an increase of 37% YoY. Net profit was CNY 36.9 billion (US\$5.7 billion), up 33% YoY.

Guo Ping, Huawei's deputy chairman and rotating CEO, remarked, "In part, Huawei owes its long-term growth to the sheer size of the ICT market, which is the driving force of digital economies around the world. However, our growth is also a direct result of strategic focus and heavy investment in our core businesses. Over the next three to five years, we will concentrate on enhancing connectivity, enabling the development of vertical industries, and redefining network capabilities. With an open and collaborative approach, and a commitment to shared success, we will work closely with our customers and partners to maximize industry development opportunities. Together, we will build a Better Connected World."

In 2015, Huawei's three business seg-

ments experienced significant growth: The Carrier BG generated CNY 232.3 billion (US\$35.8 billion) in annual revenue, up 21% YoY. Widespread rollout of 4G networks accounted for a large portion of this growth.

The Enterprise BG generated CNY 27.6 billion (US\$4.3 billion) in annual revenue, an increase of 44% YoY. In particular, Huawei's enterprise business experienced rapid growth in the public safety, finance, transportation, and energy sectors.

A major highlight of the company's performance in 2015, Huawei's Consumer BG reported CNY 129.1 billion (US\$19.9 billion) in annual revenue, up 73% YoY. This increase was a direct result of increased demand for high-quality products that deliver a premium user experience, as well as Huawei's growing influence as a consumer brand.

Over the past 20-plus years, Huawei has remained focused on ICT infrastructure, steadily investing in R&D. In 2015 alone, Huawei invested 15% of its annual revenue - CNY 59.6 billion (US\$9.2 billion) - in research and development. Huawei's total R&D investment over the past decade exceeds CNY 240 billion (approximately US\$37 billion).

# WALL STREET OFF TO A SOLID START IN APRIL

**NEW YORK:** Wall Street extended a seven-week rally on Friday after upbeat US jobs and factory data hinted at stronger corporate earnings without increasing concerns of potential US interest rate hikes. The Labor Department's report showed solid gains in nonfarm payrolls in March while the unemployment rate rose to 5 percent from an eight-year low of 4.9 percent as more Americans entered the labor force.

Along with another report showing the US manufacturing sector resumed growth in March, the employment data suggested the economy is not growing fast enough to increase concerns about inflation. "It's a very solid number overall, but I don't think it

changes anything as far as the Fed's outlook," said Jon Adams, a senior investment strategist and portfolio manager at BMO in Chicago.

### Increasing skepticism

Stock gains were limited by a 1.39 percent drop in the S&P 500 energy sector as oil prices tumbled nearly 4 percent amid increasing skepticism about a deal to freeze crude production. Since mid-February, the S&P has surged 13 percent, recovering from deep losses thanks to a stabilization of oil prices and reduced concerns about a stumble in China's economy and its potential fallout in the United States.

Wall Street has been concerned about tepid

corporate earnings and will keep a close eye on the quarterly reports that start rolling in coming weeks. Analysts expect S&P 500 companies' first-quarter earnings to fall 7 percent year over year, with energy companies weighing heavily, according to Thomson Reuters data.

"We don't think P/E ratios are going anywhere," said Charlie Smith, chief investment officer at Fort Pitt Capital Group, adding that he believes the S&P 500 is fairly valued. "For this year, we think it's going to be a tough slog." The Dow Jones industrial average rose 0.61 percent to end at 17,792.75 points and the S&P 500 gained 0.63 percent to 2,072.78. The Nasdaq Composite added 0.92 percent to

4,914.54.

For the week, the S&P climbed 1.8 percent, the Dow added 1.6 percent and the Nasdaq jumped 3 percent. On Friday, eight of the 10 major S&P sectors were higher. The healthcare sector rose 1.27 percent, boosted by Regeneron. The drugmaker's shares surged 12.43 percent after its experimental treatment for eczema was found highly effective in two large studies.

Chevron lost 1.19 percent and weighed the most on the Dow, while Exxon fell 0.75 percent and was the biggest drag on the S&P. Marriott fell 5.68 percent after China's Anbang Insurance abandoned its competing \$14 billion bid for Starwood Hotels. Starwood lost 4.85 percent.

Although the major indexes closed higher, declining issues outnumbered advancing ones on the NYSE by 1,576 to 1,448. On the Nasdaq, 1,591 issues rose and 1,193 fell. The S&P 500 index showed 70 new 52-week highs and two new lows, while the Nasdaq recorded 61 new highs and 20 new lows. About 7 billion shares changed hands on US exchanges, above/below the 7.6 billion daily average for the past 20 trading days, according to Thomson Reuters data.

### European shares slumps

European equities tumbled to a one-month low on the first trading day of the quarter on Friday, with energy stocks hit by weaker oil prices while Osram retreat-

ed after it was dropped from Apple's top supplier list. The pan-European FTSEurofirst 300 index was down 1.5 percent at its close, hitting its lowest level in a month earlier in the session. The benchmark index fell 7.7 percent in the first quarter.

European stock markets stayed in negative territory after the U.S. jobs data was published. Some traders pointed to the fact that the U.S. unemployment rate rose to 5.0 percent from an eight-year low of 4.9 percent as making it more likely that the United States may refrain from further interest rate rises in the near future.

This pushed down the US dollar on currency markets, but moved the euro up against the dollar - impacting European stocks since European exporters often benefit from a weak euro to make their goods more affordable for overseas buyers. "More dollar weakness seems likely for now, which could have a negative effect on European stocks," said Darren Sinden at Admiral Markets.

Energy stocks dropped 2.7 percent as a decline in crude oil prices pushed down the shares of BP and Total. Osram fell after dropping from Apple's list of its top suppliers but shares in steelmaker Thyssenkrupp rose 4.9 percent after German business paper Rheinische Post reported that India's Tata Steel was planning to take a stake in Thyssenkrupp's European steel unit. The FTSEurofirst remains down by around 9 percent since the start of 2016. — Reuters

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report						
Sunday 03 April 2016						
Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing	High	Low	
Price Index	▼ -20.83	5,207.92	5,228.75	5,228.41	5,198.82	
Weighted Index	▼ -3.85	355.97	359.82	359.28	355.56	
KXSX 15	▼ -11.93	838.57	850.50	847.54	837.11	

Volume	203,049,494
Value (KWD)	11,407,676
Number of Trades	3,697

Trades						
Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Change
MARIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	104	▼ 0.0
IKARUS	79	75	392	31	3	▼ 1.0
IPG	0.0	0.0	0	0	310	▼ 0.0
NAPESCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	730	▼ 0.0
ENERGYH	43.0	41.0	87,185	3,638	11	▼ -0.5
GPI	39.0	37.5	3,361,648	128,220	78	▼ -0.5
ABAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	102	▼ 0.0
<b>Oil &amp; Gas</b>			<b>3,449,225</b>	<b>131,888</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>▼ -2.13</b>
KFOUC	0.0	0.0	0	0	190	▼ 0.0
BPCC	520	510	54,583	28,088	11	▼ -20.0
ALKOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	610	▼ 0.0
ALQURAIN	192	192	100,000	19,200	7	▼ 192
<b>Basic Materials</b>			<b>154,583</b>	<b>47,288</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>▼ -13.45</b>
KCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	380	▼ 0.0
REFRI	0.0	0.0	0	0	310	▼ 0.0
CABLE	350	335	35,500	12,350	6	▼ 0.0
SHIP	144	138	26,389	3,717	9	▼ 4.0
PCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	1,020	▼ 0.0
PAPER	0.0	0.0	0	0	410	▼ 0.0
MRC	0.0	0.0	0	0	72	▼ 0.0
ACICO	0.0	0.0	0	0	285	▼ 0.0
GMCM	0.0	0.0	0	0	450	▼ 0.0
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	134	▼ 0.0
KPAK	0.0	0.0	0	0	310	▼ 0.0
KBMMK	0.0	0.0	0	0	250	▼ 0.0
NICBM	236	236	26	6	1	▼ 2.0
EQUIPMENT	52	51	110,160	5,638	8	▼ -1.0
NCCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	99	▼ 0.0
GYPSUM	0.0	0.0	0	0	102	▼ 0.0
SALBOOKH	68	67	90,000	6,112	8	▼ 0.0
AGLTY	480	470	529,585	251,620	31	▼ -5.0
EDU	0.0	0.0	0	0	210	▼ 0.0
CLEANING	40.0	39.0	40,050	1,562	2	▼ -1.0
CITYGROUP	455	455	2,875	1,308	1	▼ 4.5
KGL	49.0	45.5	253,179	11,811	27	▼ 48.5
KPCP	218	218	100	22	1	▼ 0.0
HUMANSOFT	660	640	27,035	17,841	3	▼ -20.0
NAFAIS	0.0	0.0	0	0	146	▼ 0.0
SAFWAN	270	270	500,000	135,000	28	▼ 1.0
GFC	33.5	33.5	1,500	50	1	▼ 33.5
MAYADEEN	26.0	23.5	14,997,520	386,332	95	▼ 2.5
CGC	0.0	0.0	0	0	790	▼ 0.0
MTCC	84	83	555,200	46,087	10	▼ 0.0
UPAC	680	680	15,308	10,409	4	▼ -40.0
ALAFCO	216	214	307,450	66,047	8	▼ -2.0
MUBARRAD	58	58	3,773	219	1	▼ 5.0
LOGISTICS	71	69	2,296,619	160,649	53	▼ -1.0
SCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	87	▼ 0.0
GCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	78	▼ 0.0
QCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	65	▼ 0.0
FCEM	74	74	193,300	14,304	4	▼ 0.0
RKWC	96	96	10,000	960	1	▼ -6.0
SPEC	0.0	0.0	0	0	79	▼ 0.0
<b>Industrials</b>			<b>19,995,569</b>	<b>1,131,845</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>▼ -6.50</b>
KSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	164	▼ 0.0
NSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	64	▼ 0.0
PAPCO	104	104	500	52	1	▼ 0.0
CATTL	134	134	50	7	1	▼ 4.0
DANAH	74	73	397,098	29,229	10	▼ -2.0
POULT	0.0	0.0	0	0	186	▼ 0.0
FOOD	2,540	2,480	101,746	254,161	16	▼ 2,520
<b>Consumer Goods</b>			<b>499,394</b>	<b>283,449</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>▼ 8.71</b>
MHC	0.0	0.0	0	0	200	▼ 0.0
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	920	▼ 0.0
YIACO	144	144	1,321	190	1	▼ -8
<b>Health Care</b>			<b>1,321</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>▼ 2.66</b>
KCIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	1,020	▼ 0
KHOT	0.0	0.0	0	0	210	▼ 0
SULTAN	65	65	500	33	1	▼ 4
CABLETV	0.0	0.0	0	0	24.0	▼ 0
EYAS	0.0	0.0	0	0	385	▼ 0
OUFAHR	186	178	47,599	8,477	3	▼ -2
OLIAFUEL	110	110	2,331	256	5	▼ 110
MUNTAZAHAT	0.0	0.0	0	0	83	▼ 0
JAZEERA	870	860	608	524	3	▼ -20
SOOR	114	112	20,977	2,369	10	▼ 112
FUTUREKID	0.0	0.0	0	0	110	▼ 0
ALNAWADI	75	75	390,000	29,250	3	▼ -2
ALRAI	142	138	1,395	197	3	▼ 142
ZIMAH	53	50	5,078,263	259,405	128	▼ -1
UFIG	0.0	0.0	0	0	100	▼ 0
Mezzan	1,120	1,120	66,251	74,201	18	▼ 1,120
<b>Consumer Services</b>			<b>5,607,924</b>	<b>374,712</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>▼ -3.17</b>
ZAIN	355	350	338,039	118,413	35	▼ -5
OOREDOO	1,180	1,020	3,570	3,724	6	▼ -40
HITSTELEC	28.0	27.0	1,185,115	32,616	29	▼ 0
VIVA	1,000	990	80,971	80,292	75	▼ -30
<b>Telecommunications</b>			<b>1,607,695</b>	<b>235,044</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>▼ -15.07</b>
NBK	660	650	2,504,368	1,628,990	88	▼ -20
GBK	214	212	138,724	29,638	13	▼ 2
CBK	415	415	203,173	84,317	16	▼ -25
ABK	0.0	0.0	0	0	335	▼ 0
ALMUTAHED	435	435	13,772	5,991	4	▼ -5
KIB	194	194	10,700	2,076	2	▼ -2
BURG	340	335	174,169	58,628	5	▼ -5
KFIN	480	470	2,682,947	1,264,371	134	▼ -0
BOUBAYAN	405	390	200,729	80,255	17	▼ -10
AUB	184	182	33,000	6,012	4	▼ 182
ITHMR	37.5	36.0	12,996,170	476,439	108	▼ -1
WARBANK	176	174	304,223	53,049	59	▼ -12
<b>Banks</b>			<b>19,240,975</b>	<b>3,689,766</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>▼ -10.10</b>
KINS	285	285	409	117	2	▼ -25
GINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	670	▼ 0.0
AINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	485	▼ 0.0
WINS	100	100	929	93	4	▼ 0.0
KUWAITRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	200	▼ 0.0
FTI	0.0	0.0	0	0	50	▼ 0.0
WETHAQ	40.0	38.0	12,500	483	3	▼ -2.5
BKIKWT	0.0	0.0	0	0	355	▼ 0.0
<b>Insurance</b>			<b>13,838</b>	<b>692</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>▼ -27.64</b>

Trades						
Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Change
SOKOUK	34.5	33.0	542,774	183,056	79	▼ 34.0
KRE	49.5	49.0	5,944,100	293,071	71	▼ 49.0
URC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▼ 92
NRE	94	93	649,420	60,728	17	▼ -2.0
SRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▼ 365
TAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▼ 560
AREC	138	132	2,000	267	2	▼ 138
MASSALEH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▼ 43.5
ARABREC	28.5	28.0	2,110,507	59,114	55	▼ -1.5
ERESCO	53	52	329,500	17,181	13	▼ -1.0
MABANEE	870	860	89,651	77,516	5	▼ 860
INJAZZAT	77	69	10,500	727	4	▼ 77
INVESTORS	23.5	21.0	36,911,068	830,648	372	▼ 22.5
IRC	26.5	25.0	164,483	4,237	6	▼ 0.5
ALTJARIA	79	77	279,700	21,720	3	▼ -1.0
SANAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▼ 34.0
AAYANRE	66	65	23,404	1,533	3	▼ -2.0
AQAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▼ 60
ALAQARIA	20.0	20.0	7,500	150	1	▼ 20.0
MAZAYA	106	104	100,000	10,446	2	▼ 104
ADNC	18.0	16.0	17,967,026	303,043	214	▼ 16.5
THEMAR	90	90	1,163	106	1	▼ 90
TJARA	35.5	35.5	20	1	1	▼ 35.5
TAAMEER	24.5					



# YELLEN STABS THE US DOLLAR IN THE HEART

## NBK WEEKLY MONEY MARKET REPORT

### UNITED STATES

#### Fed speakers cautiously optimistic

The market continues to price out Fed tightening and the dot plot has followed through. As the ECB, BoJ and the PBoC remain in a monetary expansionary mode and are likely to continue on the same path in 2016, the divergence in rates between the US and the other G5 countries continues to widen. The existence of external risks despite the induced low volatility environment from central banks, are likely to keep an upward pressure to the US dollar. During a speech this week, Yellen struck a dovish tone mentioning the uncertain inflation environment in the US. With consumer price index moving higher in the US in comparison to the other G5, she is still not convinced about the stickiness of the latest increase in inflation.

Internally, US employment data in Q1 remain robust and housing although volatile remains in an expansionary mode. The main economic drag and concerns in Q1 was on the back of the manufacturing and industrial sector, coming from high levels of inventories build and lower factory orders.

Weak external demand, due to dollar strength and subdued global growth, continue to weigh on the economy and are likely to continue being a drag, even with the service sector doing the major lifting to compensate for the weakness in the manufacturing sector.

Externally, a weaker dollar has helped China avoid extreme market pressure on the currency front, a hard landing and provided more monetary flexibility. A weaker US dollar has also helped the global credit cycle, reduced EM reserve erosion and supported commodity prices in the first quarter of 2016. Having seen the short term benefits of a lower dollar, Yellen provided a firm reminder that the Fed is not going to be tightening further, at the same time attempting to calm market over the possibility that the Fed could move in April and June as some of the previous Fed speaker comments.

Since the beginning of the year, the US dollar index has lost 4.2% and almost 5% since the Fed hiked in December 2015. Historically, the US dollar depreciated by on average 5.6% during the last 3 cycles six months following the first fed hike. The Fed outlook seems to price much bigger global risks than what we have witnessed in the past month. If China were to remain stable, the Fed will have to turn more hawkish again. For now, the Fed is likely to continue to attempt to push out any rate hikes until investors find clarity from Asia and emerging markets. Fundamentals for the US however remain solid, however, a neutral to lower dollar continues to help all global players.

On the foreign exchange side, the Euro gained across the week starting on Monday at 1.1163 to reach a high of 1.1438. The currency ended the week at 1.1391.

The Sterling Pound remains under pressure and

has been the G10 laggard since the beginning of the year amid mounting Brexit risks. The downward pressure isn't likely to go away for now, and likely to intensify as we get closer to the referendum date in late June. After starting the week near the low of 1.4132, the Pound rallied on the back of a weakening US dollar to close on Friday at 1.4227.

On the commodities side, after a strong five week's performance, commodities seem to reach an exhaustion point for now. Oil markets seem to find a stable phase around the current levels on hopes for an output freeze by major producers. Brent closed the week at \$38.67, while West Texas at \$36.79.



Sentiment continue to swing on news that OPEC and non-OPEC producers will hold a meeting in Doha on April 17. On the precious metals front, Gold remains well supported this week's. The latest Janet Yellen's speech has reignited demand for Gold. The solid job report however brought the metal down to close the week at \$1,222.

#### A dovish Yellen is back

Janet Yellen reiterated the Federal Reserve's cautious outlook this week in a speech at the Economic Club of New York. She highlighted the risks posed to the US by a global economic slowdown. Owing to weaker-than-expected growth overseas and a cloudy domestic inflation outlook, Yellen reiterated a need to "proceed cautiously" in lifting interest rates.

The main focus was on her comment that the committee would proceed cautiously in adjusting policy. Yellen also highlighted that the outlook for US inflation had become 'somewhat more uncer-

tain' and that recent readings on the US economy are 'somewhat mixed'. She also went as far as to say that the committee has 'considerable scope' to ease policy if necessary and that the Fed has tools at their disposal that can be used to effectively strengthen the recovery from the Great Recession and would be used again if needed. Both China and volatility in Oil prices were also made mention to several times as risks to the US outlook.

#### Fed speakers adding to the confusion

Charles Evans, president of the Fed reserve bank of Chicago, said that he expected the US economy

to be strong enough to justify raising rates twice this year. Evans did come across as a little more cautious with regards to his views on inflation saying specifically that he was a 'bit uneasy' on hitting the 2% target. The Fed President also said that 'it is too early to tell whether the recent firmer readings in the inflation data will last or prove to be temporary volatility and reverse in coming months', while also signaling that it is important for the Fed to take the recent decline in inflation expectations, as perceived by the market, seriously.

#### Housing sector volatile but robust

US home prices in 20 major metropolitan areas climbed 5.7% in January compared to a year ago, according to the S&P Case-Shiller report, matching expectations of 5.7%. Prices were up 0.8% in January from December slightly higher than estimates of a 0.7% pace. Housing sector remain robust despite the Federal Reserve's move in December to increase interest rates.

### EUROPE & UK

#### The ECB dilemma in 2016

Since the launch of the ECB quantitative easing program in 2015, the Euro has strengthened almost 2%. Today, the Eurozone inflation remains a major concern. Even with monthly purchases of 80 billion Euros, and placing the ECB deposit rates further into negative, the currency remains on the strong and growth on the weak side. The 5 years inflation expectations in Europe have dropped significantly to 1.40% while the ECB target is at 2%.

In addition to the sticky low inflation environment, additional European risks come in 2016. Whether on the political front with the latest terror attacks and the refugee's problems, financial risk in the Eurozone was the main market focus in the first quarter of the year. The ECB tackled the latter thanks to the large injection of fresh new money through the announcement of four years new TLTROs. On the data side, Europe economic surprise index remains into negative, which is likely to keep the ECB on the intervention side whether verbally or reducing further rates into the negative.

#### German retail sales weaker while inflation still low

Retail sales in Germany declined slightly in February. The data came below expectations at 0.4% in February after a drop of 0.1% in January. On an annual basis, the data was much more positive increasing by 5.4% from February 2015. German inflation on the other hand came at 0.8% from the 0.3% in February. Year on year, inflation is also up, rising by 0.3% from February's drop of 0.1%.

Elsewhere in Europe, Spanish Consumer price inflation increased less-than-expected in February. CPI in Spain increased to 0.6% compared to -0.4% recorded in January. Although a sizable increase, it still failed to meet market expectations of 0.7%. French Consumer price inflation was also out increasing a more-than-expected rate in February at 0.7%, from the 0.3% recorded in the previous month.

#### UK data are setting for a weaker second half of the year

The upcoming UK referendum on EU membership contributed to the Pound weakness in the first quarter of 2016. Moreover, fears about the current account, Britain's credit rating and the global economic conditions have been drivers of the pound's recent fall. The longer term effects of Brexit are also likely to be adverse. According to economists, growth would suffer as a detailed analysis from the Bank of England last October found that EU membership had benefited the British economy.

In the first quarter of the year, UK growth has slowed and downside risks remain on the back of

renewed fiscal tightening. Economic data however have been coming stronger than expected in the past month with inflation moving higher on the back of stronger commodities prices.

The UK's manufacturing PMI came in at 51 compared to expectations of 51.2 in March. The employment sub-index has now been in negative for six of the last eight months. According to the report, the data suggest hiring at small and medium-sized companies failed to offset job shedding at larger manufacturers.

On a different more positive front, the UK house prices increased in March as rental investors rushed to purchase property before a tax increase. The average price of a home rose 0.8% from February. The annual rate of growth surged to 5.7%, the strongest in more than a year. A shortage of homes for sale is being aggravated by landlords trying to buy investment properties before a tax change on second homes takes effect this month. With demand also being boosted by low borrowing costs, the Bank of England has warned that risks in the property market are rising.

### ASIA

#### Chinese government efforts have delivered

People's fears of a sharp Chinese slowdown were the main market attention in the first quarter of the year. Markets in March proved that these worries were overdone and not supported by macro data which continued to point to a very gradual slowdown. This week, Chinese PMI came on the strong side beating market expectations. The data came at 50.2 while economists expected 49.4. The government efforts as well as potential further fiscal easing have generated the short term results that the government was looking for. The problem remain the fact that deceleration continues in the export sectors, and it seems that the investment led growth model has reached its limit.

#### Abenomics hitting a road block

In the first quarter of 2016, the Yen broke below the 115 level needed to sustain the up-trend we have seen since 2012. The Japanese currency was mainly supported on the back of the weak global risk appetite and a continued risk aversion. Additional gains were also due to the fiscal year-end repatriation of funds. In March, the global positive sentiment helped the currency stabilize around the 113 level; however Yellen's dovishness gave a boost to the currency. On the data front, industrial production came weak, falling 6.2% month-on-month in February, exceeding expectations for a 5.9% drop. We believe that further deterioration in the local economic conditions would pressure the government to intervene verbally and further adopt new easing actions to limit the yen's appreciation in order to defend Abenomics policies ahead of the July election.

## NBK SALARY TRANSFERS WILL NOW ONLY BE PROCESSED ONLINE

**KUWAIT:** Starting from April 2016, National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) will only process online salary transfers. All NBK Business Banking customers, who did not yet register in NBK's Salary Portal Service, are asked to visit NBK's closest branch where Business Banking Relationship officer is available in order to register and benefit from the fast and convenient options it offers.

Once registered, NBK Business Banking customers can start executing the salary and allowance payments online securely at any time in a fast, easy and more convenient way instead of visiting the branch.

"Starting from April, NBK Salary Transfers Online will only be processed. This advanced service offers our Business Banking customers a dedicated online portal to instantly transfer their employees' salaries and allowances at any place and time in the comfort of the office or home without the need to visit the branch anymore," said Bader Al Mutawa, NBK's Assistant General Manager, Consumer Banking Group, Executive Manager, Business Banking Services. "Manual processing of salaries will no longer be available," noted Al Mutawa.

"At NBK, we understand that today's competitive business environment requires

unique and innovative banking services. Customers are looking for the most convenient banking solutions to guarantee their success. NBK is their partner for success," added Al Mutawa. NBK has dedicated Relationship Officers to help customers process their forms and register for this service online. NBK's Business Banking customers can also directly send salary transfer reports to the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor via this service.

NBK Business Banking provides a comprehensive set of products and services including easy-to-manage current accounts, dedicated relationship officers, dedicated desks at select branches, Business Banking ATM card that can be used to withdraw and deposit locally and internationally point of sale, e-commerce, mystore2go.com, business banking credit cards, business loans, trade finance solutions, convenient alternative banking channels, and much more.

For more information, please refer to your Personal Banking Officer or visit any of our dedicated business banking desks. NBK Business Banking Branches are Arraya, Tadhamun, Fintas, Ras Assalmiya and Sharq. In addition, NBK has dedicated Business Banking desks located at Surra, Hawalli, Jabriya,, Head Office, Shuwaikh and Mubarak Al Kabeer.



**NORTH ANDOVER:** In this Wednesday, March 23, 2016, photo, a sanitation worker throws a stepladder into his truck. — AP

## NEW AMENITY AT LA HOTELS: A HIGHER MINIMUM WAGE

**LOS ANGELES:** Nine months into a minimum wage hike at some Los Angeles hotels, city leaders and other backers of the move are claiming victory, saying doomsday forecasts from hoteliers have proven unfounded.

Confined to about 15 of the city's largest non-union hotels and accounting for more than a fifth of all its hotel rooms, the increase was aimed at the segment of the service economy that city leaders saw as best equipped to absorb the extra cost. Hoteliers say full data are not yet in and some layoffs have taken place, but champions of the raise say that the naysayers' concerns appear to have been overblown.

"There have not been the wholesale layoffs or cutbacks that we were told would occur," said Los Angeles City Councilman Curren Price, who co-authored the wage hike ordinance. The pay rise for a small slice of an industry gives an early if limited glimpse into the drive for a \$15 minimum wage, gathering pace in states from New York to the West Coast. The federal minimum wage has been stuck at \$7.25/hour since 2009.

A phased statewide raise to \$15, ultimately affecting 5.6 million workers, was approved by the California legislature last week and Governor Jerry Brown, a Democrat, is expected to sign it into law on Monday.

Pushing wages to just over \$15 from as low as \$9 an hour for an estimated 3,000 hotel workers began last summer as the first phase of a

hike for the second-largest U.S. city, largely run by Democrats. It affects about 8,000 rooms, or half of Los Angeles' large-hotel room inventory.

Hotel operators had warned the hike would force them to cut staff and services, put the brakes on new hotel projects and would drive away customers. Because of the increase, Julie Robey, a general manager at the Holiday Inn Los Angeles Gateway, south of downtown, said she had to lay off seven employees, cutting her staff to 95 full and part-time workers.

Robert Amano, executive director of the Hotel Association of Los Angeles, which opposed the increase, said the hike has led to some job cuts, but that an overall tally is not available. Many hotels have chosen to absorb the increase by upping restaurant food prices by 15 to 30 percent, he said. And he warned that smaller hotels, which do not have the same profit cushion, could face bigger challenges when they have to implement the increase this summer.

#### Election issue

Raising the minimum wage is a key issue for contenders in the November US presidential election, addressing a movement led by labor unions to provide better living standards for the working poor. Democratic hopefuls Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders are avid supporters. Republican front-runner and businessman

Donald Trump, who owns hotels, has said US wages in general are too low - but also that it is not necessarily bad to have a low minimum wage in order to compete in a global marketplace.

LA city leaders appear to have picked the right moment for their experiment. An improving economy has helped buoy LA hotel occupancy rates to an all-time high, blunting the effect of the wage rise on the bottom line, hotel industry officials said. "When demand is high and you're running busy, you don't want to cut staff," Amano said.

More than two dozen new hotel projects are in the works, the biggest hotel development boom in Los Angeles since the 1980s, said Bruce Baltin, senior vice president at PKF Consulting, which provides analysis to the hotel industry. "Fortunately, the industry in Los Angeles is very healthy right now," Baltin said.

For workers who received the sharp wage hike, the payoff can go beyond a bigger paycheck. Jacob Loera, a bellman at a downtown Los Angeles hotel, was able to quit a second job that sometimes made his working day go from before dawn until midnight. Now, with one full-time job at the higher minimum wage, the 39-year-old father of three still earns about the same \$2,100 a month, but said he has gained something more valuable. "I get to spend quality time with my kids," Loera said. — Reuters



## Register For The NBK Salary Portal Now

Manual Processing Will Cease From April 1, 2016

From April 1 onwards, your employees' salary transfers will only be processed through the NBK Salary Portal. Manual processing of salaries at our branch in Arraya Tower will no longer be available, so to ensure there are no disruptions to your payroll, register and use the NBK Salary Portal today.



# MERCEDES-KUWAIT CUSTOMERS EXPERIENCE AMG WORLD OF DRIVING PERFORMANCE 2016

**ABU DHABI:** AR Albisher & Z Alkazemi - the Authorized General Distributor of Mercedes-Benz in Kuwait - has treated a group of its most loyal AMG customers to an ultimate track driving experience at the 2016 AMG World of Driving Performance. With the most impressive line-up of Mercedes-AMG vehicles to date, the lucky customers were flown to the UAE to experience the full force of AMG in its natural environment - the Yas Marina Formula 1 Circuit in Abu Dhabi.

The AMG World of Driving Performance 2016 saw participants experiencing the unrivalled thrill of testing the 'Driving Performance' of Mercedes-AMG dream cars in an environment that showcased the power, speed and agility of these exceptional machines. Generating as much adrenalin for drivers as the 18,671 horsepower unleashed around the Yas Marina Formula 1 Circuit, this year's AMG World of Driving Performance included an impressive line-up of models: A 45, CLA 45, GLA 45, C 63 S, C 450 S, GLE 63, GLE 63 Coupe, GLE 450 S, GLS 63, G 63 and the AMG GT S.

Michael Ruehle, CEO, Abdul Rahman Albisher & Zaid Alkazemi Company said: "Mercedes-Benz has long been an innovator in the luxury car segment and Mercedes-AMG continues to dominate the sports car category, delivering powerful machines both highly maneuverable and lightning fast, breathtaking performance. The AMG World of Driving Performance provides the perfect opportunity to extend our driving skills from urban



motorist to racetrack driver and we are delighted to be able to once again offer our loyal customers this exhilarating experience."

Upon arrival and check-in to the hotel, Kuwaiti customers congregated on the track and in the pit for a 5pm start. The first hour included a formal opening and welcome for customers, a short briefing, theoretical and vehicular introductions, and the grouping of drivers ahead of a memorable twilight session.

For the next two and a half exhilarating hours, Kuwaiti customers had the opportunity to participate in the Race Track Experience Lead and Follow Full Track courses in AMG GT

S, C 63 and SL 63 models and learn new skills in a set of drift and drag races. First off, the Drift Competition in a C 63 allowed drivers to enhance their personal repertoire of skills, while the Drag Race in a range of G 63 AMG, GLS 63 AMG, GLE 63 AMG and GLE 63 coupe, the new SUV range tested the skill and performance taking the drivers to the limit. The Autocross showcased the AMG 43 engine vehicles, and allowed drivers to put their skills to the test against the clock.

After a sit down dinner with special chef and chance for drivers to exchange results, the second and most competitive round of Race



Track Experience Lead and Follow Full Track courses, Drift, Drag and Autocross competitions took place. The heated competition continued for another two and a half hours until midnight closing ceremony, before drivers bid each other farewell feeling accomplished and energized. An annual event and greatly anticipated highlight on the calendars of AMG enthusiasts across the region, the 2016 AMG World of Driving Performance offers unprecedented access to participants to fully experience the 'Driving Performance' across the portfolio of AMG vehicles.

The AMG brand enjoys more than 45 years

of heritage in the world of motorsport and was originally established by former Mercedes-Benz engineers Aufrecht and Melcher who had an overwhelming passion for speed. Today, the high-performance AMG vehicles represent the ultimate definition of speed and power with a global presence in the international motorsport arena. The popularity of Mercedes-AMG vehicles in the region is also reflected in the company's global sales results, with the Middle East one of the biggest markets for AMG cars worldwide. Currently, AMG models account for approximately 12% of regional sales for Mercedes-Benz.



## FORD SYNC-EQUIPPED VEHICLES KEEP PARENTS AND KIDS IN SYNC

**DUBAI:** Helicopter parents texting and calling their kids behind the wheel ranks among young drivers' top perceived distractions, according to a Nielsen survey. One in three young drivers say they are distracted by texts and calls from parents and family members asking their whereabouts. The drivers say these types of interruptions are more distracting than being contacted by friends.

The Nielsen survey, commissioned by Ford, found half of these young drivers report telling their parents or family where they're going - or



that they'll be on the road - before even starting the ignition. But still, parents continue to blow up their phones.

Families of adult drivers reach out to their loved ones on the road, too. One in five drivers across all ages report being distracted when they're behind the wheel by calls and texts from family members. For these drivers, only low-visibility conditions and text messages and calls from friends rank as higher perceived distractions. Other distractions these motorists report include bad drivers, traffic, deciding what music to listen to, obstacles in the road and monitoring blind spots.

Research indicates that visual distraction is the primary contributor to distraction-related

crash risks, while the research also finds that normal listening and talking among adults in the car does not raise risk nearly as much. Ford recommends all drivers keep their eyes on the road and hands on the wheel as much as possible so they are better able to react to the changing demands driving situations bring. And Ford provides several ways to keep parents connected safely with their teen drivers:

- Ford SYNC(r) offers hands-free dialing and other voice-activated services to help drivers keep their eyes on the road and hands on the wheel.

- SYNC-equipped vehicles offer "Do not disturb," which works when a driver has connected his or her smartphone to SYNC with MyFord Touch(r) or SYNC; the feature blocks incoming calls and texts - diverting calls to voicemail and saving texts to be read later.

- To help parents promote good driving habits in their teens and to better put their minds at ease, Ford's standard MyKey(r) feature allows them to control one or more keys to configure vehicle settings. MyKey can be configured to provide alerts at certain speeds, limit a vehicle's maximum speed and radio volume, put a paired phone into "Do not disturb" mode, and encourage front safety belt use through persistent Ford Belt-Minder(r) that sounds chimes and mutes the radio until both driver and passenger belts are fastened.

The survey also found that many young drivers admit to sometimes initiating conversations with their parents. Among all drivers, 20 percent report initiating calls to family on the road. If a young driver must make an outgoing call, hands-free dialing and conversations that are short and argument-free make sense to help keep kids behind the wheel safely in sync with their parents. The Nielsen survey polled 1,222 respondents in the United States, aged 16 and older.

# AVAYA OFFERS COMMUNICATIONS SOLUTIONS WITH QUICK ROI

## 'AVAYA VP OFFERS INSIGHTS ON CHANGES IN TECHNOLOGY, FUTURE BUSINESS SOLUTIONS'

By Ben Garcia

**KUWAIT:** Information Technology, especially communication technology, is a key business driver. Among one of the fast growing markets in Kuwait, where companies, large corporations, ministries and government departments are seeking means of streamlining communication in house and with stakeholders. Kuwait Times spoke with Mohammed Areff, Vice President Middle East, Africa and Turkey for Avaya to hear his views on upcoming trends in the complex world of IT and issues shaping communication technology and solutions for the future.

**KT: Would you please brief us on Avaya's history/background?**

**Areff:** Avaya Inc. is a company with a long history. It is an American multinational technology company headquartered in Santa Clara, California. In the Middle East, our headquarters are in Dubai. Avaya in Kuwait is working with our partner Medco. We provide business communication solutions for customer and team engagement.

Avaya enables business processes. So any organization, whether government, private sector or retail can benefit from our services. Avaya understands business process within an organization and can help an organization develop communication in such a way that the end user (customers) for a business, will be satisfied.

We also want to provide meaningful conversations from which organizations can actually understand their customers better when they use our solutions.

In Kuwait, Avaya has a proven track record. We provide communication services, mobility solutions and infrastructure solutions for some of Kuwait's most trusted businesses and organizations including KOC, Kuwait Finance House, Al-Shaya and others.

**KT: Explain Avaya's focus and services?**

**Areff:** We focus on two areas: Software and services. Communication is the foundation of IT today and we are the major player in communication. Needless to say, IT is needed by companies, governments and organizations. The IT department will tell the future of a company. Governments rely on IT solutions to be able to provide services to their citizens.



**KT: Can you talk more about the trends and transformation in the Kuwait market in terms of IT?**

**Areff:** The biggest trend right now is the 'Internet of things'. How can we enable the 'Internet of things' in the future? How can we build the infrastructure today? Organizations also want not only to satisfy customers, but also to build relationships. If you look at the present technology landscape, a lot of people say that investment has reduced. But in Kuwait, I think, it's different. The investments here are increasing, people now are using these as an opportunity to consolidate and solidify what they have today, as infrastructure for IT.

But they also want to go ahead and see how they can make a meaningful investment today that will impact their customer's directly. When it is not driven by revenue, or cost reduction concerns but simply generated by saying that I want to provide the best service to my customers. When my customers are delighted with me, eventually my business is going to sustain and grow.

**KT: It seems most of your customers are major companies? Does Avaya provide solutions to small and medium enterprises?**

**Areff:** Yes we do. Avaya has two portfolios: one for mid-market and the upscale market which includes governments. We believe that the economy of the country is driven by the small and medium enterprises, the big enterprises are there, but the small and medium

companies nowadays are demanding solutions as well. With a solution that has the same flexibility, we targeted small and medium companies. We have a significant number of them in this country and they are using our solutions. We even provide to individuals living in a villa who need a data and Wi-Fi solution.

**KT: So in a way, you are competing with the telcos?**

**Areff:** No. We are complementing each other. Telcos provide infrastructure. We provide the end point in terms of the device or the application needed.

**KT: Who are the big spenders in IT solutions in Kuwait?**

**Areff:** In Kuwait, the number one spenders are banks. In addition to this are the government agencies or ministries in Kuwait like the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Defense, and Ministry of Justice, among others. Just to clarify, the agencies are not actually spending, but they are investing their money. Investing in IT so they can actually reduce the costs, in terms of productivity, time to service, or market.

**KT: How competitive is this to make applications available in smart phones?**

**Areff:** The solution that we offer is enterprise grade, the quality is far beyond, actually higher than the smaller players (mobile apps). Moreover, it can take multi-party, you can use the video conferencing with a higher number of audiences, unlike the mobile apps. Avaya can also record and no other solution can provide that.

**KT: What are the major concerns in Kuwait when we talk about IT?**

**Areff:** I think the major concern for IT businesses in Kuwait is the ROI, generally speaking. People tend to provide very high value solutions and very complex ones that the return of investment will take years to get. That is something we should be concerned about and so the ROI is a major challenge for investors. You know the environment has been changing so fast, it is not very promising for investors to get the ROI in three to five years. We at Avaya, we want it simpler, less complex and so address the solution that can show the ROI in six to eight months.

# OMAN AIR AND SATS FORM CARGO HANDLING JOINT VENTURE

**MUSCAT:** Oman Air SAOC (Oman Air) and SATS Ltd (SATS), through its wholly-owned subsidiary SATS Investments Ptd Ltd, today signed a joint venture agreement for cargo handling at Muscat International Airport.

Under the agreement, Oman Air will transfer its cargo handling business and related assets to its wholly-owned subsidiary Oman Air Cargo LLC. Subsequently, SATS will acquire a 33% equity stake in the said subsidiary. The joint venture company will then be renamed Oman SATS Cargo LLC.

Oman SATS Cargo will have an issued and

paid up share capital of OMR 500,000 (approximately \$51.76 million), comprising 500,000 ordinary shares of OMR 1. It is expected to commence operations during the second quarter of 2016. It will become the single source provider of cargo handling services first at the existing cargo facility and then at the new state-of-the-art cargo terminal in Muscat International Airport. SATS will provide the requisite management and technical know-how to the joint venture including staff training as well as reviewing of existing cargo processes and operations work flow at the



new cargo terminal in Muscat.

Paul Gregorowitsch, Oman Air's Chief Executive Officer said: "The joint venture with SATS is one of our initiatives intended to prepare for the growth in airline operations in the



الطيران العماني  
OMAN AIR

coming years as well as secure a quality improvement in the services provided to our cargo customers. With SATS as our partner, we also believe that the subsequent growth of the new company will result in increased

employment and career development opportunities for Omani citizens."

Alex Hungate, SATS' President and Chief Executive Officer said: "This strategic partnership with Oman Air will enhance connectivity for our cargo customers across Asia and strengthen Oman's position as a transit hub. We also see opportunities to develop cold-chain handling capabilities and promote carriage of premium and temperature-controlled airfreight for Oman Air and other airlines." The completion of the acquisition is subject to the fulfillment of certain conditions precedent.

## AIRBNB PLEDGES HOST CRACKDOWN IN SAN FRANCISCO

**SAN FRANCISCO:** Airbnb launched a crackdown Saturday on some Airbnb hosts who violate San Francisco's laws on short-term rentals, the online vacation-rental service says. The popular site is pledging to investigate people who list multiple San Francisco homes on Airbnb, as well as purge its listings of hosts who have turned private homes into illegal hotels, the San Francisco Chronicle reports.

The move follows a similar self-pol-

icing effort by the 8-year-old vacation-rental giant in New York City. Chris Lehane, Airbnb's global director of public policy, said Airbnb is seeking to adapt its policies "so it serves the best interest of each city we're in."

"This is a step in that direction, to make sure that each host has only one listing in San Francisco," Lehane said. Tech booms in nearby Silicon Valley have helped create one of the most expensive housing markets in the nation

in San Francisco. Housing advocacy groups say the city's shortage of affordable homes for residents is in the thousands.

Critics accuse Airbnb and other short-term rental sites of worsening the housing shortage, by giving property owners a financial motive to convert homes into lodging for out-of-town visitors rather than residents. San Francisco toughened laws on short-term rentals last year, but city officials have pleaded with the vaca-

tion-rental sites for more information to help the city catch violators.

Airbnb has cited privacy concerns, but increasingly is indicating it will do more to police its own listings in some cities. Airbnb told the Chronicle that 1,149, or one-fifth, of its house listings in San Francisco are controlled by hosts who list more than one home for rental on the site. Local law says homeowners are allowed to list only their primary residence for short-term rentals. The com-

pany removed almost 100 questionable San Francisco listings in January, and another 118 in 2015, it said.

San Francisco's Office of Short-Term Rentals, meanwhile, served 59 notices between November and February to property owners it suspected of operating illegally. The company spent \$8 million in 2015 to defeat a ballot measure that sought to further crack down on use of the city's housing stock for vacation rentals. —AP



## KFH LOOKS TO MICROSOFT IN ENABLING BUSINESS TRANSFORMATION

**KUWAIT:** Microsoft Kuwait hosted the Group CEO and Group CIO of Kuwait Finance House (KFH), one of the largest banks in Kuwait and the region, at Microsoft's global headquarters in Seattle, WA. The tour provided an opportunity for senior KFH executives to experience Microsoft innovation geared towards the banking sector, particularly business solutions and innovative tools to transform the KFH working environment. The technology showcase coordinated by Microsoft Kuwait outlined the framework for a refreshed IT vision for the bank, building on an existing strategic partnership between the two organizations.

Mazin Saad Al-Nahedh, CEO, KFH, said: "We are happy to look to Microsoft as our leading technology provider, and believe that they are a partner that invests in their relationships with their clients. The visit to Microsoft provided a view into the future of technology, and it was especially reassur-

ing to see Microsoft put in so much effort to ensure the success of their customers in the banking sector."

Charles Nahas, Microsoft Kuwait's General Manager, said: "KFH is an innovative banking organization, and as a pioneer of CRM in their sector in the region, we were eager to outline to them the future of technology available to the banking industry. Given the premium on customer satisfaction that KFH places, we are sure that their visit to Microsoft Redmond would give them ideas on how to use technology as a competitive differentiator in their business."

KFH Chief IT Officer, Srood Sherif, said: "Microsoft's sector-focused approach helps them stay relevant to businesses through targeted innovation. Merging technical capabilities with business insights and trends, Microsoft ensures that their technology solutions demonstrate value to both technology and business decision-makers."



**TOKYO:** In this Thursday, March 31, 2016, file photo, Apple employees cheer at the door as they escort first customers in line for the release and sale start of the new Apple iPhone SE at an Apple shop in Tokyo. —AP

## WILL APPLE'S FBI TUSSELE TAKE A BITE OUT OF THE BRAND?

**NEW YORK:** The revelation that the FBI was able to break into a secured iPhone without Apple's help won't take a bite out of Apple's brand reputation, but consumers will be looking for security improvements soon.

The Apple brand has already withstood worse. In 2014, hackers posted nude photos of Jennifer Lawrence and other celebrities after guessing their passwords and breaking into their Apple iCloud accounts. Beyond security, Apple has faced complaints that the iPhone 6 Plus bent too easily and that the iPhone 4 lost signal strength when users held it a certain way.

In each case, Apple's reputation recovered - and the company went on to sell 232 million iPhones last year. And on Thursday, crowds formed at some stores as the new iPhone SE went on sale, though the company hasn't released figures.

YouGov BrandIndex, which tracks brand perceptions, said that the Apple brand has been trending modestly positively since early March and that the FBI dropping the case had no effect on that.

And investors have not shown much concern: Apple's stock has increased 4 percent since the FBI said late Monday that it didn't need help to break into the phone. Investors have typically been more worried about whether Apple can maintain its growth as smartphone sales slow down.

Apple resisted the FBI's demands that it rewrite the iPhone's software to override safeguards against repeatedly guessing passcodes. But the FBI now says it did not need Apple's help after all in breaking into an iPhone used by a San Bernardino killer. It was an older model, but has recent iPhone software.

### Tightened security

Apple is already expected to tighten security even more with its next iPhone software, likely to be announced in June and available in September. But can Apple assure its phones are unbreakable when the FBI won't reveal what technique it used?

"They have a window to address the problem, but ... there has to be news soon, with Apple saying 'Here's how the new iPhone is now Fort Knox,'" said Allen Adamson, founder of Brand Simple Consulting.

Apple won't comment on specific plans, but says it's constantly working to improve the security of its devices, because it knows hackers are always looking for new vulnerabilities. Apple also says it can deliver software updates quickly because it sends them directly to users. With Android, any updates have to wait for phone makers and wireless carriers to approve them. And even if the FBI doesn't disclose the technique it used, it may become outmoded as Apple continues updating its security protections.

Christopher Lehmann, managing director of branding firm Landor in San Francisco, said iPhone buyers will understand that Apple's in a business that's "always about improvement, evolving and being agile about how you approach technology." In addition, Apple likely got some kudos from consumers for standing its ground against the government.

And Apple benefits from a quick resolution. Scott Galloway, clinical professor of marketing at NYU Stern School of Business, said Apple risked public sentiment turning against the company as people became more informed about the case, and particularly if Apple lost. —AP

## MICROSOFT DISPLAYS LATEST TECHNOLOGIES

TECH GIANT PARTICIPATES IN 'INNOVATION BAZAAR'

By Ben Garcia

**KUWAIT:** Game-changing technology products and solutions were displayed recently at the 'Innovation Bazaar' organized by Microsoft Kuwait at the Salwa Al-Sabah Hall in Salmiya. Guest speaker and COO of Microsoft Gulf Jaime Galviz told Kuwait Times that Microsoft had an investment of about \$15 billion in research and development to achieve its objectives. "The investment is divided into three components - firstly, making the cloud more intelligent and available for everybody. The second investment is connected to productivity - how can we reinvent productivity; number three is that we make computing more personal. We could interact with technology in a more natural and personal way - technology that is able to read your movements, recognize your voice, gestures and do things for you or with you. Those are the three big areas that we have investments to continue innovation in the coming years," he explained.

The bazaar brought together speakers from Microsoft, its industry peers and partners to provide the IT industry with insights into the empowering devices, apps and solutions that represent the future. Microsoft vision, products and solutions at the event included IoT, Microsoft Azure, Office 365, and Windows 10, in addition to Surface and Lumia devices and Windows 10 tablets. The event also included interactive sessions and demonstration stations at which Microsoft experts provided insights into how Microsoft is empowering businesses, educators, governments and individuals to be most effective and productive.

### Empowerment

"I find it very important that even people who cannot afford



**KUWAIT:** Jamie Galviz, COO of Microsoft Gulf (right) is pictured with Charles Nahas, General Manager, Microsoft Kuwait. —Photo by Joseph Shagra

high-cost technology - through Microsoft's philanthropic work, NGOs and every entity nowadays are making this available to everyone. What we see now is empowerment and democratization; empowerment regardless of what device you are using - we are making it easier for everyone to access the technology, even people who cannot afford it. Two months ago, here in the Middle East, I was able to see a company translating voice to sign language for the deaf using our cloud technology. This will spread in the world eventually," Galviz noted.

Microsoft is growing exponentially amidst financial difficulties and the oil price slump all over the world. According to Galviz, who is the director of business, marketing and operations, Microsoft cares a lot and will continue to do so. He

said Microsoft is helping communities throughout the world with 350,000 partners and it continues to hire people and employ them. "For every person we invest in, 10 or 15 dollars is generated by our partners and the number is growing very fast," Galviz added.

### New technology

"We are also investing in new technology which attracts new talents in the region. We have about 50,000 people being trained in new technology for free through our virtual academy in the Middle East. We also make this technology available in schools and universities here. There is a lot of potential that is happening around us here," he said.

According to Galviz, the changes happening are also generating new opportunities for

Microsoft. "We like to take advantage of the situation. We are moving fast to support companies facing tough challenges; this region has an amazing advantage, historically, they are traders and merchants, and have been connecting to people ever since," he said.

Microsoft admitted competing with tough companies worldwide, but Galviz pointed out that their greatest competitors at this point are only themselves. "We are here to do business and help find solutions. The highly-acclaimed Windows 10 was one of the main attractions, but we also have Office 365, Azure, IoT, Line-of-Business and applications designed specifically to meet the requirements of users in Kuwait looking to utilize the innovation, technology, learning and networking," he said.

## CANON INTRODUCES XA35, XA30: EXCEPTIONAL IMAGING PERFORMANCE FOR HANDHELD VIDEO CAMERA USERS

**KUWAIT:** Canon Middle East today announces the addition of two new handheld video cameras to its X-series, the XA35 and XA30. Designed for professionals and enthusiasts alike, the highly compact and lightweight models feature a newly developed HD CMOS Pro sensor which provides higher sensitivity and improved low-light performance. Both cameras also include new Wide Dynamic Range (DR) and Highlight Priority settings, making them suitable for shooting everything from news and documentaries to weddings and corporate films.

### First-class image quality and video processing performance

Utilizing Canon's heritage in optical expertise and advanced technologies, the newly designed 1/2.84-type 2.91 Megapixel HD CMOS Pro sensor has enhanced sensitivity with improved signal-to-noise ratio. As a result, images are crisp and clear, even in low-light environments. Low-light shooting opportunities are further boosted by improved infrared performance, ideal for users capturing nocturnal wildlife or night-time documentaries. The 20x zoom wide-angle lens offers a 26.8-576mm (35mm equivalent) focal range and employs Canon's intelligent 5-axis Optical Image Stabilization System with Dynamic IS. The lens also features an 8 blade circular aperture to give enhanced 'bokeh'.

The XA35 and XA30 feature two new settings - Wide DR and Highlight Priority. In Wide DR mode, the cameras are able to achieve 600 percent dynamic range, resulting in bright images with high contrast that retain detail in both highlight and shadow areas, without the need for post-production. When using the Highlight Priority setting, users are

able to produce footage with more natural tones and richer colors, particularly in areas of high brightness, perfect for scenes with bright skies and reflective surfaces.

Both models also feature slow and fast recording modes, supporting a range of shooting scenarios with interval recording options up to

a maximum of 1200x normal speed.

### Discreet and portable, ideal for on the move

Compact and lightweight, the XA35 and XA30 are perfect for news gatherers and journalists who often need to record discreetly whilst on the move but don't want to compro-

mise on quality. The cameras are also exceptionally easy to use, featuring extensive automatic functions, ideal for corporate and education environments. The XA35 and XA30 have the same popular ergonomic design as seen in their predecessors, the XA25 and XA20. Easily attached or removed to suit the shooting situation, the removable handle with professional audio XLR terminals provides maximum flexibility for users.

### Integration and connectivity

Featuring a HD/SD-SDI terminal, the XA35 will integrate with existing equipment for onward transfer or transmission and includes embedded audio and timecode signals. Providing users with the ability to export uncompressed high resolution digital video in real time, it's the perfect compact video camera for live TV and news gathering environments, allowing users to complement footage from other broadcast cameras on-set.

The cameras also support high quality AVCHD (up to 28Mbps) and MP4 (up to 35Mbps) file formats and include dual SD card slots, providing instant back-up through simultaneous recording or the option for relay recording at longer events, ideal for wedding videographers.

Both the XA35 and XA30 are dual-band Wi-Fi enabled which allow remote control of the camera, wireless file transfer/upload and browser preview, all with the use of a smartphone, tablet or computer. The cameras are also compatible with Canon's GP-E2 GPS receiver, meaning GPS data can be embedded in the metadata of video footage. This feature allows accurate recording of the location where footage was captured, ideal for both journalists and legal purposes.



The Canon XA30



The Canon XA35

## HUGE GLOBAL EXERCISE CONTEST SHOWS HEALTHY POTENTIAL

**CHICAGO:** A workplace exercise challenge using pedometers and social media in a global competition shows potential to improve health in a study involving almost 70,000 employees in 64 countries. In the program, office teams compete against each other or with groups at companies in other countries to see who can take the most daily steps during a 100-day challenge. Workers post progress on a special social media website - for motivation and to egg on rival teams.

The study found workers on average increased their daily activity by 3,500 steps, exercised for almost one extra day per week, reduced sitting time by about 45 minutes daily, and lost about three pounds (1.4 kilograms) during the contests. Whether the changes were lasting isn't known. The research was presented yesterday

in Chicago at the American College of Cardiology's annual meeting and published online in the group's medical journal.

### The skinny

Dr Anand Ganesan, a cardiologist at Flinders University in Adelaide, Australia, led the study. Researchers analyzed 2012-14 data on yearly contests involving the Stepathlon program, created by Stepathlon Lifestyle Pvt Ltd, a Mumbai, India-based wellness company. Participation was voluntary and increased each year; more than 20,000 blue-collar and white-collar workers worldwide were involved in the 2014 challenge. Not all completed their programs although the number of dropouts isn't known, Ganesan said. Full data were available for almost 37,000 workers, a little over half the

enrollees. Workers in developed and developing nations participated, mostly in Asia but including Europe, North and South America, and Africa. Ganesan said that suggests similar programs could have benefits in countries with poor access to preventive health care. "Getting people to be physically active and change their behavior is hugely challenging" worldwide, Ganesan said. He said the results show that using technology in a clever way has broad appeal and might be able to help fight the world's No. 1 killer: Heart disease causes 18 million deaths globally each year.

### Another view

Dr Jeffrey Kuvin of Tufts Medical Center, vice chairman of the cardiology meeting, called the program novel and the results

tantalizing given that short-term benefits were seen on such a large scale, although he said more follow-up is needed. "If we can increase exercise and decrease sitting ... clearly we are going to make some headway in reducing cardiovascular risk," he said.

### A testimonial

Nikita Sharma, 28, a customer service agent for DHL Express in Mumbai, participated in her company's Stepathlon challenge last year. In an email message, she said the program motivated her to change her lifestyle. During the program she achieved 12,000 steps and 45 minutes of exercise daily, including brisk walking, jogging and cycling. She has stuck with it and lost almost 8 pounds (3.6 kilograms). "I'm more energetic and have built better stamina as well," Sharma said.

### The limitations

The study only looked at short-term results, so it isn't known if the program leads to lasting long-term health benefits. The study also lacked information on any changes in workers with high blood pressure, unhealthy cholesterol levels and other conditions that can lead to heart disease, although exercise is known to benefit those conditions.

### Industry ties

Ganesan said he has no financial ties to Stepathlon. A top company executive is among the study co-authors but Ganesan said Stepathlon wasn't involved in funding or the study analysis. Several other co-authors have received consulting or research fees from makers of pedometers. — AP



**TORNIO, Finland:** This file photo shows Marine experts in Tornio, northern Finland, drilling holes in the sea-ice and inject dye into the water to study how it flows, to model how an oil spill would behave underneath the arctic ice. — AFP

## OIL SPILL TESTS ON ICE PROVE ARCTIC QUESTS RISKY

'IF OIL IS SPILT INTO THE ARCTIC OCEAN, RECOVERING IT WILL BE AN IMPOSSIBLE TASK'

**TORNIO, Finland:** The skimmer is lowered from the rear of the icebreaker, its weight pushing massive pieces of ice under the water and forcing the spilt oil up to the surface, where the sticky black goo can be sucked up. Luckily, this is just a test: as the world's superpowers eye the lucrative Arctic region with growing interest, unprecedented oil spill clean-up tests in icy Finnish conditions reveal just how hazardous and challenging an accident in the Arctic's pristine sea ice could be.

Emergency crews could face total darkness, extreme storms and shifting pack ice, racing against time as the oil puts endangered polar bears, seals and other wildlife at risk. With countries and companies increasingly venturing into the polar region the melting ice caused by global warming has opened up new shipping routes and potential oil, gas and mineral deposits—the risk of an environmental catastrophe has skyrocketed, worrying ecologists and authorities. "If oil is spilt into the Arctic Ocean, recovering it will be a difficult, if not impossible, task," the Pew Research Center, a Washington-based nonpartisan think tank, said in a recent report.

"The challenges go beyond extreme cold, freezing spray, snow, extended periods of low light, strong winds, dense fog, sea ice, strong currents, and dangerous sea conditions to include the limited infrastructure that could support an emergency response," it said. Fearing an oil spill in its own heavily-trafficked, ice-covered Baltic Sea, Finnish authorities are racing against the clock to develop an efficient response to an oil spill in icy conditions. On any other day, Antti Rajaniemi, the 37-year-old captain of Finnish icebreak-

er "Ahto", would be clearing the way in the country's northern ports, where even the largest vessels can get trapped within hours.

But now he's on a special mission. A thick layer of solid ice groans and crunches before giving in and breaking into pieces, as the bow of the small but forceful icebreaker forges a path. Finland's state-owned icebreaking operator Arctia has set itself the goal of being able to recover oil in the harshest of conditions: when a lid of thick ice covers the sea.

"We have to separate the oil from the ice out on the sea since all this ice can't be taken ashore," Rune Hogstrom of Finnish oil spill response company Lamor explained to AFP, invited aboard the icebreaker in the northern Baltic Sea on a recent numbingly cold day. "An oil spill here is a real challenge, when you think we've got half a meter (1.6 feet) of ice, and if you break the ice up then the oil just gets mixed in even more," he said. The shallow waters here provide unique conditions for the tests, with brackish water and thick ice, Arctia said. While Finland is not an oil producing country, it fears a leaking oil tanker could cause irreparable damage to the Baltic Sea's fragile ecosystem. There are around 350,000 ship crossings a year in the Baltic, even though 45 percent of its surface is covered by ice an average winter.

### Hindered by ice

A typical oil spill in water is usually skimmed, dispersed with chemicals, contained with booms or even burnt off. Similar methods could be used in frozen waters, but recovering the oil is severely complicated by the black goo floating under the ice-hidden from

sight—which risks mixing with the crushed ice around an icebreaker trying to locate it. "When you recover oil mixed with ice, only one percent of it is oil and 99 percent is ice. You need to be able to sort out the ice," Rune Hogstrom explains. As he speaks, engineers brave the mercury at minus 15 degrees Celsius (5 degrees Fahrenheit) to descend onto the ice, drilling holes to inject harmless red test liquid to mimic oil.

Hogstrom said the skimmer deployed from the rear of the vessel was capable of separating oil from ice, but more tests were needed to figure out how to use the icebreaker's propeller flows to suction the oil toward the skimmer. Finland has been developing this technology for 20 years, and a 2015 study by the International Association of Oil and Gas Producers found the method being tested now to be one of the most suitable methods for mechanical recovery. Other technologies being developed elsewhere involve different types of skimmers to collect the oil.

In the US and Canada, research has focused on burning off the oil in open water, but that can be difficult in densely packed ice. Environmental organizations like Greenpeace have expressed concerns about the elevated risks of Arctic ventures. "The ice has melted so fast that oil drilling and industrial fishing are now spreading to regions where they weren't possible before and where there aren't any rules yet," head of Greenpeace Finland Sini Harkki said. Anglo-Dutch oil group Shell abandoned its test drills in Alaska last September and Russia's Rosneft has put its own project in the Kara Sea on hold due to the plunging oil price, but Russian Gazprom Neft and Lukoil continue to drill in Russia's Arctic regions. — AFP

## NEW CHOLESTEROL METHODS NEEDED IN WAKE OF FAILED DRUGS

**NEW YORK:** New ways of controlling cholesterol, including possibly directly injecting "good" HDL cholesterol into patients, need to be studied following the failure of promising treatments from Eli Lilly, Pfizer Inc and Roche Holding AG, according to top heart researchers. Lilly in October halted a 12,000-patient study of its experimental drug evacetrapib, an oral medication that in smaller earlier studies slashed "bad" LDL cholesterol and doubled levels of HDL. But improved cholesterol levels did not prevent heart attacks and strokes, diminishing hopes for the approach to treating heart disease - by raising HDL through blockage of a protein called CETP.

Roche in 2012 scrapped its own CETP inhibitor after it also failed to help patients. Pfizer's similar drug was discontinued in 2006 after being linked to deaths in trials. Although Merck & Co continues to develop its own CETP inhibitor in a 30,000-patient study expected to be completed next year, researchers on Sunday said the failures of the Lilly, Roche and Pfizer drugs bode poorly for it.

"Merck's drug is the fourth shot on goal for CETP inhibitors, but with disappointment or lack of success for the other agents you have to be increasingly pessimistic" about

the class of drugs, said Dr. Stephen Nicholls, deputy director of the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute in Adelaide, Australia. He was a lead investigator for the failed trial of Lilly's drug. Nicholls and Dr Steve Nissen, the head of cardiology for the Cleveland Clinic, who co-lead the evacetrapib study, on Sunday reviewed the baffling evacetrapib data in a presentation at the annual scientific sessions of the American College of Cardiology in Chicago.

"This drug lowered LDL by 37 percent and raised HDL by 130 percent and had absolutely no effect" on preventing deaths and heart attacks, Nissen said in an interview. Although other ways of raising HDL cholesterol might eventually prove protective, Nissen said all attempts so far have been fruitless. Nicholls said he remains hopeful of future HDL therapies and is testing whether artificial HDL can be made in the laboratory and injected directly into high-risk heart patients. "There is enthusiasm it may be able to shrink plaque" in heart arteries, he said. He said he is studying variations of that approach with French drugmaker Cerenis Therapeutics and the Medicines Company. Nicholls said another possible approach would be to instruct the liver to make more HDL. — Reuters

## ZIKA MOSQUITO'S HABITS FORCE NEW STRATEGY BY US CITIES, STATES

**CHICAGO:** US states and cities need to adopt a different mosquito-fighting strategy to battle the species carrying the Zika virus as an outbreak that started in Brazil heads north with warmer weather in the coming weeks, health officials said on Friday.

The World Health Organization declared a global health emergency in February as the virus spread rapidly in the Americas, citing Zika's link to the birth defect microcephaly and Guillain-Barre syndrome, an autoimmune disorder in adults that can cause paralysis. The mosquito species responsible for spreading the virus by biting people lives in and around homes, making traditional evening insecticide fogging campaigns from sprayers mounted on trucks an ineffective option, US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention officials said.

CDC Director Dr Thomas Frieden said health departments need to take a "four corners approach," targeting the Aedes aegypti mosquitoes indoors and outdoors as well as focusing on killing both larvae and adult insects. "We think we can at least have significant knockdown and potentially significant disease control," Frieden told state and local health officials and others taking part in a "Zika Action Plan Summit" at the agency's Atlanta headquarters.

Most mosquito abatement efforts in US states target nuisance mosquitoes, those that bite at dusk and ruin picnics and barbecues but pose little public health threat. But Aedes aegypti is a daytime biter that dines exclusively on humans, biting several people in a single blood meal. Aedes aegypti has been dubbed "the cockroach of mosquitoes" because it is so hard to kill, Frieden said.

"Unfortunately, in some parts of the US, it has widespread resistance to some insecticides. But that doesn't mean it's impossible," Frieden said. Zika has been linked to thousands of suspected microcephaly cases in Brazil. The virus is spreading rapidly in Puerto Rico, a tropical island territory of the United

States that is expected to be hardest hit by the current outbreak. Zika is expected to reach southern US states soon as temperatures rise in spring and summer months. As in Puerto Rico, the main focus of the US plan is to protect pregnant women from exposure to Zika-carrying mosquitoes.

### 'patchwork' mosquito control

Dr Lyle Petersen, director of the CDC's Division of Vector-Borne Disease, said US mosquito abatement is handled by a "patchwork" of mosquito-control districts that are coordinated and funded locally. Some may not be linked to local health departments. Most of these programs, Petersen said, are "primarily funded to control nuisance mosquitoes rather than to control disease-spreading mosquitoes."

Surveillance systems in most states and municipalities are geared toward night-biting mosquitoes that breed in larger bodies of water, and are not likely to detect Aedes aegypti, which breeds in flower pots, tires, trash and small pools of water. Unlike many other types of mosquitoes, Aedes aegypti's eggs can dry out and cling to container surfaces, waiting for the next rain to revive them.

At the meeting, Petersen showed a map of mosquito abatement districts in US states. One attendee said "abatement" in his area consisted of a man with a pickup truck who plowed snow in the winter and did some mosquito spraying during warmer months. Many officials expressed concerns about the cost of efforts to deal with Zika. Daniel Kass, New York City's deputy commissioner for environmental health, estimated the city, which has high volumes of travelers and prior outbreaks of Yellow fever and a recent case of dengue, will spend \$5 million to \$6 million on Zika preparedness. Aedes aegypti is not common in New York City, but it is home to Aedes albopictus, another mosquito thought capable of carrying Zika. — Reuters

## STATIN, BLOOD PRESSURE DRUG SLASH HEALTH RISK IN THOSE WITH HYPERTENSION

**CHICAGO:** Patients with high blood pressure and moderate risk of heart disease slashed their long-term risk of heart attack and stroke 40 percent by taking a blood pressure medication as well as a statin cholesterol fighter, according to a large global study that could change medical practice. Results from the trial, called HOPE-3, could prod far more doctors to add a statin to blood pressure therapy for such patients who have no prior history of heart attack or stroke, researchers said. The data was presented on Saturday at the annual scientific sessions of the American College of Cardiology in Chicago.

To enroll in the trial, patients had to have at least one risk factor for heart disease such as obesity or smoking, in addition to being over 60 for women and over 55 for men. "Intermediate-risk people with hypertension had a clear benefit when taking both a statin and an agent that lowers blood pressure," Dr Salim Yusuf, a professor of cardiology at McMaster University in Ontario, Canada who headed the 12,000-patient global study, said in an interview. Patients with systolic blood pressure of 140 and higher were deemed in the study to have high blood pressure. They experienced a 40 percent reduced risk of heart attack and stroke over a six-year period when taking

AstraZeneca Plc's Crestor statin as well as a combination tablet containing blood pressure treatment candesartan and the diuretic hydrochlorothiazide.

Patients with normal or low systolic pressure had the same approximate 25 percent reduction in cardiovascular events as seen among patients in one arm of the study who took only statins. Yusuf said the trial underscores that if a patient at moderate heart risk has high blood pressure, defined as 140 or higher, "give them both a statin and a blood pressure medication as a matter of course." He said statins are not automatically given now to patients with hypertension that are at only moderate risk of heart attack or stroke.

Yusuf's trial included research centers in China, India, Latin America, Africa and Canada, but not the United States because of far greater research costs there. The trial was funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and AstraZeneca. A separate study published in November found that lowering blood pressure to below 120 dramatically reduced heart failure and risk of death in adults aged 50 and older. But the five-year US government-sponsored study of more than 9,300 patients showed a higher rate of adverse side effects, including kidney damage, in the aggressively treated patients. — Reuters

## BILL SEEKS WARNING LABELS ON ILLINOIS MEDICAL MARIJUANA PRODUCTS

**ILLINOIS:** Medical marijuana in Illinois would be required to carry warning labels about possible side effects under a bill proposed by a Republican lawmaker. Rep Dwight Kay said the goal is to treat medical marijuana like other prescription drugs that warn patients about possible adverse effects. His bill, which is up for a House committee vote Monday, doesn't specify what warnings should be on the products, leaving it to the state health department to decide. But Kay said he would like to see warnings about how marijuana can cause drowsiness and impaired driving, and that it can affect pregnancies.

Medical marijuana sales began in Illinois in November under a 4-year pilot program, which Kay opposed. However, he said he believes it will eventually become permanent and wants the labeling to be in place as soon as possible. "It's better coming sooner or later than we get the appropriate warnings on the package or whatever this is being dispensed in," he said.

Currently, marijuana-infused products like chocolates and other edibles are required to have language stating that the cultivation center where the pot was produced is not subject to public health inspection. The products

are also required to state that they're intended for medical use and not for resale or transfer. A clearly visible label warning that the product is marijuana and not food is also required.

But listing possible side effects of the



**ILLINOIS:** Lead grower Dave Wilson cares for marijuana plants in the "Flower Room" at the Ataraxia medical marijuana cultivation center in Albion. — AP

drug, whether in edible or plant form, are not among the current labeling requirements. Bresha Brewer, the executive director of the Medical Cannabis Alliance of Illinois, said her group is still reviewing Kay's proposal and has not taken a position yet. However, she noted that dispensaries already provide educational materials at their shops. She also said medical marijuana patients get one-on-one consultations with employees about how pot may affect them. "Everyone is going to react differently," Brewer said. Dan Linn, a spokesman for the Illinois chapter of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, said he believes further labeling on the products is unnecessary. But, he added, "The more information we can provide patients is beneficial." Kay said his biggest concern is with people who may come in contact with the drug without understanding the possible consequences. "For lack of a better word, the innocent bystander," he said. — AP



**MONTROSE, Colorado:** Josh O'Neal, general manager of the Rocky Mountain Gun Club in Grand Junction, Colorado, stands in front of a display of firearms at the state-of-the-art shooting range. — AP photos



**MONTROSE, Colorado:** Dave Fishell, a local historian and gun collector, stands in a cemetery in Grand Junction, Colorado, after helping locate the tombstone of a suicide victim.

## IN WEST, REGION OF GUNS AND SUICIDE, OUTREACH TO CURB DEATHS

'MAKE SURE GUNS ARE LOCKED AND OUT OF THE REACH OF SOMEONE WHO'S IN CRISIS'

**MONTROSE, Colorado:** Keith Carey is a gunsmith in Montrose, a town with a frontier flavor set amid the mesas of western Colorado. He's a staunch, though soft-spoken, defender of the right to bear arms. Yet now he's a willing recruit in a fledgling effort to see if the gun community itself - sellers and owners of firearms, operators of shooting ranges - can help Colorado and other Western states reduce their highest-in-the-nation suicide rates. "Suicide is a tragedy no matter how it's done," said Carey, whose adult daughter killed herself with a mix of alcohol and antidepressants a few years ago on the East Coast. However, he sees the logic in trying gun-specific prevention strategies in towns like Montrose, where guns are an integral part of daily life.

Carey's shop counter now displays wallet-sized cards with information about a suicide hotline. A poster by the door offers advice about ways to keep guns away from friends or relatives at risk of killing themselves. Carey says some customers take materials home, or ask a few questions. The conversations tend to be brief. "Suicide is one of those morose subjects that a lot of us don't want to talk about," he said. "But it's all too common. I believe any method of suicide prevention is worth a good hard try."

### Rocky Mountain

Across the US, suicides account for nearly two-thirds of all gun deaths far outnumbering gun homicides. In 2014, according to federal data, there were 33,599 firearm deaths; 21,334 of them were suicides. That figure represents about half of all suicides that year; but in several western Colorado counties, and in some other Rocky Mountain states with high gun-ownership rates, more than 60 percent of suicides involve firearms. Along with Alaska, the states with the highest rates form a contiguous bloc - Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Nevada, Colorado, Utah and New Mexico. All have age-adjusted suicide rates at least 50 percent higher than the national rate of 12.93 suicides per

100,000 people; Montana's rate, 23.80, is the highest in the nation. Between 2000 and 2014, gun suicides increased by more than 51 percent in those states, while rising by less than 30 percent nationwide. Theories abound as to why such high rates. Commonly cited factors include the isolation and economic hard times in rural areas of these states. There's also belief that a self-reliant frontier mindset deters some Westerners from seeking help when depression sinks in. "We embrace the cowboy mentality," says Jarrod Hindman, director of Colorado's Office of Suicide Prevention. "If you're suffering, suck it up, pick yourself up by your boot straps. But that doesn't work very well if you're suicidal." Underlying all these explanations is the fact that firearms are more ubiquitous in the West than in most other parts of the country.

### Gun control

Catherine Barber, a suicide prevention expert at the Harvard School of Public Health, says residents of gun-owning homes are at higher risk of suicide than other people - simply because a suicide attempt is more likely to involve a gun. According to federal estimates, suicide attempts involving firearms succeed 85 percent of the time, compared to less than 10 percent of attempts involving drug overdoses and several other methods. "It's not that gun owners are more suicidal," Barber argues. "It's that they're more likely to die in the event that they become suicidal, because they are using a gun."

Colorado's Gun Shop Project is modeled after a program pioneered in New Hampshire. Barber helped design the initiative and hopes collaboration on firearm suicide prevention can spread nationwide. "In the past, people shut up about this issue because they thought raising it meant raising the issue of gun control," she said. "It makes so much more sense to look at gun owners as part of the solution." Hindman said that when he joined the state health department in 2004, talking about the role of firearms in suicide was discouraged. It's still a sensitive topic, he said, but some funding has materialized for gun-specific initia-

tives.

In Montrose, Police Commander Keith Caddy has been around guns since childhood. Now he's doing outreach for the Gun Shop Project - and most of the businesses he has visited agreed to display suicide-awareness materials once they were assured it wasn't a gun-takeaway program in disguise. "It's my duty to protect the community I serve," Caddy said. "If I can go out there and spend a little time talking to the gun shops, maybe the reward will be saving someone's life."

Suicide presents a distinctive challenge for shooting ranges: Occasionally, someone will rent a gun, then use it to commit suicide. At the Family Shooting Center in Denver, there have been three such incidents, including two since Doug Hamilton began managing the range in 2004. Hamilton is open to letting his staff get suicide-prevention training, though he's unsure it would help. Those who killed themselves at his range exhibited no signs of stress beforehand. "Suicide prevention brochures aren't something that anyone's going to pick up who has come out to our range to kill themselves," he said.

### The medical community

Such challenges are familiar to Dr Michael Victoroff, a Denver-area physician whose leisure-time passion is competitive shooting. He was at the Family Shooting Center in Denver when one of the suicides occurred there. Victoroff belongs to the American Medical Association and the National Rifle Association, and has qualms about both. "The medical community has been content not to know anything about gun culture and gun safety," said Victoroff. As for the NRA, he'd like to see suicide prevention highlighted in its training materials. Over the years, firearm suicide has not been a high-profile issue for the NRA; it worries that the topic might be used to advance a gun-control agenda. Though the NRA has no position on Colorado's Gun Shop Project, it has endorsed a bill in Washington state encouraging gun dealers to participate in suicide prevention efforts, said spokeswoman Jennifer Baker. — AP



**MONTROSE, Colorado:** Dr Michael Victoroff, a physician in the Denver area whose leisure-time passion is competitive shooting, practices at a range in Centennial.

## FILM TO HELP FAMILIES PREVENT LGBT YOUTH SUICIDES

**NEW YORK:** When families reject their lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children, it dramatically increases the youths' risk for suicide. Experts hope a new film aimed at families - religious families in particular - will help ease the tensions that drive those youngsters to kill themselves. The 20-minute film, called "Families are Forever," follows the journey of a devout Mormon family whose 13-year-old son comes out as gay. The family discusses its reactions, decisions and how they reconciled their beliefs with their son's announcement.

The film and supporting materials, part of a growing series, quickly get to the heart of the matter, said Caitlin Ryan, director of the Family Acceptance Project at San Francisco State University, which produced the film. "We have to give people a way to understand how... they can support a LGBT child even if it's not in sync with their religious beliefs or cultural values," Ryan told Reuters Health.

The Family Acceptance Project had previously found that LGBT youth who report high levels of family rejection are more than eight times more likely to report attempting suicide, compared to similar kids whose families don't reject them. Family acceptance of LGBT children is tied to better physical and mental health, however.

The multimedia package, available in English and Spanish, is meant to help families identify and change behaviors that make their LGBT child feel rejected and to increase supportive behaviors, Ryan said. Even though parents may be engaging in rejecting behaviors out of care or concern, they are nevertheless "contributing to health risks, conflict and estrangement in the family," said Ryan.

The film and its accompanying discussion guide and family education workbook were added in March to the Suicide Prevention Resource Center Best Practice Registry. Ann Hass, a senior consultant to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, told Reuters Health that the registry is a collection of research-based and peer-reviewed suicide prevention programs, selected in "a pretty rigorous process." "The addition of Caitlin Ryan's work to the registry is such a step forward in terms of the ability people in communities to do some LGBT-related suicide prevention," said Hass.

So far, this is the only LGBT-related program in the registry to incorporate faith-based themes. Rather than writing off religious families as culturally or socially conservative, Ryan said, "We have to understand that all of these families share some common fear and concerns and challenges." — Reuters

## EUROPE GIVES GREEN LIGHT TO FIRST GENE THERAPY FOR CHILDREN

**LONDON:** The world's first life-saving gene therapy for children, developed by Italian scientists and GlaxoSmithKline, has been recommended for approval in Europe, boosting the pioneering technology to fix faulty genes. The European Medicines Agency (EMA) said on Friday it had endorsed the therapy, called Strimvelis, for a tiny number of children with ADA Severe Combined Immune Deficiency (ADA-SCID) for whom no matching bone marrow donor is available.

Around 15 children a year are born in Europe with the ultra-rare genetic disorder, which leaves them unable to make a type of white blood cell. They rarely survive beyond two years unless their immune function is restored with a suitable bone marrow transplant. SCID is sometimes known as "bubble baby" disease, since children born with it have immune systems so weak they must live in germ-free environments.

Strimvelis is expected to secure formal marketing authorization from the European Commission in a couple of months, making it the second gene therapy to be approved in Europe, after UniQure's Glybera, which treats a rare adult blood disorder. The US Food and Drug Administration has yet to approve any gene therapies but a growing number of US biotech companies, such as Bluebird Bio, have products in development. Other large pharmaceutical companies are also eyeing the field, including Bristol-Myers Squibb, which has a tie-up with UniQure.

### Many setbacks

Research into gene therapy goes back a quarter of a century but the

field has experienced many setbacks, including the high-profile death of an American patient in 1999 and some disastrous clinical trial results in the late 1990s and early 2000s.

Now, though, optimism is building, helped by the discovery of better ways to carry replacement genes into cells. Martin Andrews, head of GlaxoSmithKline's rare diseases unit, believes the technology is proving itself, although it remains at an early stage of development. "We're on page one of chapter one of a new medicine text book," he told Reuters.

A host of challenges still need to be overcome, including the complexity of delivering a product like GSK's new treatment, which requires bone marrow cells to be taken from the patient, processed and injected back. Trickiest of all may be pricing, given the tiny market for a therapy like Strimvelis. UniQure's Glybera made history in 2014 as the first drug to carry a \$1 million price tag. GSK is not putting a price on its product but a source close to the company said that, if approved, Strimvelis would cost "very significantly less than \$1 million".

GSK has several other gene therapies under development with researchers at Fondazione Telethon and Ospedale San Raffaele in Italy, including treatments for metachromatic leukodystrophy and Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome that could be submitted for regulatory approval in the next couple of years. Its Strimvelis treatment for ADA-SCID is also being lined up for submission to US regulators, although Andrews said this would not happen before the end of next year. — Reuters

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## JUMEIRAH MESSILAH BEACH HOTEL & SPA REVEALS AN ARRAY OF EXPERIENCES THIS MONTH

Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel & Spa welcomes the month of April with a series of exciting new offers. Talise Spa, the award-winning haven of tranquility, is offering the exclusive Sensory Energy for Unprecedented Rejuvenation treatment. The promotion involves an exclusive 90-minute Diamond

Lifting Multi Sensorial facial coupled with a complimentary 60-minute relaxing Swedish massage. For treatment of the month, Talise Spa is offering the deeply relaxing Luminescent Indulgence treatment designed to leave the skin radiant and refreshed after a thorough organic body scrub followed by a

massage to promote circulation and energize the muscles.

Guests visiting Talise this month will enjoy the Green Detox signature beverage; a nutrition-packed smoothie of green tea, kiwi, and lemon to hydrate the skin ahead of summer season. For the ideal wellness experience, the

luxurious landmark recently introduced Talise Spa and Talise Fitness memberships to offer members wide-ranging benefits through a combination of invigorating workouts and luxurious pampering.

As part of its unique dining experiences, the idyllic resort carries on with its ever popu-

lar "Indian Nights" in the all-day dining venue, Garden Café. Guests are welcomed to taste home-cooked Indian specialties starting every Tuesday at 7:00PM. Families can also savour the best of every cuisine at Garden Café's weekly Amazing Friday Brunch from 1:00 PM to 4:30 PM.



A delegation from the College of Nursery at the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training visited the Omariya Elementary School for boys and Farwaniya Elementary School for girls.



## KUWAIT ENGLISH SCHOOL STUDENTS VISITS ACK

The Australian College of Kuwait (ACK) recently hosted a group of students and teachers from the Kuwait English School (KES) for a campus tour which included visits to the School of Engineering, School of Business and the Department of Aviation. During the visit, students were introduced to the various programs offered at ACK, the benefits of learning through the College's applied and theoretical curricu-

lum, as well as the chance to meet with Admission and Academic staff members.

Concluding the visit, the students were then treated to a tour of ACK's famous live Boeing 737-200 airplane at the Department of Aviation's hangar. ACK welcomes schools to visit its campus. For those parties interested, official requests can be organized through the Admission & Registration department at the College.



## BSK STUDENTS VISIT RAS AL KHAIMAH FOR THE BRONZE INTERNATIONAL AWARD

Over the past year, a large number of students from The British School of Kuwait (BSK) have been training, planning and preparing for their adventurous journey as part of the 'Duke of Edinburgh International Award'. During the recent holidays a group of 53 BSK students and their teachers embarked from Kuwait airport to Ras Al Khaimah, UAE, to complete training and undertake a mountainous trek. The trip consisted of a day of

travel and preparation followed by two days trekking in the mountains, camping in the night between and a final day of team building skills and debrief.

Over the two trekking days students were expected to navigate 26km in mountainous terrain whilst carrying everything that they might need on the trip. This included tents, sleeping bags, first aid kits, clothes and all of the food that they would need as well as the stoves to cook it. No

mean feat to carry this amount of kit and cover 13 kilometers a day but the preparations and training paid off and the adventurous journey was a resounding success.

These trips are no small undertaking for the students who so very rarely have the opportunity to experience such adventures. The trip also required the assistance of 9 members of the BSK staff who received training on how to navigate from a map and compass. This was the

first trip abroad for this cohort who now look to complete the rest of the Bronze award before beginning the Silver award next year. The students who completed the expedition were a credit to themselves, accepting new challenges and committing fully to the task. In doing so they found out more about themselves; their abilities; personal skills and leadership potential. Congratulations to all involved!



The Center for Research in Informatics, Sciences, and Engineering at the AMERICAN UNIVERSITY of KUWAIT presents a lecture entitled:

### THE WAY TO 5G LIVE Demo by Zain

Tuesday April 5<sup>th</sup> 2016 | 5:30 PM  
AUDITORIUM

Although the super-fast mobile network of the future is likely still a few years away, Long-Term Evolution (LTE) continues to rapidly take shape. This live demo will be conducted by professionals from Zain to provide an overview of mobile network evolution, and the latest technologies behind it.

PRESENTED BY:

Muhammad Al Ruwaych  
Operation Center Department Manager, ZAIN

Khaled M. Al Saleh  
Access Planning Engineer, ZAIN

RISE  
AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF KUWAIT

www.auk.edu.kw/RISE

## AUK LECTURE ON 'THE WAY TO 5G' BY ZAIN

The AUK Center for Research in Informatics, Sciences and Engineering (RISE) cordially invites you to attend a lecture entitled "The Way to 5G: Live Demo by Zain." The lecture will feature an interactive presentation by Zain's Operation Center Department Manager Muhammad Al Ruwaych, and Access Planning Engineer Khaled Al Saleh. The event will take place Tuesday April 5th 2016, at 5:30 PM, in the Auditorium at The American University of Kuwait. The lecture comes as part of the RISE Lecture Series 2015-2016 that is intended to host local and international experts from a wide variety of disciplines to give talks and workshops at AUK.

### WHAT'S ON - SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

All photos submitted for What's On should be minimum 200dpi. Articles must be in plain text and should include name and phone numbers. Articles and photos that fail to meet these requirements will not be published.

Please send them to  
[news@kuwaittimes.net](mailto:news@kuwaittimes.net)



## AL-SAYER PARTICIPATES IN EARTH HOUR 2016

Strengthening its commitment towards planet earth, Al Sayer Group voluntarily participated in the Earth Hour 2016, to uphold its assurance to continue with its steady steps to curb climate change. Al Sayer Business units, Toyota Sales & Services, and Lexus units came together to shine a light on the climate action our planet needs by switching off unnecessary lights (external & internal lights) and electrical appliances at most of group sites across the state of Kuwait On March 19th, 2016 from 08:30 pm. to 09:30 pm.

This year, WWF and Earth Hour teams used the Earth Hour movement to engage people in critical climate conversations and solutions, and Al Sayer Group joined in the move. Al Sayer Group is conducting activities to create awareness on recycling, to reduce waste and carbon emissions, and keep running campaigns in Kuwait to promote climate awareness and actions to be taken.

On this occasion Eng Nehad Al Haj Ali, Manager Al Sayer Group Corporate Excellence said "The need for climate action is the



responsibility of every individual now. This year, WWF and Earth Hour teams used the Earth Hour movement to engage people in critical climate conversations, solutions and by seeing alarming climate change in every corner of the world, we from Al Sayer is committed to do our best from corporate to individual level."

Since starting as a lights-off event in Sydney, Australia in 2007, the Earth Hour has grown to engage more than 7000 cities and towns worldwide. Today, Earth Hour engages a massive main-

stream community on a broad range of environmental issues. The one-hour event continues to remain the key driver of the now larger movement. Earth hour is a global movement intended to make a powerful statement for climate action.

This year's participation comes as a part of Al-Sayer Group policy in sustainability and social responsibility towards the environment, which aims to raise environmental awareness for its employees, customers and the public by raising their awareness of the importance of protecting the earth from carbon and heat emissions that are released from electricity generation stations which adversely affect the safety of the environment, and motivate them to change their habits by proper use of natural resources without any extravagance to be more sustainable.

Al Sayer Group believes in safeguarding future generations to inherit a clean and healthy environment, preserving the environment and reduction of pollution will remain an established principal and integral part of its policy for sustainability and social responsibility.



## AL MULLA EXCHANGE INAUGURATES 8TH BRANCH IN SALMIYA

Al Mulla Exchange, the leading exchange company in Kuwait, which has been steadily growing in the state over the last many years, opened the 8th branch in Salmiya on Thursday. The new branch, located near the Salmiya Garden next to Kastana Restaurant, is well appointed and comes with all the facilities and latest services that the company offers.

Speaking about the launch the General Manager of Al Mulla Exchange, Rakesh Joshi, said opening of the branches in Salmiya reflects the demand for the company's services in the area. "Our efforts are to enable as many of our customers as

possible to easily access our branches and avail the services for all kinds of transactions. We plan our expansion strategies based on the pulse of the people, and we just cater to their needs.

"So far, people have always accorded us a great welcome wherever we opened a branch, and this we believe shows the trust they repose in our services." Further, Joshi noted that Al Mulla Exchange will constantly strive in the path of excellence, "continuously improving our services and updating our technology to provide the best solutions to the needs of our customers."

## APPEAL FOR INFORMATION ABOUT KUWAITI RESISTANCE FIGHTERS

*To whom it may concern*

This is an appeal on behalf of Marshal Byiers, a Scottish gentleman who lived in Kuwait during the 1980s. While here, he lived with his family in Fahaheel city, more specifically, in a building owned by Khalif Al-Fulajj.

Marshall worked for a company called EW Sable, and was trapped in Kuwait during the Iraqi invasion. He was held hostage by the Iraqi forces for a brief period of time. He was eventually put in contact with members of the Kuwait Resistance by Larry Banks at the British Embassy. While Mr Byiers never met the resistance fighters in person, they spoke over the phone and they provided him with food, cigarettes, and a small radio at great personal risk to them self. The men who knew him would likely be in their 50s now. His personal friend was a Kuwaiti gentleman names Sami Al

Dabbous, who we're having trouble locating.

After the war, Marshall returned to Scotland. We are a group of filmmakers who are currently working on a documentary that narrates Marshall's story, and, after 26 years, we are flying him back to Kuwait for the first time, for what will probably be quite an emotional closure to his journey.

Marshall would really like to meet the person that helped him during the Iraqi occupation. Marshall is due to arrive to Kuwait on April 4-9. The documentary tells his story and we would like the opportunity to tell the story from the side of the man who helped him. If you or anybody else has any personal history with this story or anybody involved in it, please contact us at the following email Hamadaam@vcu.edu or phone number (965) 6668-0061.

**AMC**

00:10 Fatal Pulse  
01:35 Assassination Tango  
03:30 Electra Glide In Blue  
05:25 Empire Of The Ants  
06:55 Clifford  
08:25 Late For Dinner  
10:00 Apache  
11:30 The Adventures Of Gerard  
13:00 Death Rides A Horse  
14:55 Little Sister  
16:30 The Beast Of Hollow Mountain  
17:50 Saved!  
19:20 Apache  
20:50 Fear The Walking Dead: Flight 462  
21:00 Night Manager  
22:00 Fear The Walking Dead: Flight 462

**ANIMAL PLANET HD**

00:45 Gator Boys  
01:40 The Primeval Forest Of Belovezhskaya Pushcha  
02:35 Wildest Indochina  
03:25 Bahama Blue  
04:15 Wildest Arctic  
05:02 Alien Sharks: Close Encounters  
05:49 Biggest And Baddest  
06:36 Meet The Orangutans  
07:00 Meet The Orangutans  
07:25 America's Cutest Pets  
08:15 River Monsters  
09:10 Treehouse Masters  
10:05 Tanked  
11:00 America's Cutest Pets  
11:55 Bondi Vet  
12:25 Bondi Vet  
12:50 River Monsters  
13:45 Gator Boys  
14:40 Treehouse Masters  
15:35 Tanked  
16:30 Echo And The Elephants Of Amboseli  
17:00 Echo And The Elephants Of Amboseli  
17:25 River Monsters  
18:20 From WAGs To Riches  
19:15 Tanked  
20:10 Echo And The Elephants Of Amboseli  
20:40 Echo And The Elephants Of Amboseli  
21:05 Treehouse Masters  
22:00 From WAGs To Riches  
22:55 Gator Boys  
23:50 River Monsters

**BBC FIRST**

00:15 Eastenders  
00:45 Silent Witness  
03:30 Doctors  
04:00 Eastenders  
04:30 Stella  
05:15 Father Brown  
06:00 Doctors  
06:30 Doctors  
07:00 Eastenders  
07:30 Stella  
08:20 The Paradise  
09:15 Doctor Who  
10:05 Doctors  
10:35 Eastenders  
11:05 Father Brown  
11:55 Stella  
12:45 The Paradise  
13:45 Doctor Who  
14:40 Doctors  
15:10 Eastenders  
15:40 Stella  
16:30 The Paradise  
17:30 Doctor Who  
18:15 Casualty  
19:15 Father Brown  
20:05 Prey  
21:00 Undercover  
22:00 Silent Witness  
22:55 Father Brown

**Bloomberg TELEVISION**

00:00 High Flyers  
00:30 Bloomberg Businessweek  
01:00 First Up With Angie Lau

15:15 China 24  
16:00 News Update  
16:15 Global Business  
17:00 News Update  
17:15 World InSight  
18:00 Asia Today  
18:30 Culture Express  
19:00 News Update  
19:30 Spectrum Asia  
20:00 Africa Live  
21:00 Global Business  
21:30 Dialogue  
22:00 News Update  
22:15 China 24  
23:00 News Update  
23:15 World InSight

**CNBC**

00:00 Inside China  
00:30 The CNBC Conversation  
01:00 Asia Squawk Box  
04:00 Asia Street Signs  
06:00 Meet The Press  
07:00 Capital Connection  
08:00 Squawk Box Europe  
11:00 Europe Street Signs  
12:00 Worldwide Exchange  
13:00 U.S. Squawk Box  
16:00 Squawk On The Street  
18:00 U.S. Squawk Alley  
19:00 Fast Money: Half Time Report  
20:00 U.S. Power Lunch  
22:00 U.S. Closing Bell

**crime & investigation network**

00:00 Cursed: The Bell Witch  
01:00 The Haunting Of...  
02:00 Killer Kids  
03:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos  
04:00 Nightmare In Suburbia  
05:00 Cursed: The Bell Witch  
06:00 The FBI Files  
07:00 Britain's Biggest Heists  
08:00 Crime Stories  
09:00 Surveillance Oz  
10:00 Steven Seagal: Lawman  
10:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook  
11:00 The First 48  
12:00 The FBI Files  
13:00 Monster In My Family  
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**Discovery CHANNEL HD**

00:20 Fast N' Loud  
01:00 Manhunt With Joel Lambert  
02:00 Manhunt With Joel Lambert  
02:50 Killing Fields  
03:40 Extreme Collectors  
04:05 The Liquidator  
04:30 Garage Gold  
05:00 How Do They Do It?  
05:30 Chasing Classic Cars  
06:00 Outback Truckers  
06:50 Wheeler Dealers  
07:40 Fast N' Loud  
08:30 Extreme Collectors  
08:30 The Liquidator  
09:20 Garage Gold  
09:45 How Do They Do It?  
10:10 Chasing Classic Cars  
10:35 Misfit Garage  
11:25 Overhaul!  
12:15 Extreme Car Hoarders  
13:05 Extreme Collectors  
13:30 The Liquidator  
13:55 Garage Gold  
14:20 Outback Truckers  
15:10 Wheeler Dealers  
16:00 Fast N' Loud  
16:50 Chasing Classic Cars  
17:15 How Do They Do It?  
17:40 Gold Rush  
18:30 Diamond River Hunters  
19:20 Superhuman Showdown

**THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA**

**ID. INVESTIGATION DISCOVERY**

00:30 Missing In Maui: A Disappeared Special  
01:20 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones  
02:10 Swamp Murders  
03:00 Deadline: Crime With Tamron Hall  
03:45 Deadly Affairs  
04:30 Missing In Maui: A Disappeared Special  
05:20 The Will  
06:10 The Will  
07:00 Dr G: Medical Examiner On The Case With Paula Zahn  
08:40 Fatal Encounters  
09:30 Murder Shift  
10:20 Deadly Affairs  
11:10 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones  
12:00 The Will  
12:50 I Almost Got Away With It  
13:40 California Investigator  
14:05 Dr G: Medical Examiner Fatal Encounters  
14:55 On The Case With Paula Zahn  
14:00 Liv And Maddie  
16:35 Murder Shift  
17:25 I Almost Got Away With It  
18:15 The Will

**Discovery science**

19:05 Deadly Affairs  
19:55 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones  
20:45 California Investigator  
21:10 Who On Earth Did I Marry?  
22:00 Swamp Murders  
22:50 True Nightmares  
23:40 Who On Earth Did I Marry?

**Sci-Fi Science**

00:20 Sci-Fi Science  
00:42 Sci-Fi Science  
01:08 Invent It Rich  
01:55 Da Vinci's Machines  
02:42 Building The Biggest  
03:29 Building The Biggest  
04:16 Building The Biggest  
05:03 Food Factory  
05:25 Food Factory  
05:50 Food Factory  
06:12 Food Factory  
06:37 How Do They Do It?  
07:00 How Do They Do It?  
07:23 Mythbusters  
08:08 Sci-Fi Science  
08:30 Sci-Fi Science  
08:53 Building The Biggest  
09:38 How It's Made  
10:00 How It's Made  
10:23 Da Vinci's Machines  
11:08 Space Pioneer  
11:53 Building The Biggest  
12:38 Mythbusters  
13:23 How It's Made  
13:46 How It's Made  
14:10 Sci-Fi Science  
14:32 Sci-Fi Science  
14:57 The Loch Ness Monster Revealed  
15:44 Space Pioneer  
16:31 Building The Biggest  
17:18 Sci-Fi Science  
17:40 Sci-Fi Science  
18:05 Mythbusters  
18:50 You Have Been Warned  
19:40 Space Pioneer  
20:25 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman  
21:15 Eco-Tech  
22:00 You Have Been Warned  
22:45 Space Pioneer  
23:35 Mythbusters

**Discovery world**

00:30 Aircrash Confidential  
03:35 Anthony Bourdain: No Reservations  
04:20 Anthony Bourdain: No Reservations  
05:50 Anthony Bourdain: No Reservations  
06:35 Chasing Classic Cars  
07:00 Anthony Bourdain: No Reservations  
07:50 Bush Pilots  
08:40 Extreme Engineering  
09:30 Gunslingers  
10:20 Origins  
10:45 Chasing Classic Cars  
11:10 Anthony Bourdain: No Reservations  
12:00 Bush Pilots  
12:50 Extreme Engineering  
13:40 Gunslingers  
14:30 Origins  
14:55 Chasing Classic Cars  
15:20 Anthony Bourdain: No Reservations  
17:25 Bush Pilots  
17:00 Extreme Engineering  
17:50 Gunslingers  
18:40 Origins  
19:05 Chasing Classic Cars  
19:30 Disaster On K2  
20:20 Anthony Bourdain: No Reservations  
21:10 Extreme Engineering  
22:00 Disaster On K2  
22:50 Gunslingers  
23:40 Modern Sniper

**Disney Junior**

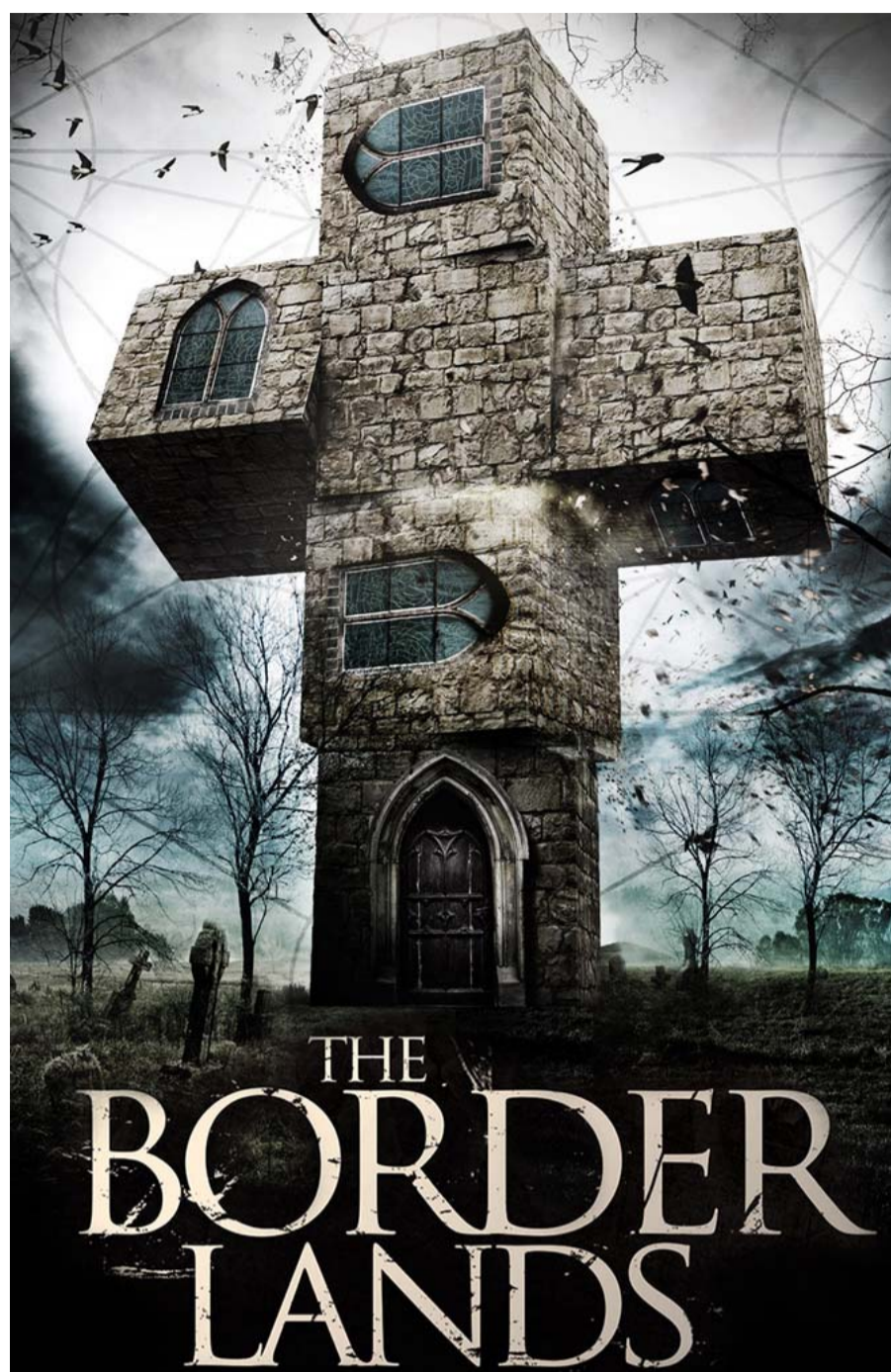
00:05 Art Attack  
00:30 Henry Hugglemonster  
00:45 Calimerio  
01:00 Zou  
01:15 Loopidoo  
01:30 Art Attack  
01:55 Henry Hugglemonster  
02:05 Calimerio  
02:20 Zou  
02:30 Loopidoo  
02:45 Art Attack  
03:10 Henry Hugglemonster  
03:20 Calimerio  
03:35 Zou  
03:45 Loopidoo  
04:00 Art Attack  
04:25 Henry Hugglemonster  
04:35 Calimerio  
04:50 Zou  
05:00 Loopidoo  
05:15 Art Attack  
05:35 Henry Hugglemonster  
05:50 Calimerio  
06:00 Zou  
06:20 Loopidoo  
06:35 Art Attack  
07:00 The Hive  
07:10 Zou  
07:25 Loopidoo  
07:40 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse  
08:05 Sofia The First  
08:30 Goldie & Bear  
08:45 Jake And The Never Land Pirates  
09:10 Sheriff Callie's Wild West  
09:35 Doc McStuffins  
10:00 Sofia The First  
10:30 Goldie & Bear  
10:55 Minnie's Bow-Toons  
11:00 Miles From Tomorrow  
11:25 Special Agent Oso  
11:40 The Hive  
11:50 Handy Manny  
12:15 Jungle Junction  
12:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse  
13:00 Sofia The First  
13:25 Miles From Tomorrow  
13:50 Jake And The Never Land Pirates  
14:15 Sheriff Callie's Wild West  
14:40 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse  
15:10 Miles From Tomorrow  
15:35 Jake And The Never Land Pirates  
16:00 Sofia The First  
16:25 Jungle Cubs  
16:50 Aladdin  
17:15 Gummi Bears  
17:40 Goldie & Bear  
18:05 Miles From Tomorrow  
18:30 Sofia The First  
19:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates  
19:30 Miles From Tomorrow  
20:00 Goldie & Bear  
20:30 Sofia The First  
21:00 Jungle Cubs  
21:25 Aladdin

**Disney Channel**

00:00 Violetta  
00:45 The Hive  
00:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch

**Disney XD**

06:00 Boyster  
06:10 Super Matrak  
06:35 Super Matrak  
07:00 Star vs The Forces Of Evil  
07:25 K.C. Undercover  
07:50 Supa Strikas  
08:15 Annetroids  
08:40 Lab Rats: Bionic Island  
09:10 Kirby Buckets  
09:35 Guardians Of The Galaxy  
10:00 Rocket Monkeys



**THE BORDERLANDS ON OSN MOVIES HD ACTION**

**HISTORY HD**

15:20 Dog With A Blog  
15:45 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug  
16:10 Violetta  
17:00 The Next Step  
17:25 Austin & Ally  
17:50 Dog With A Blog  
18:15 Best Friends Whenever  
18:40 Gravity Falls  
19:05 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug  
19:30 Violetta  
20:45 Good Luck Charlie  
21:10 Good Luck Charlie  
21:35 H2O  
22:00 Brinn And The Ghost  
22:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
23:35 Brinn And The Ghost

**EHD**

00:05 WAGs  
01:00 E! News  
02:00 Live From The Red Carpet  
03:00 Botched Presents: Perfect  
04:00 Botched  
05:00 Botched  
06:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
06:55 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
07:50 Style Star  
08:20 E! News  
09:15 Live From The Red Carpet  
10:15 Giuliana & Bill  
11:10 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills  
11:35 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills  
12:05 E! News  
13:05 Live From The Red Carpet  
14:05 Hollywood Cycle  
15:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
16:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
17:00 Christina Milian Turned Up  
18:00 E! News  
19:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
20:00 Botched  
21:00 Live From The Red Carpet  
22:00 WAGs  
23:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry

**food network**

00:00 Cuthroat Kitchen  
01:00 Man v Food  
01:30 Man v Food  
02:00 Tia Mowry At Home  
02:30 Tia Mowry At Home  
03:00 Man Finds Food  
03:30 Man Finds Food  
04:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives  
04:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives  
05:00 Chopped  
06:00 Man Fire Food  
06:30 Man Fire Food  
07:00 Man Fire Food  
07:30 Man Fire Food  
08:00 Chopped  
09:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics  
09:30 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics  
10:00 The Kitchen  
11:00 Anna Olson: Bake  
11:30 Anna Olson: Bake  
12:00 Chopped  
13:00 The Pioneer Woman  
13:30 The Pioneer Woman  
14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives  
14:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives  
15:00 Man Fire Food  
15:30 Man Fire Food  
16:00 Chopped  
17:00 The Kitchen  
18:00 Anna Olson: Bake  
18:30 Anna Olson: Bake  
19:00 Chopped  
20:00 Iron Chef America  
21:00 Amazing Wedding Cakes  
22:00 Mystery Diners  
23:00 Mystery Diners  
23:00 Save My Bakery

**OSN FIRST HD**

12:30 Who's Doing The Dishes?  
13:25 Emmerdale  
13:50 Eggheads  
14:20 Coronation Street  
14:45 Keep It In The Family  
15:35 Come Dine With Me Couples  
16:30 Tracey Ullman's Show  
17:00 Raised By Wolves  
17:25 The Doctor Blake Mysteries  
18:20 Emmerdale  
18:45 Coach Trip  
19:10 Coronation Street  
19:35 Come Dine With Me Couples  
20:30 Tracey Ullman's Show  
21:00 Raised By Wolves  
21:25 The Doctor Blake Mysteries  
22:20 Coronation Street  
22:50 Emmerdale  
23:15 Who's Doing The Dishes?

**NAT GEO people HD**

00:10 Lee Chan's World Food Tour  
00:35 Lee Chan's World Food Tour  
01:00 East Bites West  
01:25 My Sri Lanka With Peter Kuruvita  
01:50 Maximum Foodie  
02:15 East Street  
02:40 East Street  
03:05 Meat v Veg  
03:30 No Ordinary Women  
04:20 Top Tables, Top Cities  
04:45 Top Tables, Top Cities  
05:10 Fearless Chef  
06:00 American Food Battle  
06:25 Rustic Adventure Argentina  
06:50 East Bites West  
07:15 My Sri Lanka With Peter Kuruvita  
07:40 Maximum Foodie  
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11:50 American Food Battle  
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12:40 East Bites West  
13:05 My Sri Lanka With Peter Kuruvita  
13:35 Maximum Foodie  
14:00 Tales From The Bush Larder  
14:30 Tales From The Bush Larder  
14:55 The Food Files  
15:25 The Peninsula: The Making Of A Gala  
16:20 Top Tables, Top Cities  
16:45 Top Tables, Top Cities  
17:15 Fearless Chef  
18:10 American Food Battle  
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22:30 East Street  
23:20 My Sri Lanka With Peter Kuruvita  
23:45 Maximum Foodie

**OSN MOVIES HD ACTION**

00:15 Crush (2013)  
02:00 The Borderlands  
04:00 The River Wild  
06:00 Transformers: Age Of Extinction  
09:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
11:15 Pearl Harbor  
14:30 Crimson Tide  
16:45 Transformers: Age Of Extinction  
19:45 Alien 3  
22:00 Four Brothers

**OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY**

02:00 Blues Brothers 2000  
04:15 Mr. Destiny  
06:15 Mr. Destiny  
08:15 The Devil Wears Prada  
10:15 Mr. Destiny  
12:15 Blues Brothers 2000  
14:30 My Father The Hero  
16:15 The Devil Wears Prada  
18:15 Romy And Michelle's High School Reunion  
20:00 Dumb And Dumber To  
22:00 Wild Hogs

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20:00 Dumb And Dumber To  
22:00 Wild Hogs

**OSN MOVIES FESTIVAL**

01:30 Merchants Of Doubt  
03:15 Wall Street  
05:30 See Girl Run  
07:00 Tea With Mussolini  
09:00 Happiness  
10:45 See Girl Run  
12:30 The Man Who Would Be King  
15:00 Where Angels Fear To Tread  
17:00 Happiness  
19:00 What's Love Got To Do With It  
21:00 Low Down  
23:00 Gainsbourg: A Heroic Life

**OSN MOVIES COMEDY**

00:00 Parks And Recreation  
00:30 Hot In Cleveland  
01:00 The Nightly Show With Larry Wilmore  
01:30 Family Guy  
02:00 The Big C  
02:30 Man Seeking Woman  
03:00 Mad Love  
03:30 The Goldbergs  
04:00 Two And A Half Men  
04:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon  
05:30 My Name Is Earl  
06:00 The Bernie Mac Show  
06:30 Community  
07:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers  
08:00 Two And A Half Men  
08:30 My Name Is Earl  
09:00 Mad Love  
09:30 Grandfathered  
10:00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine  
10:30 Community  
11:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon  
12:00 The Bernie Mac Show  
12:30 Two And A Half Men  
13:00 My Name Is Earl  
13:30 Community  
14:00 Grandfathered  
14:30 Grandfathered  
15:00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine  
15:30 Hot In Cleveland  
16:00 The Nightly Show With Larry Wilmore  
16:30 The Bernie Mac Show  
17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers  
18:00 Mad Love  
18:30 The Goldbergs  
19:00 The Grinder  
19:30 Brooklyn Nine-Nine  
20:00 Parks And Recreation  
20:30 Parks And Recreation  
21:00 Hot In Cleveland  
21:30 The Nightly Show With Larry Wilmore  
22:00 Married  
22:30 The Big C  
23:00 Man Seeking Woman  
23:30 Parks And Recreation

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22:00 Married  
22:30 The Big C  
23:00 Man Seeking Woman  
23:30 Parks And Recreation

**OSN MOVIES HD KIDS**

01:00 Bolts And Blip  
02:45 The Adventures Of Don Quixote  
04:30 Daddy I'm A Zombie  
06:00 Jungle Book: Mowgli's Adventure  
08:00 Marco Macaco  
09:45 Pim And Pom: The Big Adventure  
11:15 Moomins And The Comet Chase  
12:45 The Adventures Of Don Quixote  
14:15 Ghatokchach - Master Of Magic  
16:00 Baby Geniuses And The Space Baby  
18:00 Pim And Pom: The Big Adventure  
20:00 Minuscule: Valley Of The Lost Ants  
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11:15 Moomins And The Comet Chase  
12:45 The Adventures Of Don Quixote  
14:15 Ghatokchach - Master Of Magic  
16:00 Baby Geniuses And The Space Baby  
18:00 Pim And Pom: The Big Adventure  
20:00 Minuscule: Valley Of The Lost Ants  
21:45 Ghatokchach - Master Of Magic  
23:30 Baby Geniuses And The Space Baby

**OSN MOVIES HD KIDS**

01:00 Bolts And Blip  
02:45 The Adventures Of Don Quixote  
04:30 Daddy I'm A Zombie  
06:00 Jungle Book: Mowgli's Adventure  
08:00 Marco Macaco  
09:45 Pim And Pom: The Big Adventure  
11:15 Moomins And The Comet Chase  
12:45 The Adventures Of Don Quixote  
14:15 Ghatokchach - Master Of Magic  
16:00 Baby Geniuses And The Space Baby  
18:00 Pim And Pom: The Big Adventure  
20:00 Minuscule: Valley Of The Lost Ants  
21:45 Ghatokchach - Master Of Magic  
23:30 Baby Geniuses And The Space Baby

**OSN SPORTS 1 HD**

01:00 Super Rugby  
03:00 NFL Premiership  
05:00 Super Rugby  
07:00 Golfing World  
08:00 Premier League Darts  
11:30 Gillette World Sport  
12:00 Live NFL Premiership  
14:00 The PGA Tour Champions  
16:00 Golfing World  
17:00 Trans World Sport  
18:00 AFL Premiership Highlights  
19:00 PCA Tour Highlights  
20:00 Players Championship 2015 Official Film  
21:00 PGA Tour Special  
22:00 Top 14 Highlights  
22:30 AFL Premiership Highlights  
23:30 Players Championship 2015 Official Film

**OSN SPORTS 2 HD**

00:00 Live LPGA Tour  
04:00 AFL Premiership  
06:30 Mobil 1 The Grid  
07:00 Gillette World Sport  
07:30 AFL Premiership  
10:00 PGA Tour  
15:30 Gillette World Sport  
16:00 WWE Bottom Line  
17:00 WWE Superstars  
18:00 WWE Main Event  
19:00 WWE Experience  
20:00 WWE Afterburn  
21:00 This Week In WWE  
21:30 Formula-E Championship Highlights  
22:30 LPGA Tour

**OSN SPORTS 3 HD**

00:00 Live LPGA Tour  
04:00 AFL Premiership  
06:30 Mobil 1 The Grid  
07:00 Gillette World Sport  
07:30 AFL Premiership  
10:00 PGA Tour  
15:30 Gillette World Sport  
16:00 WWE Bottom Line  
17:00 WWE Superstars  
18:00 WWE Main Event  
19:00 WWE Experience  
20:00 WWE Afterburn  
21:00 This Week In WWE  
21:30 Formula-E Championship Highlights  
22:30 LPGA Tour

**BEFORE I GO TO SLEEP**

BASED ON THE INTERNATIONAL BEST-SELLING NOVEL

ACADEMY AWARD WINNER NICOLE KIDMAN  
ACADEMY AWARD WINNER COLIN FIRTH  
MARK STRONG

"KEEPS YOU ON THE EDGE OF YOUR SEAT"

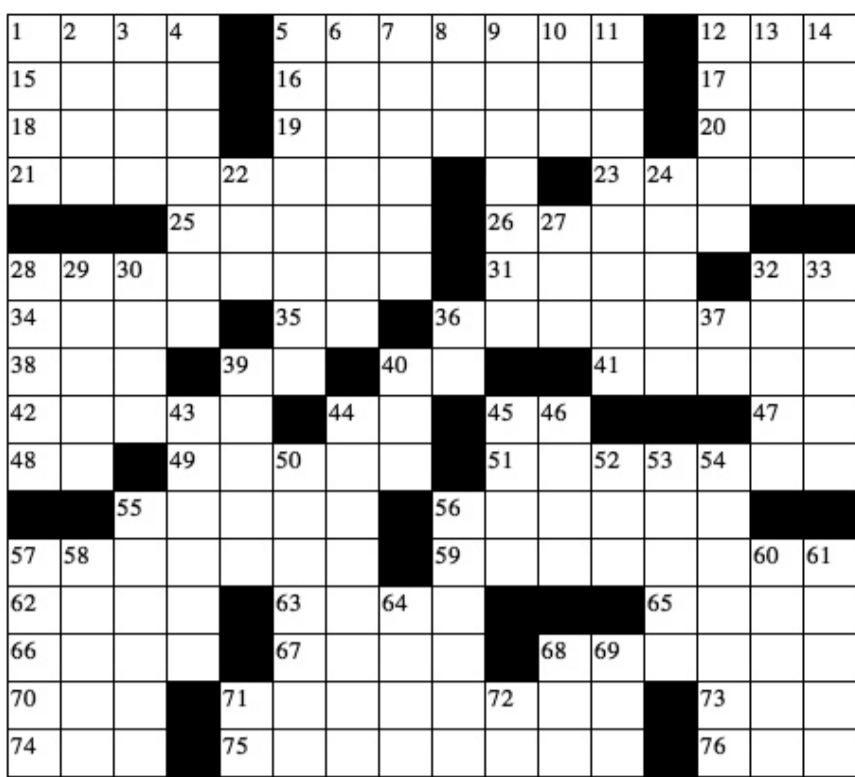
STUDIOCANAL

BEFORE I GO TO SLEEP ON OSN MOVIES HD





CROSSWORD 1216



ACROSS

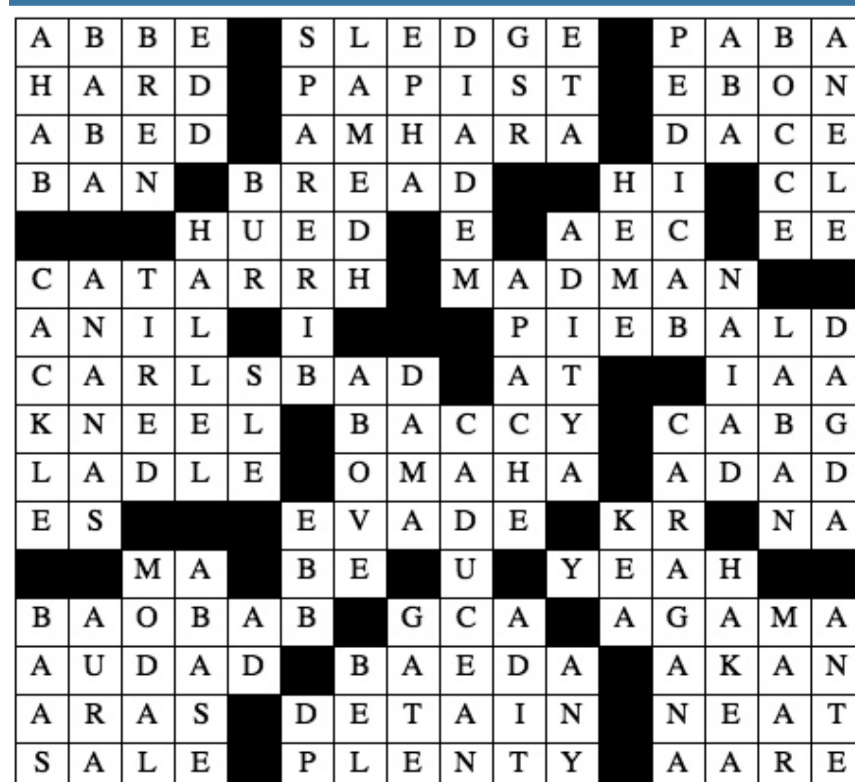
1. Make a plat of.
5. Pertaining to or characteristic of an ascetic.
12. Flower arrangement consisting of a circular band of foliage or flowers for ornamental purposes.
15. A genus of Mustelidae.
16. Wild llama.
17. An extension at the end and at right angles to the main building.
18. Concerning those not members of the clergy.
19. Someone who provides an index.
20. Fermented alcoholic beverage similar to but heavier than beer.
21. The unwritten literature (stories and proverbs and riddles and songs) of a culture.
23. A linguistic element added to a word to produce an inflected or derived form v 1.
25. Of or relating to the ancient Latins or the Latin language.
26. Express strong disapproval of.
28. A prediction about how something (as the weather) will develop.
31. English essayist (1775-1834).
34. The sixth month of the civil year.
35. A brittle gray crystalline element that is a semiconducting metalloid (resembling silicon) used in transistors.
38. A doctor's degree in dental surgery.
41. A burn cause by hot liquid or steam.
42. Fragrant resin obtain from trees of the family Burseraceae and used as incense.
47. A public promotion of some product or service.
48. A trivalent metallic element of the rare earth group.
49. State in northeastern India.
51. Backache affecting the lumbar region or lower back.
57. An acute intestinal infection caused by ingestion of contaminated water or food.
59. Casserole of eggplant and ground lamb with onion and tomatoes bound with white sauce and beaten eggs.
62. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
63. A city in northern India.
65. In bed.
66. A coffin along with its stand.
67. English illustrator of several of Dickens' novels (1815-1882).
70. A sweetened beverage of diluted fruit juice.
73. An adult male person (as opposed to a woman).
74. A local computer network for communication between computers.
75. Small carnivorous reptiles.
76. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.

DOWN

1. Informal terms for money.
2. The dynasty that ruled much of Manchuria and northeastern China from 947 to 1125.
3. Fleshy and usually brightly colored cover of some seeds that develops from the ovule stalk and partially or entirely envelopes the seed.
4. A football player who tackles the ball carrier.
5. A fee charged for exchanging currencies.
6. Of an industry or technology.

7. Marked by a rhythmical cadence.
8. The compass point midway between northeast and east.
9. In some classifications considered a genus of subfamily Melinae.
10. Water frozen in the solid state.
11. Type genus of the Coraciidae.
12. Having or covered with leaves.
13. (Norse mythology) Goddess of old age who defeated Thor in a wrestling match.
14. A large genus of dicotyledonous trees and shrubs of the family Aquifoliaceae that have small flowers and berries (including hollies).
22. Resinlike substance secreted by certain lac insects.
24. The basic monetary unit in many countries.
27. Any of various trees of the genus Ulmus.
29. In a manner differing from the usual or expected.
30. Tear down so as to make flat with the ground.
32. A Russian prison camp for political prisoners.
33. A group of Plains Indians formerly living in what is now North and South Dakota and Nebraska and Kansas and Arkansas and Louisiana and Oklahoma and Texas.
36. A metallic element of the rare earth group.
37. An official prosecutor for a judicial district.
39. A fabric woven with lisle thread.
40. A defensive missile designed to shoot down incoming intercontinental ballistic missiles.
43. A fighter who battles the opponent.
44. A long Turkish knife with a curved blade having a single edge.
45. A spread made chiefly from vegetable oils and used as a substitute for butter.
46. A progressive disease of the central nervous system marked by increasing lack of coordination and advancing to paralysis and death within a year of the appearance of symptoms.
50. Full of fighting spirit.
52. (prefix) Bad or erroneous or lack of.
53. (botany) Especially of leaves.
54. A state in the southeastern United States on the Gulf of Mexico.
55. Of or related to or made of moreen.
56. Filled with the emotional impact of overwhelming surprise or shock.
58. A member of a seafaring group of North American Indians who lived on the Pacific coast of British Columbia and southwestern Alaska.
60. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
61. A city in southern Turkey on the Seyhan River.
64. Law intended to eradicate organized crime by establishing strong sanctions and forfeiture provisions.
68. Airtight sealed metal container for food or drink or paint etc.
69. (prefix) Opposite or opposing or neutralizing.
71. A white trivalent metallic element.
72. A polyvalent metallic element that resembles chromium and tungsten in its properties.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You make friendships with interesting people. Beginning today, you may also attend a larger than usual number of social events. Your group activities tend to involve scientific, technological and humanitarian concerns. This sort of event is right where you want to be. There is a chance to be a part of a charity organization that will help educate and widen the scope of future educational possibilities. Future investigation and discoveries are good things regarding medicine. A new medicine, a fun or handy invention, useful tools, etc., are sure to emerge from these wise minds soon. You are inspired through this group and may decide to put in more time to helping develop the group. Later friends and family celebrate.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Social involvement, dating and general pleasantries can be enjoyed all day. This is a great time to refurbish your own energies. With weather permitting, take some time to get outside today. Fishing, bird watching, walking, working or playing in the yard or park, all lead to a more relaxed and focused you. Later this afternoon you will want to be with your loved ones. Feeling important within the family group and being popular with your peers give you a sense of belonging. Perhaps some grilled hamburgers out-of-doors with conversations and reunions with neighbors and friends would be fun this evening. You will enjoy being the center of attention as well as satisfying that craving to give and to be appreciated for your gifts.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You are self-motivated and can be confident as you carry through with your responsibilities. You have a list and the list must be done! You have much drive for whatever you want to achieve. This could involve a creative production involving others. People need your advice, but you may have to pick and choose the people you help in order to not overwhelm your own energies. You may see a particular project as moving along quite slowly, but in fact, it is going just fine and you will see the payoff at the most perfect moment, so to speak. Expect a sense of goodwill from those around you. A good way to relax this evening is through the headphones with music. It is within your capabilities to guide a special relationship. This evening can be a romantic time.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Your goals stand in stark contrast to the goals of others. Adjustments and compromises must be made in the interests of harmony. You may, at times, feel like a caged lion. You work hard for everything you want and that is a good thing, because you set a good example for others to follow. Today you may look around and realize that you have reached an important goal. You express appreciation for music, sensual pleasures and the finer things in life. This is aesthetic and artistic to be sure, but it is also practical and materialistic: you develop a keen appreciation for the value of things, including the money it takes to buy them. This evening could be a good time for imagination and creativity when it comes to ideas.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Communication with those around you, especially young people, may spur memories of your own youth. You may find yourself reflecting on some event in the past. These children may need your empathy. This afternoon you may find that your driven need to clean and maintain around your home will help you become caught up with household upkeep. Exercise; perhaps a bicycle ride or some other outside activities later today will help you to balance your energies. That exercise may lead you to just enjoy nature and the day. You have a need to be the center of attention and may find yourself doing favors for others this evening. There is a craving to give and to be appreciated for your gifts.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

What is called for today is a belief in your own abilities. Have confidence to take on the opportunities of life. Understanding the past and developing your intuitive talents will give you a sense of closeness and knowing what the people around you need from you and how you can relate. You keep your plans for today's social affair light and easy. If you are performing or speaking, it is time to trust in your abilities. Someone has offered to help and you will be wise in letting him or her do so. Creating a fun time this evening could be as simple as homemade hamburgers, hot dogs and ice cream. You may find this get-together a great opportunity for relationships to heal, grow and mature as well as to laugh.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You may wish you had a stronger and more secure philosophy or religious understanding. Your quest for profound religious, historical or cultural insights may reveal as much dogma and intolerance as universal truth and wisdom. You may have business or educational involvement with foreigners. At times you may have to deal with conflicting ethical and social values in legal, religious and cultural institutions. Financial grants and funding for higher education may become available to you soon. You need emotional contact with others today. You could be moved by marriage or partnership issues. Now is the time to enjoy a concert, theater or an art show. A youthful and whimsical mood surrounds you as you prepare to enjoy a loved one.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You have increased concentration and perception into the motives of others. This time is also favorable for any research or for revealing hidden factors and inhibitions. If there are secret manipulations, or conspiracies, they can surface where you can gain control. Your cheerful, tolerant attitude today makes this afternoon a good time for romance or social gatherings. You may find yourself entertaining guests, planning a trip or proposing a marriage. Involvement in artistic pursuits and volunteer or social services is also favorable for you now. You are more gentle, courteous, considerate and compliant these days. An invitation to be with friends this afternoon is too tempting to refuse. Go out and have fun but make it an early night.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

This glorious day is full of opportunities for you to meditate and take notes on subjects that are important to you, perhaps creating a plan. Figuring things out, spotting the fly in the ointment, separating the sheep from the goats are the things that take on special meaning. A heightened interest in health and diet urges you to set forth a personal diet program for yourself. There is much mental busywork now. Working on a project could prove beneficial, especially if you are joined by friends. Be judicious and diplomatic in your discussions with loved ones this day. You are feeling festive and desirous of having fun with family and friends or neighbors tonight. Perhaps several families would like to gather for a grill and salad dinner out-of-doors.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

If your personal popularity was absent before today, it is back now. You may feel that you are in touch with others and the lines of communication are open. The support you need is available. This morning, you may want to share some time with new people-just to generally enjoy new and positive interactions. Some outside activity with children, perhaps a trip to the park, could bring you and them great satisfaction this afternoon. Practice initiating these times often, with young neighbors or family members. You like to shop when there are not so many other shoppers to interrupt. Later today may be a good time to select household items. Your taste in art and appreciation in general are heightened. Shop for the best buys-not just the quick fix.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Ask for help in housework so it can be put behind you quickly. Steer away from arguments and possible hard feelings this morning-many things are not as they seem. You are thankful for the help you get and really appreciate being able to cut your time down somewhat. There is some conversation today about clothes and changes that come with age but you may have to approach the subject at some other time... Some of your audience would rather not have the discussion. Climb outside of the current subjects and ask each member of your little audience what they would like to do this summer: ice cream parties, raising a small garden, flying a kite and any other ideas that come to mind. Set dates and make sure everyone has a calendar handy.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You may find yourself waiting in line, riding a bus or surrounded by strangers. Whatever the case, you really enjoy the people that walk the same path as you. Conversations are easy and new ideas about life and living may enter into your thinking. There is good luck in money matters today. This is a time of unexpected opportunities. Perhaps a trade or a request for your time is the way you come into money or perhaps, it is the way you have found to give. Whatever the case, this is one of your best days for love and money. There is a lot of gratification when you involve yourself with a charity or a volunteer group. Favors you perform now will be returned later-in many surprising ways. You encourage others.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Fish 2

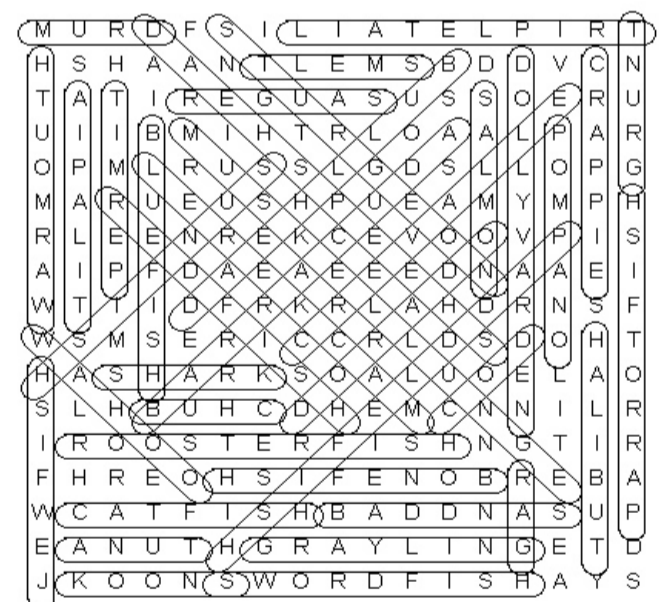
Find and circle all of the fish that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell a secret message - a Benjamin Franklin quotation.



- |           |           |             |            |
|-----------|-----------|-------------|------------|
| AMBERJACK | CROAKER   | PICKEREL    | SOLE       |
| BASS      | DOLPHIN   | PIKE        | SPEARFISH  |
| BLUEGILL  | FLOUNDER  | POLLOCK     | STEELHEAD  |
| BONITO    | GOLDFISH  | PORGY       | TARPON     |
| BUFFFIN   | GROUPE    | PUMPKINSEED | TROUT      |
| BUFFALO   | HADDOCK   | ROCKFISH    | TUNNY      |
| BURBOT    | HOUNDFISH | SAILFISH    | WALLEYE    |
| CARP      | LINGCOD   | SHAD        | WEAKFISH   |
| CHAR      | MARLIN    | SHEEFISH    | WHITEFISH  |
| CISCO     | PERCH     | SNAPPER     | YELLOWTAIL |
| COBIA     |           |             |            |

Yesterday's Solution

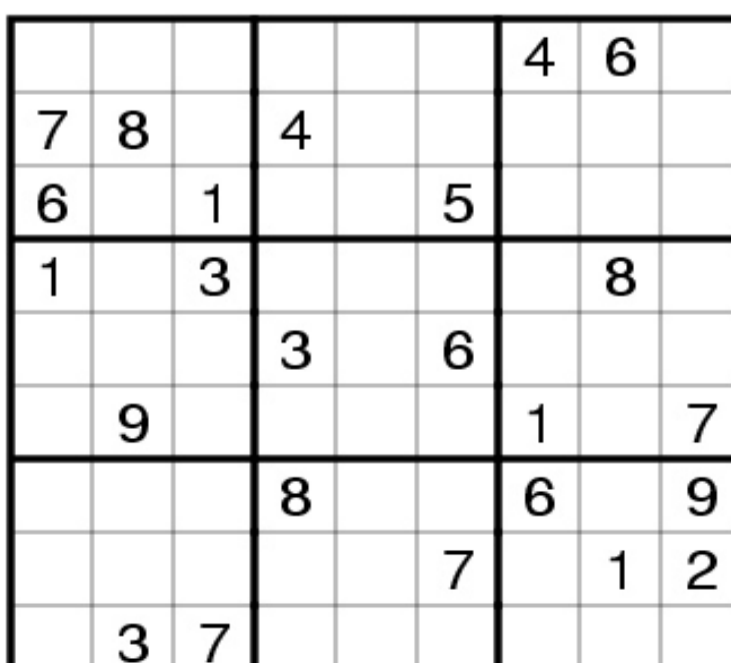
Fish 1



- |              |             |             |            |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| BARRACUDA    | DORADO      | PARROTFISH  | SMELT      |
| BLUEFISH     | DRUM        | PERMIT      | SNOOK      |
| BONEFISH     | GAR         | POMPANO     | STURGEON   |
| BULLHEAD     | GRAYLING    | REDFISH     | SUNFISH    |
| CATFISH      | GRUNT       | ROOSTERFISH | SWORDFISH  |
| CHUB         | HALIBUT     | SALMON      | TILAPIA    |
| COD          | JEWFISH     | SAND DAB    | TRIPLETAIL |
| CRAPPIE      | MACKEREL    | SAUGER      | TUNA       |
| CREVALLE     | MUSKELLUNGE | SHARK       | WAHOO      |
| DOLLY VARDEN | PADDLEFISH  | SHEEPSHEAD  | WARMOUTH   |

The hidden sentence is: FISH AND VISITORS SMELL IN THREE DAYS

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



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
Khaldiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401
Jabriya	25316254
Maidan Hawally	25623444
Bayan	25388462
Mishref	25381200
W Hawally	22630786
Sabah	24810221
Jahra	24770319
New Jahra	24575755
West Jahra	24772608
South Jahra	24775066
North Jahra	24775992
North Jleeb	24311795
Ardhiya	24884079
Firdous	24892674
Omariya	24719048
N Khaitan	24710044
Fintas	23900322



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	Lithuania	00370
Albania	00355	Luxembourg	00352
Algeria	00213	Macau	00853
Andorra	00376	Macedonia	00389
Angola	00244	Madagascar	00261
Anguilla	001264	Majorca	0034
Antigua	001268	Malawi	00265
Argentina	0054	Malaysia	0060
Armenia	00374	Maldives	00960
Australia	0061	Mali	00223
Austria	0043	Malta	00356
Azerbaijan	00994	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	Togo	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
Lesotho	00266		

STATE OF KUWAIT DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630  
Fax: (+965) 24348714  
www.met.gov.kw



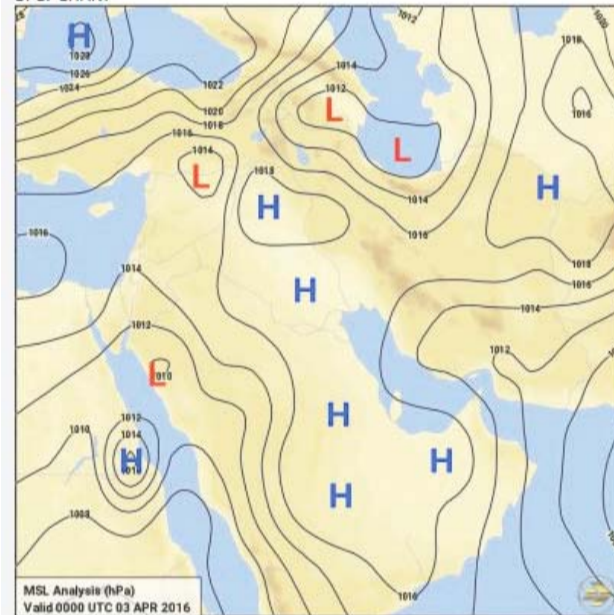
Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

Issued 03/04/2016-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

Max Temperature 28 °C

By Day : Sunny with light variable wind, with speed of 06 - 20 km/h and some high clouds will appear  
By Night : Partly cloudy with light variable wind changing to light to moderate southerly wind, with speed of 06 - 26 km/h

SFC. CHART



Four-Day Forecast

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Expected Weather	partly cloudy	partly cloudy + scattered rain	cloudy to partly cloudy+ scattered rain might be thundery at times	partly cloudy
Min Temp °C	13	14	16	16
Max Temp °C	29	30	27	30
Wind Direction	south easterly	south easterly	south easterly	variable
Wind Speed km/h	10 - 30	12 - 35	15 - 40	08 - 20

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

Warnings & Weather Watches

no warnings or weather watches

Kuwait Forecast

Station	MIN °C	Max °C
KUWAIT CITY	16	27
KUWAIT AIRPORT	11	28
ABDALY	12	29
BUBYAN	14	25
JAHRA	14	29
FAILAKA ISLAND	15	27
SALMIYAH	19	26
AHMADI	17	25
JAL ALIYAH	13	27
QAROH ISLAND	19	24
UMM AL-MARADEM	18	24
NUWAISIB	13	26
WAFRA	13	28
MANAGISH	12	28
SALMY	12	29
MUTRIBA	13	29

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	26
Min Temp (°C)	11
Max Rel Hum (%)	57
Min Rel Hum (%)	13
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	36 NW
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm

Sunrise	05:35
Sunset	18:07

Prayer Times

Fajr	04:14
Sunrise	05:35
Zuhr	11:51
Asr	15:23
Sunset	18:07
Isha	19:25



PRIVATE CLINICS

<b>Ophthalmologists</b>	
Dr. Abdallah Al-Mansoor	25622444
Dr. Samy Al-Rabea	25752222
Dr. Masoma Habeeb	25321171
Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy	25739999
Dr. Mohsen Abel	25757700
Dr. Adnan Hasan Alwayl	25732223
Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly	25732223
<b>Ear, Nose &amp; Throat (ENT)</b>	
Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner	24555050 Ext 510
Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali	25644660
Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel	25646478
Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah	25311996
Dr. Mohammad Al-Daory	25731988
Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary	22620166
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz	25651426
<b>General Practitioners</b>	
Dr. Mohammed Y Majidi	24555050 Ext 123
Dr. Yousef Al-Omar	24719312
Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhazeem	23926920
Dr. Kathem Maarafi	25730465
Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah	25655528
Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi	24577781
Dr. Dina Abdallah Al-Rafea	25333501
<b>Urologists</b>	
Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy	22641534
Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul	22639955
Dr. Khaleel Abdallah Al-Awadi	22616660
Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C)	25313120
Dr. Leons Joseph	66703427

<b>Plastic Surgeons</b>	
Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalaf	22547272
Dr. Abdal-Redha Lari	22617700
Dr. Abdel Quttainah	25625030/60
<b>Family Doctor</b>	
Dr Divya Damodar	23729596/23729581
<b>Psychiatrists</b>	
Dr. Esam Al-Ansari	22635047
Dr Eisa M. Al-Balhan	22613623/0
<b>Gynaecologists &amp; Obstetricians</b>	
DrAdrian 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
<b>General Surgeons</b>	
Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer	22610044
Dr. Mohammad Yousef Basher	25327148
<b>Internists, Chest &amp; Heart</b>	
Dr. Adnan Ebil	22639939
Dr. Mousa Khadada	22666300
Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisani	25728004
Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra	25355515
Dr. Mobarak Aldoub	24726446
Dr Nasser Behbehani	25654300/3

<b>Paediatricians</b>	
Dr. Khaled Hamadi	25665898
Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed	25340300
Dr. Zahra Qabazard	25710444
Dr. Sohail Qamar	22621099
Dr. Snaa Maarouf	25713514
Dr. Pradip Gupje	23713100
Dr. Zacharias Mathew	24334282
<b>Dermatology</b>	
Dr. Mohammed Salam Bern University	23845955
<b>Dentists</b>	
Dr Anil Thomas	3729596/3729581
Dr. Shamah Al-Matar	22641071/2
Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed	22562226
Dr. Abdallah Al-Amer	22561444
Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan	22619557
Dr. Abdallateef Al-Katrash	22525888
Dr. Abdallah Al-Duweisani	25653755
Dr. Bader Al-Ansari	25620111
<b>Neurologists</b>	
Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri	25633324
Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan	25345875
<b>Gastrologists</b>	
Dr. Sami Aman	22636464
Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly	25322030
Dr. Foad Abdallah Al-Ali	22633135

<b>Endocrinologist</b>	
Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman	25339330
<b>Physiotherapists &amp; VD</b>	
Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari	25658888
Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr	25329924
Dr. Deyaa Shehab	25722291
Dr. Mused Faraj Khamees	22666288
<b>Rheumatologists:</b>	
Dr. Adel Al-Awadi	25330060
Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah	25722290
<b>Internist, Chest &amp; Heart</b>	
DR.Mohammes Akkad	24555050 Ext 210
<b>Consultant Cardiologist</b>	
Dr. Mohammad Zubaid MB, ChB, FRCP, PACC Assistant Professor Of Medicine Head, Division of Cardiology Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital	25339667
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Gossip



## Thomas Cohen talks with grief over Geldof's death

Thomas Cohen "refused to become a traumatized, grief-stricken single father." Although the 25-year-old musician was devastated to lose his wife Peaches Geldof to an accidental heroin overdose in 2014, he is determined to be happy for the sake of their two young children Astala and Phaedra. He said: "Firstly, at the time, I was 23. I had two children who needed to be taken care of and, in maybe early June 2014, I started to do that, and we're now here in 2016. I just made the decision to start looking after myself and I refused to lose myself and become a traumatized, grief-stricken single father who everyone's going to look at and think and feel all of these things about. And that's absolutely fine. However, by this stage, if somebody looks at me like that, then it's just a projection." While Thomas - who is currently dating Daisy Lowe - has grieved for his wife, he doesn't want to be in mourning forever. He explained to the Sunday Times Magazine: "I got to a stage where I thought, 'I don't want to stay in this place anymore. I'm not dissociating, hiding myself or escaping the reality of the situation. However, I'm not staying based in that trauma. It's a lot to do with nourishing yourself with the care and love of other people - and seeing that that light was never not there.' Thomas' debut solo album 'Bloom Forever' will be released on May 6.

## Jagger's fashion faux pas

Mick Jagger "flinches" when he looks back at the outfits he's worn over the years. The 72-year-old musician has worn his fair share of bizarre outfits over his years as lead vocalist for the rock band and admits "nearly all of them" make him feel embarrassed. He said: "Do any of my outfits make me flinch when I look back? Ha. Nearly all of them. To be honest, they can still make me flinch when I think about what I'm going to wear at the next gig, but when you get out there on stage it's a bit different." And Mick thinks displaying them for 'Exhibitionism' - a Rolling Stones exhibition opening in the Saatchi Gallery in London later this month - makes it even worse because the "impression" they created on stage was very different than they will in a dark room. He added to The Telegraph newspaper: "It's very hard to do clothes in an exhibition like this because they are actually supposed to be worn. You can have a very garish look, but in front of 50,000 people in the daylight of summer on a moving person, the impression it creates is very different from having 20 of them lined up in a confined space in a dark room. "When clothes don't have movement, they all look a bit wonky, but that's the fun of it. If they all looked immaculately elegant and in wonderful good taste, it would be boring. I mean some of them are in hideous taste, but that makes them funnier to me. Some of the

time you are playing this for a laugh. "In the Seventies, it got to be very outlandish. We've got quite a lot of Ossie Clark jumpsuits. My daughters have borrowed them over the years and I think the curators had trouble getting them back, but Ossie made me loads. We were quite wealthy in jumpsuits."

## will.i.am: I'm always in the 'friend zone'

will.i.am says women always put him in the "friend zone". The 'It's My Birthday' hitmaker admits he finds it hard to get into a relationship because all the girls he knows don't want to "ruin" their friendship with him. He said: "If you are close to mom, if you're nice, you listen more than you talk - for some reason the girls never want a relationship. The girls say, 'I never want to ruin this.'"

However, the 41-year-old musician is keen to have a family one day but admits he already feels as though he has adopted children in a "roundabout way" through his work with the local communities where he grew up. He told The Telegraph magazine: "What do you mean by family? DNA swapping or do you mean encouragement, moral installing and opportunity providing? To me, that is just as much family as DNA swapping because I am a product of a DNA swap and I don't know who my dad is. "There are a whole lot of babies that ain't got no parents. I am not quite ready to Angelina Jolie it yet, but I have kids that I have kinda adopted in a roundabout way." When asked if he was ready for kids now, he added: "Not right now. I need to complete this dream first before I become selfish, having kids."



## Gwyneth Paltrow's secret split

Chris Martin and Gwyneth Paltrow had been secretly separated for a year before they announced their split. The former couple - who have children Apple and Moses together - announced their break-up after 10 years of marriage in March 2014 but Gwyneth has revealed that they had actually ended their relationship 12 months previously. She told YOU Magazine: "Chris and I had already been separated for a year before we announced it." And Gwyneth insisted that although it has been difficult they are "better off as friends". She said: "It wasn't always easy, because you have good days and bad days. "Some days during the process it was really tough to maintain the love and forgiveness and acceptance. "I think we are better as friends. We are very close and supportive of one another and we co-parent well." Indeed, Gwyneth believes she and Chris communicate better than ever since their split. She said: "Good communication is key to a healthy marriage. Chris and I learned that after the fact. You have to have really candid, vulnerable, mature communication. We communicate much better now. "Of course, there are days when you have difficult feelings, but with time it is fine. I really want Chris to be happy."



## Snoop Dogg praises WWE stars

Snoop Dogg praised his favorite wrestlers as he was inducted into the WWE Hall of Fame on Saturday. The rapper and avid WWE supporter is the Celebrity Inductee into the WWE Hall of Fame's Class of 2016 and used his speech to speak about his admiration for stars including Steve Austin, The Undertaker, Randy Orton, Mark Henry, DX and "Shizzle, my nizzle Shawn Michaels". However, he reserved a special mention for his cousin, "The Boss" Sasha Banks, and reminisced about taking her to WrestleMania in 2008, saying he knew this was where she belonged and where she wanted to be. To finish his speech at the American Airlines Center in Dallas, Texas, Snoop - who was praised by John Cena as "a very vocal supporter and proud member of the WWE Universe" - performed a brief rap. Meanwhile, Sting - who was inducted into the WWE Hall of Fame on Saturday - used his speech to reveal his retirement. The wrestler - real name Steve Borden - said: "On this very night, at this very moment, I'm going to finish my career under the WWE umbrella and I'm so proud of that. I am officially going to retire tonight. "I want you to know this isn't goodbye, this is a see you later."



## Katona spotted partying with convicted murderer

Kerry Katona reportedly enjoyed a recent night out with a convicted murderer. The thrice-married star was spotted partying with Kevin Lane - who The Sun on Sunday reports spent 18 years in prison "for shooting dead a car dealer in 1994" - and the pair left a central London venue "arm in arm and kissing". A source told the newspaper: "There was an instant connection between Kevin and Kerry. "She was very wrapped up in him and they left arm in arm and kissing. "But, it's the last thing she needs now. If she'd had an inkling she wouldn't have gone near him. "She's had her fill of men with dodgy pasts. She really is trying to clean up her image and she is mortified that this has happened." However, a spokesperson for Kerry insisted she had "no idea" about his past and the pair were not romantically involved. The rep told the Sunday Mirror: "Kerry had never met him before that evening. He was invited by a friend of a friend to join their group for part of the evening. She certainly had no idea of his history. "There was no romance at all. She posed for a photo with him and pretended to kiss him that's it." Kerry was previously married to Westlife singer Brian McFadden, taxi driver Mark Croft, who has admitted to running a cannabis farm and rugby star George Kay, who is currently awaiting trial for allegedly attacking her with a Taser.

## Martin Freeman's fashion addiction

Martin Freeman "immediately trusts men" who care about fashion. The 'Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies' star is a self-confessed lover of clothes and shoes and admits it has only got worse as he's got older. He said: "I like people who like clothes. I immediately trust men who are into clothes, even though they could turn out to be horrible people. There is an intelligence about caring about what you wear ... "I was always into fashion and, as I've got older, it's got worse. I know there are more important things in the world. Outside my normal life, aside from music, it's where most of my energy goes. I'm not very proud of that. Some people's energy goes on saving Syrian refugees. Mine goes on shoes." The 44-year-old actor went as far to describe his fashion addiction as a "sickness", admitting it infuriates his partner of 16 years, Amanda Abbington. He added to The Times newspaper's Luxx menswear supplement: "I can't leave the house unless I'm happy with my appearance. It's a sickness. It's a nightmare for Amanda."



## Dame Helen Mirren is a pomegranate farmer

The 70-year-old actress may have a busy globe-trotting career but that hasn't stopped her and her husband Taylor Hackford from trying to carve out a juicing business at their farm in Salento, Italy. She explained: "Apart from acting, my other job is that of a pomegranate farmer. My husband I have planted over 400 pomegranate trees and we're producing juice for the market. The juice is delicious. "Our little company is still in the early stages but we want to sell our juice in Italy and abroad. I love the people of Salento, I love Italy and I love the climate there. The first time I saw the full moon rising from the sea and shining on my pomegranates, I burst into tears." And, although she thoroughly enjoys her life in the sun, the 'Eye in the Sky' star has admitted it took a little while for her to settle in to her new home. She told OK! magazine: "At the beginning it was very complicated and I was getting discouraged, but one day I was sitting on a bench and I saw a man passing by on a bicycle. For some reason that moment touched my heart. I thought this is where I belong."



## Argentine jazz great 'Gato' Barbieri dies

Argentine-born jazz saxophonist Leandro "Gato" Barbieri, who won a Grammy for music in the 1972 film "Last Tango in Paris," died on Saturday, New York's Blue Note Jazz Club said. He was 83. "Today we've lost an icon, pioneer and dear friend," the legendary club said in a statement posted on Twitter. "Gato's significant contributions to music and the arts were an inspiration to us all." Barbieri, born on November 28, 1932, recorded 50 albums during his long career. His last performance was on November 23, 2015, Blue Note said. He began to play saxophone professionally as a teenager in clubs in Buenos Aires. His nickname "Gato"-cat in Spanish-came early on and his long career "covered virtually the entire jazz landscape," according to his Blue Note biography. Barbieri became known to a wider audience when director Bernardo Bertolucci chose his trademark tenor saxophone sound as the music for the steamy "Last Tango in Paris," a Hollywood movie starring Marlon Brando and Maria Schneider. Barbieri's final album, "Shadow," released in September 2012, won a Billboard Latin Jazz Album of the Year award. Last year he received a Latin Grammy lifetime achievement award. "Barbieri created a rebellious but highly accessible musical style, combining contemporary jazz with Latin American genres and incorporating elements of instrumental pop," the Latin Recording Academy said when it announced the award.



## Florida Georgia Line's 'Cruise' reaches RIAA diamond status

Florida Georgia Line's hit song "Cruise" has been certified diamond and is the first country song to achieve that feat. The Recording Industry Association of America said Friday the song has matched the success of others such as Lady Gaga's "Bad Romance" and Eminem's "Love the Way You Lie." The

RIAA awards diamond plaques to singles and albums that reach 10 times platinum status. That once was the equivalent of selling 10 million songs or albums but has changed since the RIAA began incorporating streaming from YouTube, Spotify and other digital music services. "Cruise" has a popular remix featuring Nelly. Nielsen

Music says it has sold 7.48 million tracks. The band's record label, Big Machine Records, says the song has been streamed more than 155 million times. Katy Perry, Justin Bieber and Imagine Dragons also have diamond songs.



## Kenton, Paterson receive Pia Pressure Awards

Filmmaker Pia Getty has bestowed the first Pia Pressure Awards to directors and writers Johnny Kenton and Debs Paterson. The awards are an initiative of Getty's film and television production company Pia Pressure, which launched last year. The Pia Pressure Awards offer funding and support to filmmakers, who receive up to \$25,000 (\$35,600) to help fund their projects as well as guidance. Winners will be expected to give their time to help new filmmakers in the Pia Pressure network. Kenton and Paterson will be part of the team that leads the selection and development panels for the next round of award winners. Kenton started out as a musician, which led to him making experimental films and music videos for many bands on labels including XL Recordings, Columbia and Universal. He also cut his teeth directing theater and interactive and immersive experiences, making works for The Underbelly, The Vaults and National Theatre Studio. In 2013 he wrote and directed "Hereafter," a young adult sci-fi pilot released through Channel 4, starring Lydia Wilson, Taron Egerton and Anthony Head. He is a David Lean Scholar at the National Film and Television School, and his films have played at several festivals, including Raindance, New York, Raindance, Berlin and Venice. Kenton was

chosen as a Pia Pressure award winner for his "deeply emotional rock'n'roll filmmaking style and technical flare." He is currently developing sci-fi thriller "Realms" and crime drama "Casual Thunder." Paterson's first feature "Africa United" was produced by Pathe and BBC Films, and premiered in Toronto, and then played as a red carpet gala screening at the London Film Festival. She was nominated for best debut director at the British Independent Film Awards and named a BAFTA "Brit to Watch." She is a recipient of a Pia Pressure Award for her next feature project, "Thin Air," a female survivor story based on true events that follows a female war reporter's journey when caught on the wrong side of enemy lines. While developing this project for Pia Pressure she continues to mentor up-and-coming filmmakers for Raindance and Film London. She is represented in London by Mady Niel at 42 and in L.A. by Rosalie Swedlin at Anonymous Content. Pia Pressure, which focuses on providing funding for up-and-coming filmmakers, is headed by Getty, with producer James Durrant on board as head of film, and Kenton as director and development executive. The company has the aim of "elevating emerging talent, female filmmakers and filmmakers from under represented backgrounds."

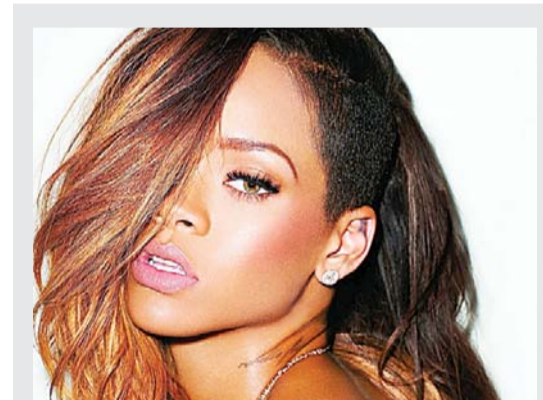
## Kaley Cuoco devastated after death of third dog

Kaley Cuoco has been left devastated after the death of her third dog. The 'Big Bang Theory' actress - whose pet pooches Petey and Chester died earlier this year - has taken to Instagram to reveal that her pitbull Angel passed away last week. In an emotional tribute, Kaley wrote: "Rest in peace, Angel. My heart is so heavy right now. This dog was more human and true than any of us. She exuded love and forgiveness and is the reason I fell so in love with pit rescue-this dog paved the way for pits everywhere, and showed the world what rescuing a pit bull really means. Her memory will live on in all the hearts she has touched.... @rebeccacorry #rescue #adopt #standupforpits (sic)." In January Kaley was heartbroken after two of her dogs died within days of each other. While the actress was still mourning the loss of her pet Petey, who she had for 14 years, she was left "in shock" when another beloved pooch, Chester, suddenly passed away. Kaley wrote on Instagram: "It hasn't been a great week for dogs so with a heavy heart I must tell you, sweet Chester (aka Cheddar cheese) has passed away. We rescue these angels blindly and have no idea what problems they may have... I'm still in shock but I just keep feeling blessed to have him in my life even for a small amount of time. He was such a joy- hilarious ears and followed me everywhere I went. He loved people so so much- loved being held and cuddled. Slept right on my pillow every night. I can sleep knowing that he felt extreme love towards the end of his life. Thank you @pawworks for blessing me with the big eared wonder.. (sic)."



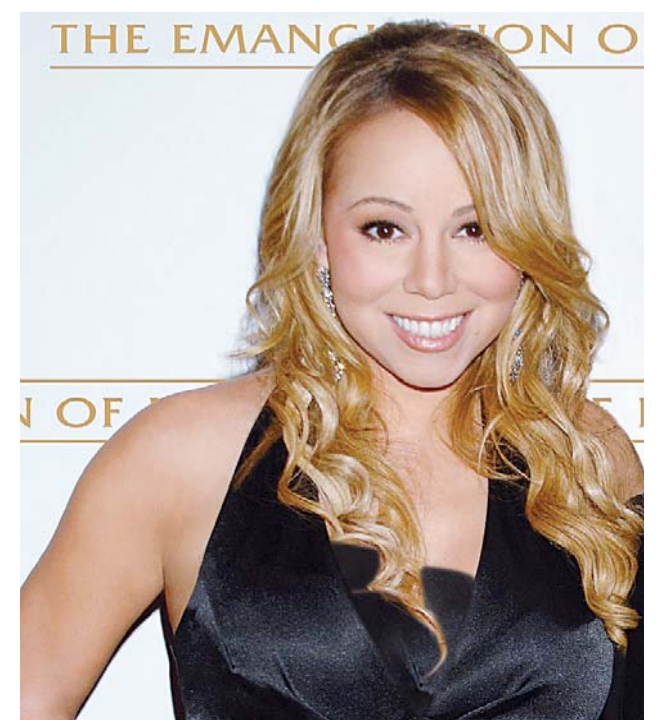
## Carey's fiancé to appear in reality TV show

Mariah Carey's fiancé will appear in her reality TV show. Although it was previously claimed that billionaire businessman James Packer did not want to take part in the upcoming show, Mariah has insisted that he is happy to be filmed for her new docuseries. She told TMZ: "My fiancé James Packer just came to visit me in Denmark. And he had no problem being on camera for the show with me...and we had a great time." Mariah, 45, will star in the eight-episode docuseries 'Mariah's World,' which will focus on her world tour and her upcoming wedding to James. She said: "I'm excited to bring my fans into my life for the next journey I'm about to embark on. I'm already having so much fun with this documentary and I know you will too. There is nothing like capturing these moments." The cameras will follow Mariah on her 'Sweet Sweet Fantasy' tour in the United States, Europe and Africa and as she plans her wedding to James. Jeff Olde, Executive Vice President, Programming & Development at E! previously said: "Mariah is one of the most captivating pop superstars of our time and one of the rare artists whose first name alone is instantly recognized around the globe." "The series will present a unique, vulnerable and surprisingly humorous side to Mariah that her fans have never before seen while showcasing her unparalleled celebrity lifestyle filled with true glamour, maximum luxury and ultimate stardom."



## Rihanna wants to inspire young women

The 'Work' singer received the Rock Star Award at the BET's Black Girls Rock! ceremony in New Jersey on Friday and used her acceptance speech to encourage her fans to love themselves. She said: "Thank you so much for celebrating us in a world that doesn't celebrate us enough. The minute you learn to love yourself, you will not want to be anybody else. Role model is not the title they like to give me...but I think I can inspire a lot of young women to be themselves and that is half the battle. Hopefully one day I'll be raising my own little black girl who rocks." Rihanna was previously praised by BGR in a post on their website which read: "Genuine beauty and music icon Rihanna is much more than what meets the eye. Robyn Rihanna Fenty is magical, musical and monumental to our culture and she has the numbers to prove it. From being the first Black woman to front a Dior campaign to scoring the title of top-selling digital artist of all time after selling 54 million albums and 210 million digital tracks worldwide, Rihanna is really the one to beat! "Rihanna is a trendsetter, without a doubt! She is at the forefront of the fashion scene and at the top of the music charts. There's nothing that can stop her!" Actress Tracee Ellis Ross hosted the event which will air on BET on April 5. Founder/CEO Beverly Bond created Black Girls Rock! to highlight the achievements of black female pioneers in art, music, philanthropy and community service.



## P Diddy's girlfriend questions about Lopez

P Diddy's girlfriend Cassie had "some questions" after he was spotted chatting to his ex-Jennifer Lopez. The 46-year-old rapper admitted that Cassie, 29, was not impressed after he and Jennifer caught up at the 2015 American Music Awards in November but he insisted that they were simply having a friendly catch up and Jennifer's boyfriend Casper Smart was also present. He told Power 105.1 FM's The Breakfast Club: "My woman at the end of the day, you know, she ain't have a problem with it. She had some questions. She had some questions. "But nah, nah, you know, Casper was there. Me and Jennifer ... people gonna be friends, man. People gonna grow, and, you know, any of my exes, they smile, and they're happy to see me, you know what I'm saying? And that's all that was about. And, you know, I answered the question." Diddy and Jennifer, 46, dated from 1999 to 2001 and she has claimed that their split was due to his infidelity. She told Vibe magazine: "I never caught him, but I just knew. He'd say he was going to a club for a couple of hours and then never come back that night. "It was the first time I was with someone who wasn't faithful. I was in this relationship with Puff where I was totally crying, crazy and going nuts. It really took my whole life in a tailspin."—Agencies



# From limos to junk, quirky museums tell Beijing's history



Photo shows household items and street objects dating from the 1900s to 1970s collected by Wang Jinming are displayed at his private museum in Beijing. — AP photos



A tour guide shows tourists household items and street objects dating from the 1900s to the 1970s collected by Wang Jinming.

Stuffed into a tiny room off an alleyway are items that Wang Jinming readily admits were put out with the garbage: Paper string, a needle holder, a metal pancake maker built for thrusting into a fire. "These objects all look quite old and shabby," he said. "But they record real history." Wang's Beijing Old Items Exhibition in the heart of old Beijing is one of dozens of private museums that dot the capital's backstreets and its suburbs. Their collections feature the grand and mundane - from items salvaged from the garbage to a limousine in which Mao Zedong once rode.

Entering these private museums is to peel off a largely forgotten layer of Beijing's recent history. While state-run museums seek mainly to legitimize the ruling Communist Party through its own highly selective interpretation of history, the capital's private museums are born from their founders' hobbies and obsessions, along with a sense of duty to keep alive a little bit of history others might dismiss as trivial. "If you throw it on the street, people would say 'What's this?' and maybe think it's useless and throw it away," said Wang, gesturing around the room packed with hundreds of household items and street objects dating from the 1900s to the 1970s. "But we think it's culture."

#### Street vendors

Wang delights in telling visitors to guess what the objects are in their hands. They might include a popsicle holder used by street vendors or a bucket-shaped iron heated by charcoal. All form part of the collection that

Wang and two co-founders began in the 1980s after asking foreign visitors why they were so interested in buying old everyday items.

"They said, 'To collect! Now if you go to someone's home you probably can't find such things,'" Wang said. Picking up a doughnut-shaped metal bell, Wang explained that before Beijing had many hospitals, itinerant doctors used to roam the streets. "When you heard this sound, the doctor was walking in the street, available, ringing the bell," he said. Liu Chen, 27, first visited the museum after reading about it on social media and has returned several times with friends.

"It's not like big state-owned museums. You don't need to buy a ticket to enter some sort of grand hall and stroll through different chambers," he said. "Here many of the old objects displayed might have been the kind of things used by Mr Wang himself when he was a kid, so you can feel his enthusiasm, which is the key thing that distinguishes it from other museums."

#### Motoring history

As China grows richer, wealthy citizens, banks and private businesses have invested in Chinese art and started museums to display their wealth or patriotism. Others, such as Luo Wenyou, opened their collections after their pastimes evolved into callings. In 1998, when he already owned about 70 old cars, Luo took part in an 800-kilometer (500-mile) rally from the northeastern city of Dalian to Beijing, his iconic Red Flag sedan the only Chinese car in



Luo Wenyou poses in front of one of his vintage car collection, a Red Flag limousine, on display at his private museum in Huairou district.

the event. Having learned about vintage car associations and museums outside China, and inspired by shouts of "long live Red Flag" as he pulled up to Tiananmen Square, Luo decided he was honor-bound to preserve the legacy of China's early motoring history.

"I had a karting track, a transport company and a garage. After the rally I sold them off cheaply in order to immediately start a vintage car association and later found the museum, to fill the gap," said Luo. "I felt this was my personal duty." His museum opened in 2009 and he now boasts more than 200 vintage Chinese and foreign cars. Some of Luo's cars have stor-

ies from China's recent history. They include a car Mao refused to ride in until the brand's Romanized name on the hood was replaced with Chinese characters and a car found in an overgrown patch of grass that had been assigned to former President Liu Shaoqi. The latter vehicle still had broken windows from when Liu was pursued by Red Guards during the Cultural Revolution after falling out of favor with Mao.

#### Pockets of weirdness

Luo lives at the site with his wife so he can open up outside normal hours for visitors trav-

eling from afar. "Even if just one person comes we will open, even though the entrance fee won't cover the electricity," he said. Private collections like Luo's offer a welcome alternative to state museums that seek to draw the visitor into a narrative about the greatness of China and the necessity of the Communist Party's leadership, said Philip Tinari, director of the Ullens Center for Contemporary Art in Beijing.

"You don't really find publicly supported pockets of weirdness," Tinari said. Ma Weidu opened China's first private museum in 1996, filling it with antiques bought cheaply in the late 1970s and 80s from Beijing residents eager for cash to buy refrigerators, TVs and washing machines. "I could buy 10 average pieces of art for 65 yuan (\$10)," said Ma. In those early days, his most valuable acquisition was a bowl made in an imperial kiln during the reign of the Qing dynasty emperor Qianlong about 250 years ago, Ma said. Purchased for just 6 yuan (less than \$1) at the time, it could be worth as much as 600,000 yuan (\$92,000) if sold today, he said.

Ma's Guanfu Museum now has three branches across China with two more opening this year. Ma himself has become a TV personality, hosting programs teaching antique hunters how to discern between real treasures and fakes. Ever keen to attract more visitors, Ma, a cat lover, recently named 20 felines as assistant curators. "A lot of people who come to the museum ... are more interested in cats than culture," said Ma. "But some may come here because of the cats and in doing so learn something about antiques." — AP



Wang Jinming shows his household items and street objects dating from 1900s to the 1970s which he collected at his private museum in Beijing.



Tourists try out antique household objects which were collected by Wang Jinming.



Red Flag car models are displayed with other vintage cars collected by Luo Wenyou at his private museum in Huairou district.

## Stapleton, Bryan, Lambert set for ACM Awards

Chris Stapleton dominated at the Grammys and the Country Music Association Awards, but will he repeat at the Academy of Country Music Awards on Sunday? Yes and no. Stapleton is the leading nominee with seven, but he's not up for the top award: entertainer of the year. Instead, he will compete for



File photo shows Chris Stapleton performs at the 2015 Artists of the Year Show at Schermerhorn Symphony Center in Nashville, Tenn. — AP

album, song and male vocalist of the year. He won new male vocalist of the year in an early announcement.

The singer-songwriter has a strong chance to win big at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas after collecting two Grammys in February and three CMAs in November, when he also had a show-stopping and memorable perform-

ance alongside Justin Timberlake. For entertainer of the year, reigning champ Luke Bryan will battle Garth Brooks, Jason Aldean, Eric Church and Miranda Lambert. A win for Lambert would make her the first woman to win the honor since Taylor Swift in 2012.

Bryan will also host this year's awards show with Dierks Bentley, a spot usually reserved for Blake Shelton. The hosts will also perform during the live telecast. Shelton, Carrie Underwood, Sam Hunt, Florida Georgia Line, Kenny Chesney and Tim McGraw will also hit the stage. Collaborative performances will also take place, including Dolly Parton and Katy Perry; Miranda Lambert with Billy Gibbons and Keith Urban; Little Big Town featuring Trombone Shorty; and Kelsea Ballerini with Nick Jonas.

Cam, who will also perform, is second most nominated act with six thanks to her Grammy-nominated hit "Burning House." Church is also nominated for six awards and will perform. His surprise album, "Mr Misunderstood," is nominated for album of the year along with efforts from Stapleton, Hunt, Thomas Rhett and Chris Young. Presenters include Kiefer Sutherland, who is working on a country album; British actor Tom Hiddleston, who portrays Hank Williams in biopic, "I Saw the Light"; Miss America Betty Cantrell; and singers Kacey Musgraves, Darius Rucker, Martina McBride and Jake Owen. Additional performers include Stapleton, Aldean, Rhett, Brett Eldredge, Charles Kelley, Cole Swindell and Old Dominion. The 51st ACM Awards will air live on CBS at 8 pm Eastern. — AP

## Peace and love live again as singer Donovan hits the road

The folk singer Donovan has a secret plan for world peace. It involves ukuleles, meditation and his old friends Paul McCartney and Ringo Starr. "We are helping a great guy who is getting Israeli and Palestinian children together to play ukuleles for peace," he told AFP on a visit to the French capital. "Imagine if we could get them to meditate together too. That is our secret weapon for peace. We are already doing it with Catholic and Protestant kids in Belfast."

The sixties ended nearly half a century ago but its utopian dreams of a better world burn on in the man who penned such psychedelic hits as "Mellow Yellow" and "Sunshine Superman". At nearly 70, Donovan is on the road again, playing to audiences across Europe in what he calls his "Retrospective" tour. Sitting on stage crossed legged on a pile of sheepskins with just his acoustic guitar, it is as if flower power had never ended. "After the concerts people say, 'But he's 70. How can he sit for two hours like that?'"

It is all the more remarkable when you consider that he spent his childhood battling polio. "There's a secret," said Donovan with an impish twinkle in his eye. That secret is the transcendental meditation and other Eastern spiritual techniques Donovan learned in India at the feet of Maharishi Mahesh Yogi. It was Donovan who introduced The Beatles and the Beach Boys to the guru. And like the surviving Beatles, he is still a believer.

#### 'Yellow Submarine'

During that famous 1968 trip to the Maharishi's ashram with the actress Mia Farrow, John Lennon wrote "Dear Prudence" for her younger sister, and Donovan taught him and McCartney his finger-picking and clawhammer guitar styles. Donovan is the first to acknowledge that his sixties exploits make him look like a musical Baron Munchausen. Not only was he the first major pop star to be busted for cannabis, but he helped McCartney finish "Yellow Submarine", brought the three founding members of Led Zeppelin together on his hit "Hurdy Gurdy Man", and wrote the famous placards in Dylan's "Subterranean Homesick Blues" video with the Beat poet Allen Ginsberg. A friend of Joan Baez, he was once even touted by



British singer Donovan poses, on March 22, 2016 in Paris. — AP

the press as a serious rival to Dylan, with the American singer opening a newspaper in the 1967 documentary "Don't Look Back" and declaring, "Who is this Donovan?" "It was all nonsense. There was no rivalry between us," Donovan said. In fact, it was Dylan who introduced him to The Beatles. While his friends went on to become musical megastars, Donovan's own star waned in the 1970s with his more mystical style earning him the derision of the punk generation. Though the likes of Belle and Sebastian, St Etienne and Badly Drawn Boy now all cite him as an influence, the insults clearly hurt. "They said I was an old hippy-guilty!" he joked, holding up his hands.

#### 'I am a poet'

"I didn't want to be a pop star, or a folk star. I was a poet and I still am," the Scottish-born singer insisted. Instead Donovan, who today lives in County Cork, Ireland, returned to his Celtic roots, to the songs he grew up with in a Glasgow tenement block sung by his Irish mother and aunts and his poetry-mad father.

"People say I play the guitar like the harp. It is because I come from the remains of that bardic Gaelic tradition."

"I am a mix of the Irish and the Scots. The Beatles were the Irish in Liverpool. Oasis, The Smiths and the Happy Mondays were the Irish in Manchester, the Everly Brothers learned to sing from their Irish granny. Elvis Presley was Scots Irish and Woody Guthrie had Scottish roots. I am part of that tradition. We are very strong with the music and the poetry." With mindfulness the big new thing and singer songwriters again at the top of the charts, Donovan feels he is now swimming with the tide rather than against it.

"People keep asking me, 'You thought peace and love would save the world, but it didn't, did it?'" "But I say, the 1960s were not an answer, they were the question... and it still holds particularly about the way we are treating the planet," the singer insisted. "All the difficulties in the outer world begin in the inner world. That's where we need to begin." Donovan tours Germany in April before concerts in London in May and Paris and Ireland in June. — AFP



Models display creations by Rahul Mishra during the Lakme Fashion Week.

# LAKMÉ FASHION WEEK



A model displays a creation by Rimi Nayak.



Indian Bollywood actor Arjun Kapoor poses on the fourth day of the Lakme Fashion Week (LFW) summer/resort 2016 in Mumbai on April 2, 2016. — AP/AFP photos



Indian Bollywood actor Sidharth Malhotra showcases a creation by Indian designer Kunal Rawal.



A model displays a creation by Neeta Lulla.



A model displays a creation by Neeta Lulla.



A model displays a creation by Rahul Mishra.



Indian Bollywood comedian and actress Bharti Singh showcases a creation.



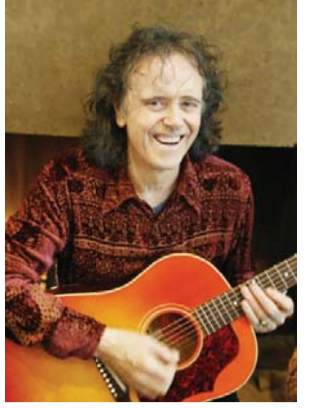
Indian Bollywood actress Helen showcases a creation.



A model displays a creation by Rahul Mishra.



A model displays a creation by Rahul Mishra.



'Dreamlike space': Zaha Hadid's Heydar Aliyev center in Baku, Azerbaijan, completed in 2012.—Alamy

## The devastating loss of

# Zaha Hadid for women in architecture



Zaha Hadid photographed by David Levene for the Guardian in 2013.



'Complex, curving forms': The Roca London Gallery, Zaha Hadid, 2011.—Rex



Buildings by Zaha Hadid.—www.azureazure.com



A file photo taken on September 25, 2013, shows Iraqi-British architect Zaha Hadid posing for pictures outside her design for an extension of the Serpentine Sackler Gallery in London.—AFP

**Y**ou may not always like her aesthetic, her candor or the politics of her clients, but Zaha Hadid, the star architect who died suddenly in Miami on March 31, has left a dark hole in the world of architecture. An inimitable mind, Hadid often proposed dazzling "swoopy" avant-garde structures, earning the nickname the "Queen of the Curve." Her singular stardom broke through the male-dominated profession's stereotypes of architectural career paths for women, Arabs, emigres or anyone who has ever felt like a square peg in a round hole. When she passed away at 65, Hadid was a rarity, a celebrity, and an anointed Dame.

Hadid established herself by winning high-profile cultural commissions and was bolstered by architecture honors like her induction into the Order of the British Empire by Queen Elizabeth in 2012. She went by "Zaha," enjoying first-name-only celebrity brand name status, even beyond design circles. Brands and celebrities lined up to collaborate with Hadid: Chanel, Adidas (with Pharrell Williams), jewelers Swarovski and Georg Jensen, Moleskine, the German yacht makers Blohm+Voss, and of course the \$2,000 sculptural "haute couture" shoe designed with her friend and the Dutch theorist Rem Koolhaas. Long before today's "Lean In" movement, Hadid was a single, stylish, workaholic woman who ran a 400-person firm, and refused to shrink from controversy.

Hadid's reputation was built on drawing ideas ahead of their time. Her early architectural renderings, drawn in a distinctive style influenced by the Russian abstract art movement Suprematism, were usually technologically impossible to realize. "Hadid's work in the 1980s and early 1990s was startling," explains architecture critic Alexandra Lange to Quartz. "She hadn't built any of it yet—and it would be some time before she could—but her drawings were like a portal into another world." "She had the tenacity to stick to it until technology and public taste caught up to the idea that a building could look like it was always in motion," says Lange.

### The Pritzker Prize, and a disdainful press

Hadid received her career-defining prize, the 2004 Pritzker, at the relatively young age of 53 despite only having a small body of built work. The accompanying headline of the official announcement—"Zaha Hadid Becomes the First Woman to Receive the Pritzker Architecture Prize"—signaled the tenor of the media coverage to follow.

Never mind the groundbreaking museum she designed in Cincinnati or the wonderfully weird fire station in Weil am Rhein, Germany or confounding design concepts, many profiles of the star architect fixated on her womanliness. A 2004 New Yorker profile introduced Hadid's work by way of her "remarkably emotive face, which veers from sweetly girlish to volcanically enraged." In a new book *Where Are the Women Architects?*, historian and architecture professor Despina Stratigakos argues this gendered portrayal of Hadid's person, and the kinds of questions she was often asked to answer, would have been unthinkable treatments for any of the previous 25 Pritzker laureates.

Cliches like "ball-breaking harridan" and "vertiginous heels," dot this 2004 article by The Guardian's Stuart Jeffries: Zaha Hadid offers a moist, limp hand to shake. She's coming down with flu. This is a disappointment. Where is the vibrant monster I'd been promised from previous interviews? Where's the ball-breaking harridan barking abuse in Arabic into her mobile as she wafts into her north-London studio in vertiginous heels, before snarling unpleasant things to her staff in terrifyingly idiomatic Anglo-Saxon?

The New York Times's influential critic Herbert Muschamp

seemed to turn up his nose at her rough-and-ready energy. "She is not someone you would talk to about books," Muschamp wrote. "Earthier appetites seem to drive her. I myself do not care greatly for lamb testicles. Should a sudden craving for this delicacy come over me, however, I would know whom to call."

The Financial Times's reporter Edwin Heathcote dared to ask Hadid if she even really deserved to win the Pritzker, architecture's highest honor. "I don't know how to answer that...some people must think I deserve it," she replied. Years later, with even more accolades and built projects under her belt, Hadid still refused to justify or qualify her achievements. At Oxford University just last month, a student similarly puzzled the architect by asking how she thought future architecture historians would appraise her work. "I really don't know," she said, after patiently listening to the long-winded question. She was just doing her thing, she would often say.

### A role model, but never a mold

While there are many talented, recognized and respected female architects practicing around the world, Hadid was the only one to have so clearly punched a hole in that proverbial glass ceiling. For many rising female architects, losing Hadid is like seeing a beacon in the field extinguished. "Her loss is devastating," says Stratigakos, who also heads the architecture department at the University at Buffalo. "You lose heart when you can't find role models. I worry about how few women architects there are—not just in Pritzker prizes, but in novels, in films... I worry about my students."

According to a 2014 study by the San Francisco chapter of the American Institute of Architects, one-third of women drop out of the profession citing the lack of role models as a reason. Over 70% of women experience sexual discrimination, harassment or bullying on the job. But Hadid was a complicated figure, and not exactly the easiest role model. She was notorious for refusing to back down from criticism over her selection of clients or the working conditions of the people who built her designs. And her professional success was tightly intertwined with her force of personality and uniquely groundbreaking ideas—a formula few could hope to replicate.

As Hadid explained to the students in Oxford, she put ideas first—and often before practicality or the wishes of her clients. "I believe in progress, I think if we do enough research, we can push the envelope and get better results... That's what I like about architecture. It's exhilarating, but also heart-breaking." Two heartaches were the Cardiff Bay Opera House in Wales in 1994 and the ongoing saga of the Tokyo Olympics stadium in Japan. Both were politicized, high-profile commissions that seemed entranced by Hadid's ideas, then abruptly spurned her by another architect.

### Proudly Arab and Iraqi

Hadid was also widely-revered in the Arab world, as one of few Arab women to have gained international celebrity status. "I first read about Zaha in the seventh grade," says Loubna Mrie, a Syrian colleague at Quartz. "We always used her as an example. Yes, smart, successful women exist. Look at Zaha, we would say." Born to an affluent family of Sunni Muslim Arabs in Baghdad, Hadid was educated in Catholic school, and studied mathematics at the American University in Beirut, Lebanon. She later studied at London's Architectural Association School of Architecture (AA), became a teacher, and established her practice there in 1980. She died a naturalized citizen of the UK.

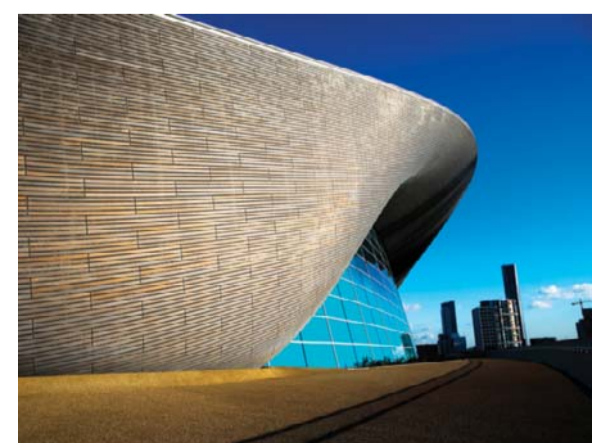
From the very beginning of her career, Hadid stood out.

Of her time at the Architectural Association School, former classmate and architect Deborah Berke says: "She was a genius even then. Her talent was unmistakable." Hadid never forgot or dismissed her roots. In a revelatory 2014 interview with Lebanese journalist Ricardo Karam, Hadid said she disliked that journalists often confused her nationality and her citizenship. "It's always bothered me...I'm an Arab and an Iraqi," Hadid said. "I'm not Brit-English, I'm not half English, I just live here [London]."

An outsider in so many ways, Hadid burst into the greatest heights of architecture and stayed there, a vital proof to others that a woman—and an Arab woman—could do it. When, at the end of her lecture at Oxford, a young man asked for career advice, Hadid offered the only advice she could. "There is no real magic," she said. "It's really hard work.—qz.com



Like everything designed by Zaha Hadid, her Olympic Stadium for the 2020 Tokyo Games is a statement of the possibilities of architecture as much as a reaction to the requirement of the brief—AP



This February 3, 2016 file photo shows the London Aquatics Centre built for the 2012 Olympic Games, as its architect Dame Zaha Hadid has died from a heart attack aged 65.—AP