

Signs point to deal on oil output: Kuwait official



Iceland leader resigns, first casualty of Panama Papers



Technicolor stores Hollywood history in bottle



Kuwait beat Arabi 3-1 to lift Amir's Cup



## AMIR CALLS TO IMPROVE STATE'S FINANCIAL STATUS

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### KUWAIT, ITALY SIGN EUROFIGHTER CONTRACT

**KUWAIT/MILAN:** Kuwait and Italy yesterday signed a contract for 28 Eurofighter "Typhoon" warplanes as the state beefs up its military might. Italian aerospace company Finmeccanica, which will assemble the multi-role fighters, said the contract was its biggest ever. It did not specify an amount but Italian media reports said it was worth €7-8 billion (\$8-9 billion). The deal also includes logistics, operational support and the training of flight crews and ground personnel, which will be carried out in cooperation with the Italian Air Force, Finmeccanica said in a statement.

Kuwait's Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah witnessed the signing of the deal with visiting Italian counterpart Roberta Pinotti at the Army Officers' Club yesterday, a statement by the defense ministry's public relations and moral guidance department noted. The signing ceremony was also attended by Finmeccanica CEO Mauro Moretti, who inked the deal on behalf of the Italian side. The aircraft, 22 single-seaters and 6 twin-seaters will be produced in Italy.

The statement pointed out the ministry's keenness to acquire highest level of operational capabilities through this purchase. The contract is an intergovernmental agreement between the two countries and includes logistics and operational support, as well as

Continued on Page 13



**KUWAIT:** Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah (right) and Finmeccanica CEO Mauro Moretti are seen during the signing ceremony for 28 Eurofighter warplanes yesterday. — KUNA

By B Izzak and Agencies

**KUWAIT:** HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah underscored the imperative that the legislative and executive branches cooperate to elevate the financial and economic status of the country, chairman of the parliamentary priorities committee Yousef Al-Zalalah said yesterday. Zalalah was giving a press statement after a meeting that included himself and members of the committee and National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanim with HH the Amir.

Zalalah said the Amir gave four recommendations to the lawmakers meeting with him: One, the absolute necessity for cooperation between the legislative and executive branches; two, the current economic situation in the country requires focus by both branches; three, though the parliament has one year in its current term, it nevertheless can achieve much for the society; four, maximum concentration by lawmakers and government officials should be on what is best for the country and in doing so, all should eschew rumors and innuendoes.

HH the Amir spoke about the economic role the parliament must assume in either passing legislation or making apt recommendations to the government regarding the nation's economy, Zalalah said. He added that the Amir mentioned Moody's, the credit rating firm, and its advice to Kuwait regarding improving the current economic situation in the country. The lawmaker noted that HH the Amir commended the parliament on its achievements, the committee on its competent work and Ghanem on his wise leadership of the parliament.

Continued on Page 13

## Try Our Monster Size Shrimps



NEW



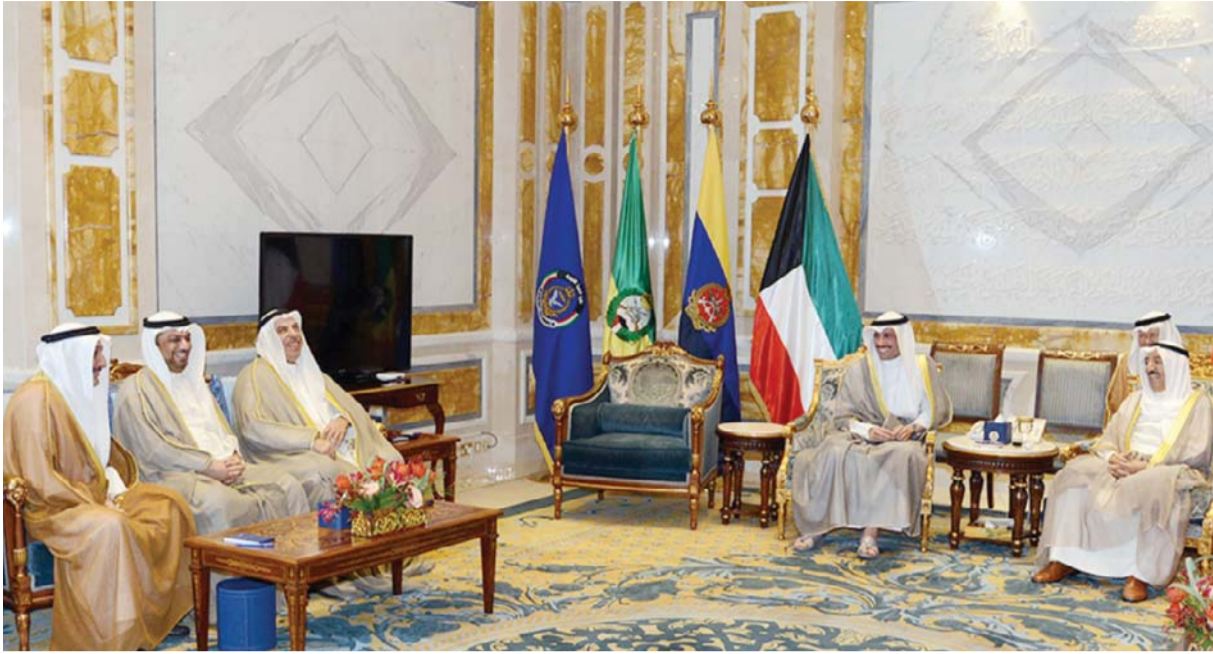
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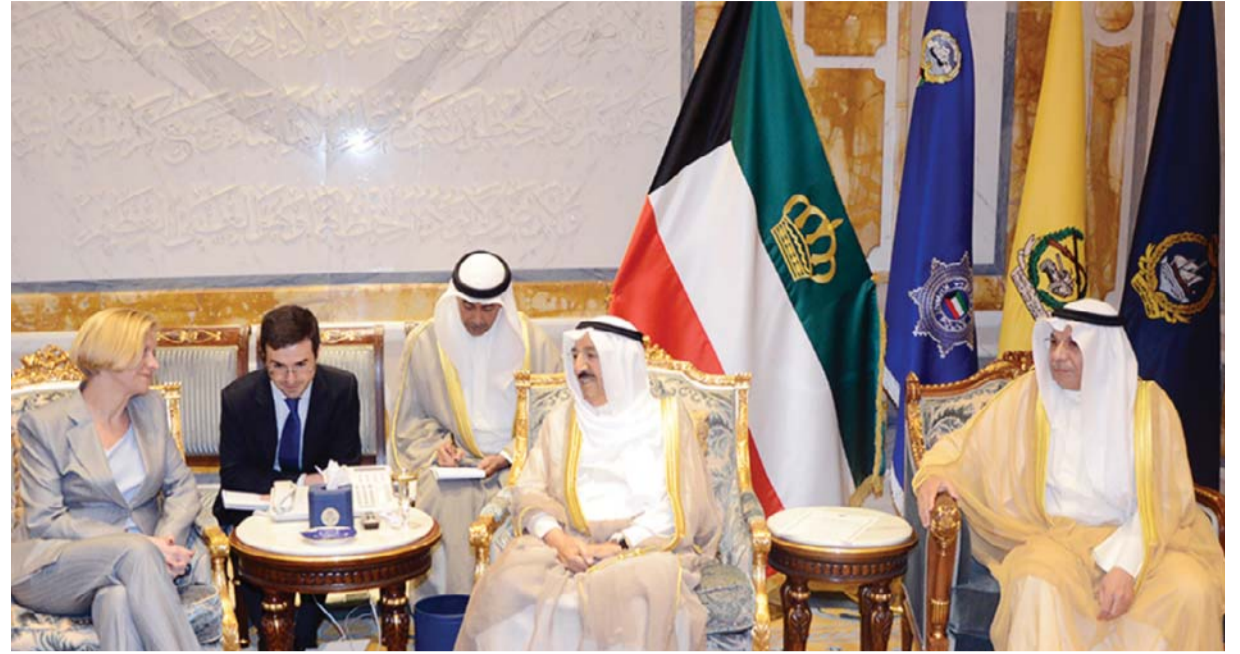
Fisherman Junior Combo  
10 pcs **MONSTER** Shrimps, Fries, Tartar Sauce, Bread & Cola







**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem and members of the parliamentary Priorities Committee.— Amiri Diwan photos



**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Italian Minister of Defense, Senator Roberta Pinotti, in the presence of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah.

## AMIR RECEIVES SPEAKER, PRIORITIES PANEL MEMBERS

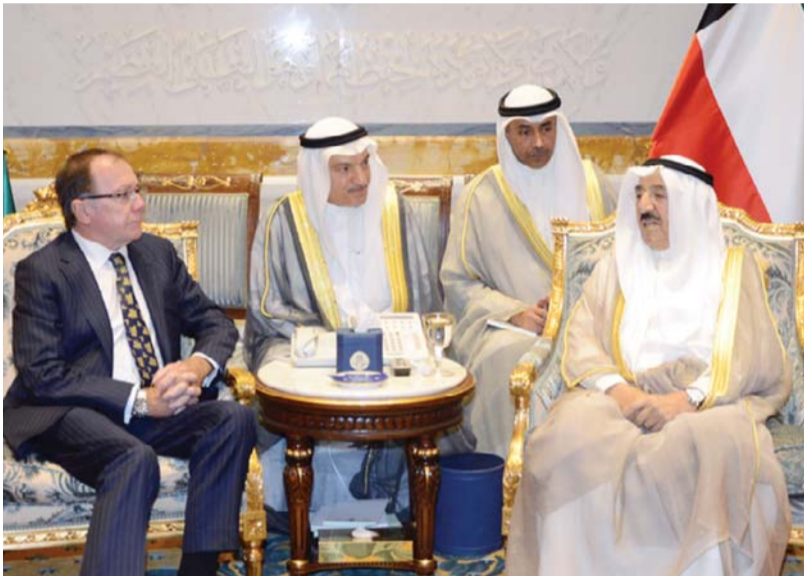
**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received yesterday at Bayan Palace National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem. His Highness the Amir also received head of the parliamentary Priorities Committee MP Dr Yusuf Al-Zalzalah, members of the committee MPs

Ahmad Lari, Faisal Al-Shaya, Kamel Mahmoud Al-Awadhi and Mubarak Al-Hurais. His Highness the Amir during the meeting urged them to achieve the citizens' aspirations, wishing them all the best and success. Speaker Ghanem and the committee members later met with His Highness the Crown

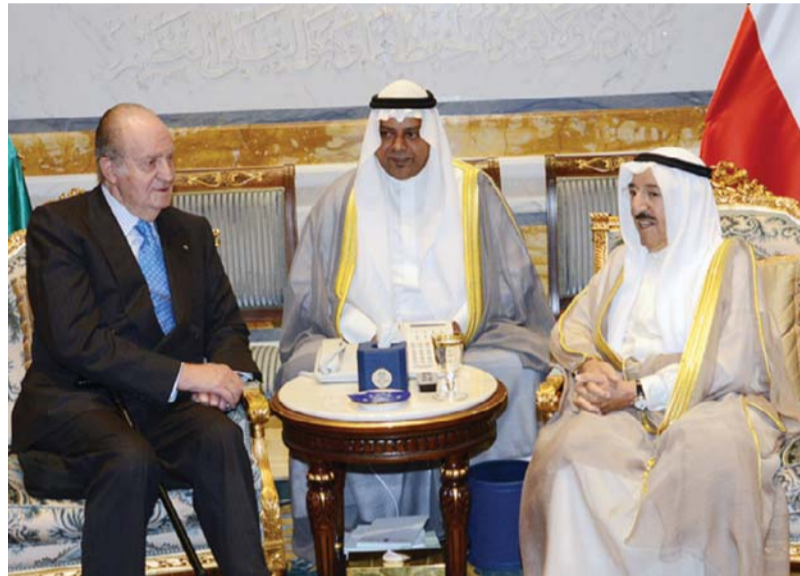
Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah as well. Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir received Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, accompanied by New Zealand's Foreign Minister Murray Stuart McCully and his accompanying delegation on

the occasion of his visit to the country. His Highness also received Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah accompanied by Italian Minister of Defense, Senator Roberta Pinotti and her accompanying delegation on the occasion of her visit to the country. Sheikh

Khaled Al-Jarrah accompanied by the visiting Italian minister met with His Highness the Crown Prince later as well. Furthermore, His Highness the Amir separately received former king of Spain Juan Carlos, as well as Risto Siilasmaa, Chair of the Board of NOKIA and his accompanying delegation. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with New Zealand's Foreign Minister Murray Stuart McCully.



**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with former king of Spain Juan Carlos.



**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Risto Siilasmaa, Chair of the Board of NOKIA.

## ACTING PM PRAISES TIES BETWEEN KUWAIT, SENEGAL

**KUWAIT:** Acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah commended the 'distinguished' relations between Kuwait and Senegal, and the two countries' leaders' desire to further cement them. Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled praised Senegal for its

wholehearted support of Kuwait. He was speaking to reporters during a reception held Monday night by the Senegalese Embassy to mark the country's national day, and cited His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's meeting with the President of

Senegal in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, a few weeks ago. Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled hoped the upcoming meeting of Kuwait-Senegal joint committee's meeting in Kuwait would contribute to better relations and cooperation between the two countries. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** Ambassador of the Republic of Senegal to the State of Kuwait and Dean of the Diplomatic Corps Abdul Ahad Mbacke welcomes Saudi Ambassador Dr Abdulaziz Al-Fayez.



**KUWAIT:** (From left) Ambassadors of Iran Alireza Enayati, the Netherlands Frans Potuyt and Iraq Dr Mohamad Bahrulolom attend the ceremony.— Photos by Joseph Shagra



**KUWAIT:** Acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and Ambassador of the Republic of Senegal to the State of Kuwait and Dean of the Diplomatic Corps Abdul Ahad Mbacke cut the ceremonial cake.

## KFH RECOGNIZES INVENTOR AL-QALLAF

**KUWAIT:** Group Chief Strategy Officer at Kuwait Finance House (KFH), Eng. Fahad Khaled Al-Mukhaizeem honored the Kuwaiti young talented Inventor Hawraa Al-Qallaf who had won the Intel International Award for its invention (BAS) Bracelet Alarm System for the Hearing Impaired Parents. This initiative comes as part of KFH's interest in the youth and its keenness to achieve the social responsibility towards all segments of society, primarily those distinguished and talented people who harness their unique capabilities for the best interest of the society. Hawraa Al-Qallaf

is the youngest member and first Arab at the Acoustical Society of America. She praised KFH's initiative as the first bank to recognize her for her invention that targeted a significant segment of the society. She reiterates that KFH has a long track-record of supporting science and innovative ideas and projects.

It is noteworthy that KFH had announced KFH award for Innovation whereby it honored owners of innovative inventions in recognition of their efforts and achievements that add value to the society and represent a model for next generations to follow suit.



**KUWAIT:** Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem honors Hawraa Al-Qallaf.

## COMMITTEE PROBES REGISTERING KUWAITI PROPERTIES IN EGYPT

**KUWAIT:** The problem of properly registering real estate properties, deeds, and land titles owned by Kuwaitis in Egypt is on its way to being ironed out, Kuwait's Assistant Foreign Minister for Consular Affairs Sami Al-Hamad said yesterday.

Speaking after a meeting of the third session of the Kuwaiti and Egyptian joint Consular Committee, he said the committee discussed the status of Egyptian workers in Kuwait and the status of Kuwaitis, mostly students and hospital patients, in Egypt. The committee furthermore dealt with criminal and misdemeanor cases involving Kuwaiti students in Egypt, said Hamad, pointing out that the emphasis in the committee meeting today was on real estate and property issues owned by Kuwaitis that have not been officially registered by the Egyptian office of the Register of Deeds. He urged Egyptian authorities at the ministries of Justice and Interior to expedite the process of registration of the Kuwaiti properties and the issuance of official deeds in the name of their owners. Hamad further indicated that it is imper-

ative to put Kuwait and Egypt's collective capabilities to good use through enhancing bilateral consular ties. He described the meeting as a testament to the depth of ties between both nations.

This committee was formed to ensure that Kuwaiti and Egyptian consular ties would remain robust, Al-Hamad said, adding that such meetings between both sides have routinely taken place during the past few years. Hamad noted that boosting collective consular services would serve to further solidify cooperation between Kuwait and Cairo.

Meanwhile, Hamad's Egyptian counterpart, Ambassador Hisham Al-Naqib said that the meeting reflects deep-rooted ties between both nations, ones founded on brotherhood and amicability, he added. "Kuwaiti and Egyptian ties should serve as a paradigm of Arab cooperation," Naqib said, pointing to the "large Egyptian diaspora in Kuwait as affirmation of the camaraderie both countries share." The meeting also tackled numerous regional issues of mutual concern. —KUNA





KUWAIT: Kuwait OPEC Governor Nawal Al-Fuzaia (left) attends a forum at the oil ministry yesterday. — KUNA

## SIGNS POINT TO DEAL ON OIL OUTPUT: KUWAIT OPEC OFFICIAL

KUWAIT: All signs suggest a meeting of oil-producing countries on April 17 will deliver an agreement to freeze output, Kuwait's OPEC governor and two sources said, suggesting Iran's aim to raise supply will not scupper a deal aimed at supporting prices.

The Kuwaiti governor, Nawal Al-Fuzaia, also said in a speech at the country's oil ministry that she expected the oil market to achieve a balance between supply and demand in the second half of this year, leading to higher average prices.

"There are positive indications an agreement will be reached during this meeting ... an initial agreement on freezing production," she said. The OPEC governor is usually a country's No. 2 OPEC official, after the oil minister.

Two other sources familiar with the issue said the initiative remained on track, even though comments by Saudi Arabia's deputy crown prince in an interview with Bloomberg last week had dampened hopes of an accord. "Yes, there will be a deal," said one of the sources, an OPEC delegate from outside the Gulf. "The freeze will be done."

### Confident

A Gulf oil source said he was confident of achieving a deal at the meeting, to be held in Doha, the capital of Qatar. An initial output freeze agreed in February has

helped oil prices rise to almost \$38 a barrel from a 12-year low close to \$27 in January. Still, prices have fallen in recent days on doubts that a wider deal will be reached. It could go higher by the latter part of the year. The Brent crude price is expected to average between \$45 and \$60 in the second half of 2016 and until 2018, the Kuwaiti governor said.

Fuzaia did not elaborate on what signs pointed to an agreement in Doha, but said producers might agree to freeze their output at February levels, or at an average of January and February levels. The original proposal in February by Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Venezuela - members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries - plus non-OPEC Russia, was for a freeze at January's production levels.

### Iran

On Iran's plans to increase oil output, which Tehran has said it will not abandon, Fuzaia said rising Iranian production was not in itself a problem. However, there is a problem with Iran's ability to sell this additional quantity into a saturated market amid weak demand, she said. Iran is looking to boost output following the lifting of Western sanctions in January. Analysts including the International Energy Agency say the increase has so far been gradual.—Reuters

## ALGHANIM INDUSTRIES SPONSORS TEDxALSHUWAIKH EVENT IN KUWAIT

KUWAIT: Alghanim Industries, one of the largest privately owned companies in the region, was the lead sponsor of the first official TEDx event to be held in Kuwait, titled TEDxAlShuwaikh. The event was held in the end of March 2016 at the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) campus in Shuwaikh.

The theme of the talks was ">me" (Greater Than Me), which aimed at inspiring the youth to be the source of positive change within their communities so that they may in turn inspire the same in others across the world. The event was hosted by renowned Kuwaiti media figure Abdullah Bouftain, who introduced the diverse roster of speakers, which included: Eng Ali Al-Youha, Secretary General of the Kuwait National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters; Dr Hilal Al-Sayer and his wife Margaret Al Sayer, founders of the Kuwait Association for the Care of Children in Hospitals (KACCH) and Bayt Abdullah Children's Hospice (BAACH); Catherine Silliman, expert in international relations, and wife of the American Ambassador to Kuwait; Balsam Al-Ayoub, athlete and former professional fencing champion; Dr Fatemah Al-Mosawi, geneticist and founder of Spread the Passion, a non-profit organization that connects volunteers to opportunities while developing their skills. Each of the keynote speakers shared inspiring

stories about themselves to help create greater positive change in Kuwait.

Abdulleatef Al-Sharikh, Head of the Corporate Communications Department at Alghanim Industries, commented on the event, saying, "As part of our long term commitment to serving the community, we strive to do everything we can to help the underprivileged, support education, and encourage entrepreneurship in Kuwait and around the world. We at Alghanim Industries have an obligation towards making our region a better place, and we are delighted to see such prominent figures in Kuwait who share our passion for spreading a message that we have always focused on as a company. I would also like to thank the organizers of TEDxAlShuwaikh for their outstanding efforts in putting together the first official event of its kind in Kuwait, and for shining a spotlight on a topic of vital importance."

The support for entrepreneurship falls under Alghanim Industries' corporate social responsibilities initiatives. The company has goals towards youth empowerment, supporting education, and helping entrepreneurs grow. Alghanim Industries was also the platinum sponsor of Start-up Weekend Kuwait, and has provided the highest number of employee volunteers in the country for the Injaz-Kuwait organization.



Abdullah Bouftain speaks at the event.

## MINISTER CONFIRMS HIRING PALESTINIAN TEACHERS

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Minister of Education and Higher Education Dr Bader Al-Essa reiterated that the ministry intends to hire Palestinian teachers soon, saying that he would visit Palestine before the holy month of Ramadan in June to sign the needed agreements on that regard. Palestinian News Agency (Wafa) recently quoted Palestinian Ambassador to Kuwait Rami Tahboub, saying that Kuwait will officially hire Palestinian teachers starting from 2017.

In other news, Essa said that public schools will next year accept children of stateless people who have the 1965 census documents, as well as children of military personnel and retirees. He



Dr Bader Al-Essa

added that Farwaniya and Jahra were densely populated and, thus, new 'bedoon' students might be sent to schools in other governorates.

## DEPUTY FM HOPES YEMENI PARTIES' MEETING IN KUWAIT ENDS CONFLICT

### KUWAIT, RUSSIA HOLD SECOND ROUND OF POLITICAL TALKS

KUWAIT: Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah said yesterday that Kuwait is doing its best to host Yemeni parties' meeting slated for April 18, expressing his hope that it would end the conflict and address humanitarian situations there.

Jarallah made the remarks to reporters after talks with visiting Russian Deputy Foreign Minister and Special Presidential Envoy for the Middle East and North Africa Mikhail Bogdanov at the Foreign Ministry's headquarters yesterday. "We are optimistic about negotiations and think atmospheres are ripe to achieve positive results," he said.

He said some Yemeni parties agreed to organize a workshop on fixing the ceasefire deal to be announced on April 10, indicating that the European Union is exerting efforts to make a successful workshop to be organized today.

### Comprehensive agreement

Meanwhile, Baghanov said in a similar statement that Kuwait's hosting of Yemen's negotiations is a chance to reach a comprehensive agreement that could end the crisis and help Yemeni parties resume political dialogue.

He added that Russia is working and coordinating with Kuwait in this regard to support efforts of UN Special Envoy for Yemen Ismail

Ould Cheikh Ahmad. He noted that the Security Council pays much attention to Yemen's crisis, and there are resolutions aiming to end it. Kuwait's hosting of Yemen's negotiations reflects confidence of Yemeni people in His Highness the Amir of Kuwait, its government and people, he made clear.

The Russian official stressed that all parties of Yemen are pinning hopes on Kuwait to make successful negotiations so as to lead to a permanent ceasefire deal and address problems based on a comprehensive dialogue and a consensus between Yemenis.

During a weekly meeting of the Cabinet, Acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah briefed ministers on Kuwait's current preparations for hosting the Yemeni parties' meeting, in the presence of UN representatives. The Cabinet welcomed hosting the meeting, voicing its hope that the event would lead to positive results to stop the bloodshed of Yemenis, and help Yemen restore security, stability and peace.

### Second round of talks

Jarallah held discussions earlier yesterday with the visiting Russian Deputy Foreign Minister and his delegation. The second round of political talks between Kuwait and Russia reviewed bilateral relations and latest



KUWAIT: Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Bogdanov (right) speaks to the press next to Kuwaiti Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah at Kuwait's foreign ministry in Kuwait City yesterday.

— Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

regional and international developments. The meeting was attended by Director of the Foreign Ministry's Europe affairs department Ambassador Waleed Ali Al-Khubaizi, Director of the Undersecretary's Office Ambassador Ayham Al-Omar and Russian Ambassador to Kuwait. The first round of talks between Kuwait and Russia was held in Moscow last year. Earlier, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled received the visiting Russian official and his delegation at Bayan Palace. — KUNA

## KU COLLEGE HOSTS CHINESE DAY EXHIBITION

By Meshal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Kuwait University's (KU) College of Social Sciences organized a Chinese Day exhibition yesterday which was attended by university officials and professors. The event was held under the college's dean Prof Humoud Al-Qashaan and with attendance of Chinese Ambassador to Kuwait Wang Di. Qashaan stressed that diplomatic relations usually build bridges between countries, adding that the exhibition was held to celebrate the 45th anniversary of Kuwaiti-Chinese relations. The head of the college's Asian Studies Unit Sahar Al-Ali said that a research competition was held to encourage college students study Kuwaiti-Chinese relations, adding that 17 students took part in it.



KUWAIT: Dean of Kuwait University's College of Social Sciences Prof Humoud Al-Qashaan and Chinese Ambassador to Kuwait Wang Di inaugurate the exhibition. — Kuwait University photos



## KUWAIT AIRWAYS SELECTS AEROLINE CREW TO IMPROVE CREW MANAGEMENT, PRODUCTIVITY

SHARJAH: Kuwait Airways - one of the pioneers of air travel in the Middle East has selected aeroLINE CREW from Information System Associates FZE (ISA) as their new Crew Management System. aeroLINE CREW is an unparalleled Crew Management System, built with latest cutting edge technologies, empowers airlines to significantly lower operating costs, improved operational efficiency and empowers crew members to manage their needs on their own. In February 2016, Kuwait Airways signed a contract with ISA to implement aeroLINE CREW, the industry leading Crew Management Solution.

Rasha Alroumi, the Chairperson of Kuwait Airways said that "I expect that the implementation of the aeroLINE CREW system will enhance the current operational performance of Kuwait Airways and reduce the operational cost significantly, which is in line with KAC's recently, developed Business Plan. We look forward to seeing the added value the new system will bring to our operations". Nader Shukralla, Chief Executive Officer, ISA said: "We are glad to add Kuwait Airways to our list of partners. The selection of aeroLINE CREW system by one of the region's leading airlines demonstrates the capability of the product and its evolvement to a new level of performance within a short span of time".



## MARTYRS BUREAU HONORS ACADEMIC CONTEST WINNERS

KUWAIT: Under the patronage of Deputy Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs and Deputy Chairman of the Martyrs Bureau's Board of Trustees Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah, a ceremony honoring the winners of an annual academic contest was held on Monday night. The contest is part of a campaign christened "Those are My Children", which was launched by the Amiri Diwan's Martyrs Bureau to immortalize the country's martyrs. The ceremony kicked off with the national anthem and verses from the holy Quran, followed by the screening of a documentary. Awards were then given to the winners of the contest, who were then serenaded by a band.

In a speech during the ceremony, Sheikh Ali said that the Amiri Diwan is grateful to all

efforts exerted to make the campaign a success. He also thanked the Ministry of Education for its contributions to the annual contest, which coincided with the country's national day celebrations.

"It is our obligation to always remember our martyrs, men who have given their blood to our homeland, paving the way for a prosperous life that we now enjoy," Sheikh Ali noted. "The memory of our martyrs will live for eternity in the heart of every Kuwaiti, and our country will always maintain its nationalistic unity," Sheikh Ali added. Sheikh Ali also wished the nation continued peace and prosperity, and for the people of Kuwait to continue to live in solidarity and harmony. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Deputy Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah (second from left) attends the ceremony. — Amiri Diwan photo



## MUNICIPALITY TO LAY OFF UNDERPERFORMING MANAGERS

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Municipality Director Ahmed Al-Manfouhi stressed that the municipality will lay off 'managers' who do not do their jobs according to laws and regulations. He made his statements during a press conference yesterday to launch and follow up the municipality's plans on facilitating the procedures of issuing advertisement licenses, health licenses and health certificates.



**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Municipality Director Ahmed Al-Manfouhi speaks during the press conference. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Responding to a question about removing camps on the conclusion of the camping season, Manfouhi said that citizens who do not remove their camps will not be refunded the deposit paid to license the camp. Commenting on the controversy about allowing barbecuing in public places, Manfouhi said that the topic was still subject for discussion with the Environment Public Authority (EPA) and Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR). Manfouhi said that the municipality had signed a partnership agreement with the World Bank with the aim of developing it. "We need to administratively revolutionize the

municipality and reduce paperwork and shift to online transactions," he underlined, noting that the municipality would stop accepting paper and manual transactions soon.

### Dangerous situations

MP Yousef Al-Zalzal stressed that in view of specialized economists' confirmations about the Kuwaiti currency's purchasing power and likelihood that it would fall, this will lead to dangerous economic situations unless the government made a package of economic and financial decisions. "We are facing two bitter choices - either to reject the government's proposed electricity consumption tariffs, which will cause the Kuwaiti dinar to lose much of its value and prices to jump by 20 percent, or to pass the proposal and overburden citizens," he said.

Speaking to visitors at his diwaniya, Zalzal stressed that the proposed electricity prices were more than twice compared to the current ones and said that the government had been warned by IMF that unless it made financial and economic decisions, it would have to reduce the Kuwaiti currency's purchasing power. He added that the speaker of the house had recently met IMF and told them about the proposed new electricity prices and that the project was still being discussed. "We are number one worldwide in electricity and water consumption and this means that something is wrong," he underlined, calling for making wealthy people living in palaces who leave lights on around the clock to pay the new prices. He also called for holding government bodies accountable for wasteful consumption rates, not overburdening citizens with limited and medium incomes and not to impose 'indirect' taxes on them in the form of electricity bills. Commenting on the issue of discovering people with fake Kuwaiti citizenships, Zalzal said the problem started long ago after the liberation when the Interior Ministry had non-trustworthy data entry employees who were behind forging those citizenships. He added that the real number of 'fake' citizens was much more than the number of 3,100 declared by the Interior Ministry.



Assistant Undersecretary for Correctional Facilities Affairs Major General Khalid Al-Dayeen tours an exhibition held on the sidelines of the forum.

## INTERIOR MINISTRY ORGANIZES 'IDEOLOGICAL TERRORISM' FORUM

By Nawara Fattahova

**KUWAIT:** The Ministry of Interior held an 'ideological terrorism and anti-hatred' forum yesterday which focused on the younger generation. The event was attended by school students and young cadets of the police academy. Assistant Undersecretary for Correctional Facilities Affairs Major General Khalid Al-Dayeen said Kuwait is proactive in taking all anti-terrorism precautions. "Such forums are very important as they discuss different issues, especially protective procedures. We had suspicions of terrorist sympathies among some prisoners, so we took action and launched a program for the prisoners in cooperation with other institutions. It is now being applied for the second year and it's very successful," he noted.

He also defined ideological terrorism as suppression of differing opinions and gagging freedom. "This is reflected in aggressive behavior due to extremism and fanaticism that is contrary to the Holy Quran and hadiths of our Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), who said that who attacks us with a weapon is not one of us.

This was behind setting a plan to defeat ideological terrorism and fight black flag holders along with wrong concepts. And after this terrorism attracted many youth, the ministry took the responsibility to spread the ideology of moderation to prevent negative aspects.



**KUWAIT:** Assistant Undersecretary for Correctional Facilities Affairs Major General Khalid Al-Dayeen speaks at the forum. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat and the Interior Ministry

We took these steps at the prison as well," added Dayeen.

The ministry of interior is keen to develop the skills of its staff. "We believe that knowledge and practical skills are important to fight crime, especially cybercrime. So we always provide continuous training for our staff and are able to prevent many crimes from happening," he concluded.

### National unity

The daughter of a martyr who died during the Iraqi invasion in 1990 spoke about the

importance of national unity and said that her father who was killed during a battle at Qura House was a Kuwaiti Shiite and was cooperating with his friends, who also died in the battle, and they were Kuwaiti Sunnis. "There are no differences over sects or religions - we are all nationals of the same country," she stated.

A documentary about various terrorist attacks was also shown, including photos of the terrorist attacks on the convoy of the late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad in 1985 and the bombing of traditional cafes in Salmiya and Kuwait City in the same year.

It also mentioned the hijacking of the 'Al Jabriya' aircraft in 1988, a kidnap attempt on a former US president when he visited Kuwait in 1993, terrorist attacks in Salmiya and Um Al-Haiam in 2005, the bombing of Al-Sadiq Mosque last year and the arrest of the 'Abdali' terrorist cell, also in 2015.

Dr Abdullah Noufal, Head of the Option National Group, highlighted the importance of this forum to fight extremism and terrorism. "Terrorism is attacking various countries and is spread all over the world, and Kuwait also witnessed such destructive activities. We have gathered here today to find a way to fight terrorism and hatred in our society that damaged our beautiful world. We should spread tolerance and love to build a country that's safe for everyone," he pointed out.

## KGOC UNION REJECTS BILL

**KUWAIT:** Secretary of Kuwait Gulf Oil Company's (KGOC) employees syndicate Thamer Mohammed Al-Omairah stressed the syndicate's total rejection of a new law prepared by the government to regulate union work.

Omairah added in a statement that the bill presented to the oil sector employees' union includes many mistakes and violations. "After reviewing it,

the syndicate addressed the union and demanded that it does not pass because it is against international unionist standards and agreements signed by Kuwait," he said. "The law should be agreed upon by all labor unions," he added, noting that the fact that the bill was prepared by the Manpower Public Authority is considered an unacceptable interference in union work.

## HCA NHS Ventures



### Committed to collaboration

HCA NHS Ventures is a subsidiary of HCA International which was set up in 2006, the HCA NHS Ventures division leads on private partnerships with NHS Trusts across the country.

**Harley Street at UCH** is a joint partnership with top teaching hospital University College London Hospital, formed in 2006. Based on level 15 in the tower at UCLH, the 18 bed acute facility is a specialist cancer centre for complex and rare conditions. Patient rooms are private and en-suite offering panoramic views across London. We offer medical and surgical care including day case chemotherapy and a comprehensive JACIE accredited bone marrow and stem cell transplant service one of only a few in the UK. The centre offers the pioneering cord blood transplant, this treatment significantly widens the opportunity to find a suitable unrelated donor particularly beneficial for international patients.

**The Young Person's Unit at Harley Street at UCH** is the only private teenage cancer unit in Europe, treating any form of cancer in 13-19 year olds and further establishes the relationship with UCLH. The 6 bedded Unit treats all kinds of cancers and provides high quality care. All rooms are private and en-suite with views across central London. There are facilities in each room for a parent or guardian to stay with patients throughout their treatment and international entertainment packages, including internet access to keep in touch with friends and family abroad. Patients also have access to educational facilities and an entertainment lounge. 5\* catering is provided with specially adapted menus to suit international patient requirements.

State-of-the-art technology includes the revolutionary TrueBeam STxTM, the latest radiotherapy and radiosurgical equipment which the most advanced linear accelerator in the world and is the first of its kind to be installed in the UK.

**Harley Street at Queen's** is a joint partnership with Barking, Havering and Redbridge University Hospitals Trust, based at Queen's Hospital Romford, offering advanced cancer, neurosurgical and general surgery treatment. It is the only centre of its kind in Essex and includes a dedicated High Dependency Unit, Chemotherapy Day Care Unit and advanced radiotherapy through a dedicated linear accelerator including

www.harleystreetatuch.co.uk



IMRT and RapidArcTM technology. Harley Street at Queen's offers advanced state-of-the-art treatment in the most comfortable of surroundings.

**The Christie Clinic** is the latest HCA NHS Venture and a partnership with The Christie NHS Foundation Trust in Manchester. The £35million development houses a state-of-the-art cancer clinic with 34 inpatient rooms, 10 chemotherapy chairs, advanced radiotherapy, sophisticated operating theatres and private patient pharmacy. This impressive facility takes the HCA standard of care outside of London to Manchester and the North of England. Located in the heart of Manchester The Christie Clinic offers light and airy private en-suite rooms, with international entertainment packages and is in close proximity to the city centre.



## RENEWABLE ENERGY TO COVER 15% OF KUWAIT'S CONSUMPTION BY 2030

### GCC STATES TO INVEST \$100 BILLION IN RENEWABLE ENERGY

**KUWAIT:** Renewable energy is to cover 15 percent of Kuwait's consumption by 2030, said Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Bader Al-Essa. Kuwait supports all efforts by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) that promote global usage of the power, Essa said in an opening speech of the 6th Middle East and North Africa Renewable Energy Conference (MENAREC 6) on Monday night.

The conference is organized by Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) and the Energy and Building Research Centre (EBRC) in partnership with the IRENA and the Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi) of Germany.

"Kuwait is working on facilitating the transfer of renewable energy techniques, as well as providing applications and policies to tackle current challenges, mainly pollution and global warming," said Minister Essa. He pointed out that the State of Kuwait is methodologically and voluntarily, contributing to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, as well as attempting to diversify energy sources through major projects by KISR.

Minister of Water and Electricity Ahmad Al-Jassar said meanwhile that securing energy sources is one of the major challenges facing the MENA region. Kuwait, according to Jassar, is considered of the top water and electricity consumer countries due its geographical location, hot temperature during the summer and urban expansion. This led the ministry to discover new and innovative ways to clean energy, including solar, he said.

### \$100 billion

Meanwhile, Director-General of Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) Dr Samira Ahmad Omar said that Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states plan to pump up to \$100 billion into renewable energy projects over the coming two decades.

Such robust funding aims to meet the growing energy consumption in the GCC states, estimated at three percent a year, Dr Omar said in a speech at the opening ceremony. She attributed the increasing demand for energy to economic transformations, including the tendency towards establishing industrial and service bases, and the growth of population.

"The environmental challenges relating to pollution and global warming left us with no choice other than relying heavily on clean and renewable

energy, which is the focus of energy research circles worldwide," she stressed.

"The GCC states, as well as other countries in the Middle East and Africa, have promising opportunities in the field of exploitation of the solar energy given the fact that they enjoy equatorial climate and sun shining rates of 1,400 to 1,800 hours a year," she went on.

The State of Kuwait has been earliest countries that sought to tap into the renewable energy. In 1978 KISR designed and operated a pilot solar energy station with a generating capacity of 100 kilowatts," Dr Omar said, noting that the project was backed by Germany.

### Al-Saqaya complex

KISR pursued researches into renewables and their utilization in seawater desalination and electricity generation. A few years ago, KISR launched Al-Saqaya renewable energy complex,

which covers an area of 100 sq km, with a compound capacity of 200,000 megawatts, she said, adding that the project will go operational by the end of 2016.

Executive director KISR's energy and construction research center Salem Al-Hajraf affirmed meanwhile that the domestication of renewable energies will have great impact on the economies of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.

"Renewables will revitalize the economic growth and diversify the sources of economies through opening up new opportunities for the foreign investments in the industrial sector of the region and creating unconventional job opportunities for the youth," Hajraf, who is also chairman of higher committee of MENAREC-6, said. MENA region which is rich in fossil fuels enjoys unique opportunities in renewables, notably the solar energy resources, he added. — KUNA



## BOAT IMPOUNDED FOR ILLEGAL FISHING

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** Marine environment police caught a leisure boat fishing in Kuwait Bay in an off-limits area, using illegal fishing nets. A citation was issued and the boat was impounded.

**Thieves caught**  
Hawally detectives arrested

two persons who stole mobile phones from picnickers at a Salwa park. Detectives received several complaints about a citizen and an Iraqi who stole phones of Salwa park patrons. A task force caught the two red-handed with two mobile phones. Both were found to be ex-convicts and both confessed to the thefts.



القوس

Al-Qabas

## OUR CHILDREN AND LANGUAGE

By Modhi Al-Muftah

During a gathering of friends of both genders of various professions, the talk was about a statement by education minister that the ministry intends to re-run the supervisory jobs' exams for the Arabic language, because the results created much clamor and rose many question marks, and that the ministry will review the type of these exams and how are they prepared, which led to the drop in teachers' levels in general in the Arabic language, science and math, and he hoped that teachers are trained and the curricula developed.

The discussions, regrettably, began about those who work at the education ministry as if they were in place of decision makers. One of them said education became weak, even at private schools, for which

*We were and still are proud of our language, but our children today are proud of their knowledge of foreign languages and that is why they got lost between their language and other languages.*

we pay huge amounts of money and wondered about teaching in the old days. I looked at him and said: I was, two years ago, with Dr Laila Al-Sabaan during a conference in Oman "on the influence of social media on the Arabic language", and Sabaan presented a paper on the change of the Arabic language through social media, be it by symbols, shortened words or writing with the Latin alphabet.

I was interrupted by one of the ladies who said: We learned Arabic as it is while we were young, and we still have multiplication tables memorized contrary to our children. She added that teachers are weak in teaching and in delivering information, and depend on parents of students.

We were and still are proud of our language, but our children today are proud of their knowledge of foreign languages and that is why they got lost between their language and other languages, and with regret, they got lost because the curriculum is changed every year without training and preparation of teachers. This is why education has become a trial field.

— Translated by Kuwait Times

# 80,000 BEDOONS HAVE NO HOPE FOR NATURALIZATION: SHEIKH MAZEN

**KUWAIT:** There are 80,000 out of an estimated 110,000 bedoons, or stateless residents in Kuwait who have no hope of receiving the Kuwaiti nationality, a senior Interior Ministry official said, adding that those are required to adjust their status. This means that those people are required to legalize their status by obtaining documents showing their original nationalities.

Meanwhile, there are 32,000 persons who may get Kuwaiti nationality, Assistant Undersecretary for Nationality and Passports Affairs Major General Sheikh Mazen Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah confirmed in an interview with Al-Anbaa daily. However, he confirmed that people who have security restrictions, which include having a criminal record, are automatically disqualified from naturalization - even if they meet all other conditions.

Sheikh Mazen further indicated meanwhile that efforts are ongoing to end the bedoons' decades-old issue. When asked about the mechanism to solve the issue of those who he said have no hope of naturalization, he mentioned "very good advantages" given for those who adjust their status, including the right to have self-sponsorship.

### The Comoros

Commenting on news that Kuwait and the Comoros are negotiating to grant the African nation's citizenship to bedoons, Sheikh Mazen not only confirmed those reports, but also hinted that the Kuwaiti government held similar talks with other countries.

"There is a country other than the Comoros which offered to contribute in efforts to legalize the bedoons'

status," he said without elaborating. He further indicated that even a third country, whose name he said will be revealed soon, has approached Kuwait with a similar proposal.

Sheikh Mazen meanwhile clarified that granting bedoons the nationality of any country does not mean forcibly relocating them to said country. "These countries' willingness to cooperate in this regard does not mean that 80,000 bedoons will be deported to the Comoros or any other country," he said, adding that those countries only offered to issue passports and IDs to help solve the bedoons' issue.



Sheikh Mazen Al-Jarrah

### Hezbollah

When asked about reports concerning the deportation of people affiliated with Hezbollah, Sheikh Mazen Al-Jarrah said "it is not true that a committee was formed under my chairmanship to deport Hezbollah members. This did not happen, and if it did, I will not deny it."

Sheikh Mazen Al-Jarrah also spoke about Kuwait's expatriate population, saying that he especially finds that the numbers of the Indian and Egyptian communities are 'above average'.

"If we look at those two communities closely, we will find out that the number of adults exceeds the number of Kuwaitis of the same age group," he said. "I am not against the Egyptian or Indian labor forces, but I am trying to explain a defect that should be corrected, and this is what we are doing." In general, he said that he believes that the number of expatriate labor forces in Kuwait is "high and should be reduced." — Al-Anbaa

## Crime

Report

### Girl hospitalized after assault

**KUWAIT:** A citizen in her twenties accused a person she knows of beating and raping her in Jabriya, then threatened to hurt her if she informed anyone. A security source said a call was received from Mubarak Hospital's investigator telling them of a girl in poor physical and psychological condition, claiming that she was beaten and raped by a person she knows only by his first name. She told police that she got acquainted with the suspect recently, who took her to Jabriya, raped her and kicked her out. Hawally detectives are working on the case.

### Muggers caught

Two Saudis who robbed people at knife-point over a year and a half in Jahra were arrested. Thirteen of the victims identified the two and said they stole their money, phones, watches and jewellery. Jahra detectives succeeded in locating them and arrested the suspects, who targeted laborers in Jahra. Investigations are ongoing.

### Marble theft

A building janitor accused two persons of stealing some marble from a store at a building he guards in Nugra. The complainant, Somali, said that the suspects, Egyptian and Indian, committed their crime after they visited the place and inspected the goods. The value of the stolen marble is estimated to be in the thousands. Investigations are underway.

### Search for bootlegger

A man who was selling liquor in Nuwaiseeb left 77 bottles behind and escaped to avoid arrest by Ahmadi police. Police received a call about an Asian who sold liquor in an open sand yard in Nuwaiseeb, and many people frequented the area. Police headed to the site, but when they arrived, they found the liquor but the suspect had disappeared. Detectives are working on locating him.

الانباء

Al-Anbaa

## WHAT HAPPENED TO US?!

By Sami Al-Khorafy

Nowadays, we are surrounded by restlessness everywhere. Opening a newspaper, one can only read about disasters and depression. Tuning in to TV channels is no different, where many disgusting series talk about sadness, treason and pessimism. Songs are disturbing.

Open windows and you would be appalled by automobile horns honking loudly. Drive a vehicle and you will be shocked by traffic congestions and horror on various streets. Apply for a job and you will find endless lines waiting before you, etc. I wonder how we have changed since the liberation.

We have become more envious and jealous. What on earth changed us that much, while we possess all the elements of modern and good lifestyles? Nevertheless, we are living in constant sadness and depression. Many people's hearts have been inflicted with envy and craving for whatever others have or possess. They even wish others would lose such pos-

*One might think their hands are clean and chaste, but you would immediately find that they were born to be thieves and that they would do anything, hiding behind slogans of patriotism.*

sessions. Has our affluence become a curse after we used to go to sleep happily on roofs to seek cooler temperatures?

Our dialect is influenced by various cultures. Our treasured old Kuwaiti vocabulary is fading away. Senior citizens who still link us to that beautiful past are about to perish themselves. Whenever you shake hands with someone, he immediately grows suspicious that you want something from him.

Corrupt people are everywhere almost like flies that have been giving us many diseases like diabetes and BP. In addition, robbers have invaded us by land, sea and air. They have climbed into our houses in different masks. One might think their hands are clean and chaste, but you would immediately find that they were born to be thieves and that they would do anything, hiding behind slogans of patriotism.

So many concepts and behaviors changed after the liberation. We now have sectarian discrimination. We grew more fanatic over doctrines and tribes at the expense of the state. In addition, hard workers are now outcasts while lazy ones are the most favorable. The world has not changed - it is people and principles that have!

— Translated by Kuwait Times

## LIQUOR POSSESSION

**KUWAIT:** Sources at Kuwait airport said a ruling family member arrived from a Gulf country and entered the VIP hall with several bottles of liquor, but customs officers discovered them. The sources said an officer attempted to confiscate the liquor, which made the "sheikh" angry and a verbal exchange took place, prompting the officer to inform his seniors. When they arrived, the argument got more heated to a point that the sheikh insulted all officials, and insisted that he leave with the bottles. The sources said something then took place and the sheikh was able to leave with the liquor. It was learnt later that "senior authorities" admonished the sheikh for his actions, and instructions were given not to allow him to use the VIP hall, and he must cooperate with customs officers. — Al-Rai

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Design and illustrated by Sherif Ismail

MIDDLE EAST'S BIGGEST COMPETITION

# KUWAIT BEAUTIFUL & GREEN STUDENTS ART COMPETITION

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

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The Middle East's Largest Students' Art Competition

**KUWAIT BEAUTIFUL & GREEN**

Sponsored by ZAIN and hosted by J W Marriott Hotel

By Faten Omar

"Kuwait Beautiful and Green", the largest art competition for students in the Middle East, has attracted more than 13,400 entries from 95 schools so far. It has been 11 years since Kuwait Times launched the 'Kuwait Beautiful and Green' students' art competition, organized by Adnan Saad, Deputy General Manager of Kuwait Times, in collaboration with Zain, J W Marriott Hotel, Albatel "Casio" watches and Arabian Business Machines, with the aim of promoting students' environmental awareness and encouraging them to effectively take part in various environment-oriented activities with an ultimate end of acquiring more knowledge and skills, a sense of responsibility as well as positive attitudes.

"We are targeting 15,000 students for this art competition as last year we had more than 13,850 entries from 85 schools. The theme of the students' art competition is "Kuwait Beautiful and Green," Saad said. Kuwait Times is preparing to invest the success it has so far achieved since the inception of the competition, and this year Kuwait Times is aiming to set a Guinness World Record with the largest student art competition in 2016.

Saad noted that each student will be provided with a special recyclable sheet of paper to draw on. The subject will range from saving the environment, greening the land and avoiding any human destruction of plants to keep Kuwait beautiful and green. Through their drawings, the young participants are given opportunities to think out-of-the-box, exercise their imagination and translate creative ideas to paper where art is the melody of life, the reflection of society and an important element for academic success. A drawing competition such as this is another avenue where school participants can express their creativity outside the classroom.

"I also see this competition as another platform for like-minded youths who are interested in art to mingle and share ideas. Their coming together generates synergy and dynamism, and can spur them to achieve greater peaks of excellence," Saad added. The process of selecting outstanding works of art out of thousands of participants is not an easy one.

The competition started on March 10 and will continue till April 21, 2016. The competition is open to all schools and all students aged 6 to 18 years in addition to special needs schools. During these days, the students will create the best artworks to enable them to enter the competition. The drawing sheets will be provided to schools which will participate in the competition by filling the application form and sending it back to Kuwait Times. The drawing sheets are free of charge.

The contest is open to both boys and girls as follows: Elementary (6-8 years and 9-11 years), Intermediate (12-14 years) and Secondary (15-17 years). Special needs schools also can participate. The judging committee will consist of expert artists who will select and choose the best of the best artwork according to the categories, and 10 winners from each category and five from special needs will be announced. The judges will look for creativity, amount of work effort and technique.

To win Kuwait Times' competition, students have to draw the picture by themselves. The picture can show anything students appreciate in Kuwait (nature, city, people, animals, different plants, flowers, sea and sky); they can also use symbols of Kuwait such as the flag, coat of arms and landmarks. The picture must be completed and should be clearly signed. Do not draw dark and frightening scenes or copies of other people's pictures.

For more information about the competition's theme, contact us on [ads@kuwaittimes.net](mailto:ads@kuwaittimes.net) or 24835616/7 - 24833199





**Cruz looks to emerge as Trump alternative**

ISLAMIST REBELS SHOOT DOWN SYRIAN WARPLANE, CAPTURE PILOT

Page 8

Page 9

## ICELAND PREMIER RESIGNS OVER SCANDAL PANAMA PAPERS EXPOSE SPARKS CHORUS OF DENIALS

**REYKJAVIK:** Iceland's prime minister resigned yesterday, becoming the first political victim of a mushrooming worldwide scandal over hidden offshore financial dealings exposed in the so-called Panama Papers. Prime Minister Sigmundur David Gunnlaugsson was the biggest casualty of a worldwide media probe into 11.5 million leaked documents that purportedly reveal the offshore financial activities of 140 political figures, including 12 current or former heads of state.

"The prime minister told (his party's) parliamentary group meeting that he would step down as prime minister and I will take over," the Progressive Party's deputy leader Sigurdur Ingi Johannsson told a live broadcast. A series of other leaders and stars fingered in the leaked papers have hit back at the allegations, denying any wrongdoing despite the international furore. Those named include Russian President Vladimir Putin's associates, Chinese President Xi Jinping's relatives, British Prime Minister David Cameron's later father and celebrities such as Argentine footballing great Lionel Messi.



**Sigmundur Gunnlaugsson**

Iceland's leader had been under immense pressure after the papers, leaked from a Panamanian law firm, appeared to show that he and his wife Anna Sigurlaug Palsdottir owned an offshore company in the British Virgin Islands and placed millions of dollars there. Though the prime minister denied ever hiding money abroad, pressure on his government had mounted, with egg-throwing protesters gathering in the streets Monday and fresh demonstrations planned yesterday.

### 'Groundless Allegations'

The vast stash of records from Panamanian legal firm Mossack Fonseca was obtained from an anonymous source by German daily Sueddeutsche Zeitung and shared with more than 100 media groups by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ). The network of journalists published their first findings Sunday after a year-long probe. Offshore financial dealings are not illegal in themselves, though they may be used to hide assets from tax authorities, launder the proceeds of criminal activities or conceal misappropriated or politically inconvenient wealth.

In Beijing, there was no official reaction to ICIJ allegations that eight current or former members of the ruling party's most powerful body concealed their fortunes through offshore havens, as well as relatives of Xi Jinping, who has overseen a much-publicized anti-corruption drive.

Asked whether China would investigate those named in the reports, however, foreign ministry spokesman Hong Lei said: "For

such groundless accusations, I have no comment." The Kremlin suggested a US plot after the leaks put a close friend of Putin's at the top of an offshore empire worth more than \$2 billion.

"Putin, Russia, our country, our stability and the upcoming elections are the main target, specifically to destabilise the situation," said a Kremlin spokesman, claiming many of the journalists were former officers from the US state department, the CIA and special services.

### Rich Must Pay Taxes Too

Messi's family denied any wrongdoing after the footballer and his father were named as owners of a Panama company that had not previously been disclosed during a Spanish probe into their tax affairs. "The Panama company to which they refer to is a totally inactive company that never had any funds or any open current accounts," the Messi family said in a statement Monday.

Australia, France and the Netherlands have announced investigations into revelations contained in the papers. A judicial source said Spain had opened a money-laundering probe into the law firm. "We need to make sure that not just ordinary citizens pay their taxes but also people who have a lot of money, who earn a lot of money, pay their taxes where they make that money and don't hide the money," visiting European Commission Vice President Frans Timmermans told reporters Tuesday in the Polish capital Warsaw.

Panama has pledged to identify whether any crimes had been committed and any financial damages should be awarded. But France's Finance Minister Michel Sapin said his country would put Panama back on its list of countries that do not cooperate in efforts to track down tax dodgers following the revelations.

### Latest Allegations

Among the latest allegations of the Panama Papers investigations:

\* A North Korean front company used to help fund the country's nuclear weapons program, Pyongyang-based DCB Finance Ltd, was among Mossack Fonseca's clients, according to the BBC and The Guardian.

\* Prime Minister David Cameron's father ran an offshore fund that paid no tax in Britain for 30 years, according to the Panama Papers probe. Cameron's Downing Street office insisted it was a "private matter" although a government source later told AFP that the prime minister himself did not have any such funds.

\* Aides to French far-right leader Marine Le Pen put in place a "sophisticated offshore system" to hide money, according to Le Monde newspaper.

\* Syria used Mossack Fonseca to create shell companies to help it break international sanctions and fund its war effort, the French paper said.

The papers, from around 214,000 offshore entities covering almost 40 years, also name the president of Ukraine. President Petro Poroshenko denied any wrongdoing, but he may face an attempt to impeach him. One of the Panama law firm's founders, Ramon Fonseca, told AFP the leaks themselves were "a crime, a felony" and "an attack on Panama". Mossack Fonseca is subject to investigations in Germany and also in Brazil, where it is part of a huge money laundering probe that has threatened to topple the current government. — AFP

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# SAUDI ARABIA'S BITTER LEBANESE DIVORCE

**BEIRUT/RIYADH:** The waspish cartoon in a Saudi-owned newspaper summed up the anger behind Riyadh's decision to cancel billions of dollars in military aid and suspend decades of engagement in Lebanon's fraught politics. "The State of Lebanon: April Fool", it read. Published on the same day that a Saudi-owned television news channel shut down its Lebanese operations, Friday's cartoon was the latest sign of a falling out which began in January and has become increasingly embittered.

The cartoon's stinging message, that the Lebanese government is a fictitious joke, reflects Saudi Arabia's conviction that the Shiite group Hezbollah, backed by Riyadh's regional rival Iran, now pulls the strings in Beirut. But the Saudi response, cutting \$3 billion in military aid and another \$1 billion to the security services, appeared self-defeating to many Lebanese - by weakening the army, a counter-balance to Hezbollah, it leaves the Shiite group even stronger. "By default we're abandoning Lebanon to Iran," said a senior European diplomat. "It's a big blow to Lebanon". It would leave Hezbollah, and by extension the group's backers in Tehran, more dominant than they have ever been in volatile Lebanon, a Middle East banking and

trade centre that is also home to more than a million Syrian refugees. The abrupt Saudi action in February was triggered by Lebanon's failure to join other Arab governments in condemning attacks three months ago on the Saudi embassy in Tehran.

The early release from a Lebanese jail of a former minister, convicted of smuggling explosives in a plot allegedly supported by the Iranian-allied Syrian authorities, suggested to Riyadh that Lebanon's judiciary was also now beholden to its enemies. Saudi Arabia spearheaded efforts to get Gulf Arab states and the Arab League to designate Hezbollah a terrorist organization, which led to reports of Lebanese nationals being forced to leave Gulf countries because of alleged Hezbollah links. Lebanon says it is unable to confirm any expulsions, but politicians in Beirut are taking the reports seriously. What troubles Saudi Arabia is "a militia that is classified as a terrorist group is now hijacking measures in government," Saudi Foreign Minister Adel Al-Jubeir said last month. Beyond that, Saudi Arabia believes Hezbollah also projects power - and Iranian influence - well beyond Lebanon's borders. The group has fought for President Bashar Al-Assad in Syria's five-year conflict and Riyadh has accused it of interven-

tion as far afield as Yemen on Saudi Arabia's southern border, accusations Hezbollah denies.

## Leaving Lebanon

Saudi Arabia's shift signalled a retreat from a long history of powerbroking in Lebanon. The kingdom hosted peace talks which ended Lebanon's 1975-1990 civil war and, in the post-war years when violence largely subsided but rivalries festered, it supported Sunni Muslims and their Christian allies in the March 14 coalition. Six years ago, then-king Abdullah of Saudi Arabia visited Beirut to defuse a crisis between March 14 and their March 8 rivals, including Hezbollah, which threatened renewed conflict.

Directly or indirectly, through the billionaire businessman and former prime Minister Saad Al-Hariri and his assassinated father Rafik, Riyadh also channelled hundreds of millions of dollars to its allies in Lebanon. The Hariri family owns a major Saudi construction firm, Saudi Oger. Viewed from the Gulf, the kingdom's actions reflect a rational re-evaluation of the diminishing returns on its efforts in Lebanon, frustration with its increasingly impotent Lebanese allies, and strategic priorities which placed the country well below

Syria, Yemen and Iraq in a turbulent Middle East. "The grant (to Lebanon's army) was based on the assumption that it would strengthen state institutions and allow them to challenge non-state institutions. This was not happening," said Mustafa Alani, a security analyst with close ties to Riyadh's Interior Ministry. "They were convinced Hezbollah hijacked the Lebanese state."

A Riyadh-based diplomat said Saudi Arabia was also frustrated with Saad Hariri, Lebanon's main Sunni Muslim politician, who has spent most of the last five years outside the country because of fears for his security. His father was killed in 2005. Viewed from Beirut, Riyadh's move appears more emotional than strategic. "They are actively taking punitive measures," said a Lebanese analyst with close Saudi contacts, adding that Hariri had no advance warning of the move.

"The Saudis have many fine qualities but statecraft and diplomacy is not one of their skills," said Rami Khoury, a senior fellow at the American University in Beirut. "They are really worried, frenzied and flailing around and it's very dangerous. Right now they are acting in a dangerous and reckless way," he said. "What they are doing probably alienates Lebanon more from them... (and) strengthens Iranian

links, strengthens Hezbollah. Hezbollah is essential to the defence of the country today,"

The group, which has two ministers in the barely functioning government, fought Israel in an inconclusive war in 2006. Its leader, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, has mocked Saudi Arabia in recent speeches, saying it spent large sums of money trying to eliminate Hezbollah over the last decade, and was lashing out after setbacks in Syria, Yemen and Bahrain. "Yes, the Saudis are angry with us," he said in early March. "I understand the Saudi anger. Why? Because when someone fails, the least he can do is get angry."

Supporters say Hezbollah's involvement in Syria has limited the spillover of fighting into Lebanon. Opponents accuse it of fuelling sectarian violence in the country, violence which led Gulf states to warn their nationals against travel to Lebanon long before the recent campaign against Hezbollah. The percentage of Gulf visitors to Lebanon has halved since 2009, said Nassib Ghobril, chief economist at Lebanon's Byblos Bank. Gulf investment has dropped off and Gulf Arabs have been selling their Beirut homes, he said. "Obviously Lebanon needs to repair its relationship with the Gulf Cooperation Council - it's a lifeline of our economy," Ghobril said. — Reuters



**AL-EIS, Syria:** A general view shows the wreckage of a government warplane after Al-Nusra Front (Al-Qaeda's Syria affiliate) reportedly shot it down over this northern Syrian town yesterday and captured one crewmember alive. — AFP

## SYRIA REBEL GROUP DOWNS WARPLANE, CAPTURES PILOT

SECOND SYRIAN JET SHOT DOWN IN A MONTH

**AMMAN/BEIRUT:** Rebels shot down a second Syrian warplane in less than a month yesterday and reportedly captured its pilot in an area near Aleppo where heavy fighting has erupted in recent days despite a cessation of hostilities agreement. The Syrian army said the jet was shot down with an anti-aircraft missile - the same type of weapon it says was used to shoot down a warplane in western Syria in March - but rebels accused Damascus of fabricating the claim, saying the plane was downed with anti-aircraft guns.

Foreign-backed rebels have long demanded anti-aircraft weapons to fight against devastating aerial raids by Syrian and, since September, Russian forces. But their backers, which include Western and Sunni Muslim regional states, are wary of delivering weapons that could fall into the hands of hardline groups. The aircraft crashed in the Talat al-Iss highland south of Aleppo city, an area where Al-Qaeda-affiliated insurgents have come under heavy bombardment by Syrian and Russian warplanes since capturing it in recent days, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

The pilot was seized alive by fighters from Al-Qaeda's Nusra Front and taken to one of their headquarters in the area, the monitoring group said. Videos circulated by pro-rebel accounts on social media showed what appeared to be the remains of the aircraft burning on an open patch of ground and surrounded by rebels. Some users separately posted an image of the man they said was the pilot. Syria's military confirmed that a plane on a reconnaissance mission had crashed after being hit by a surface-to-air missile. The pilot survived and efforts were underway to rescue him, it said. The Observatory also said the plane was mostly likely brought down by an anti-aircraft missile. Rebels last downed a Syrian jet in the western province of Hama on March 12, when they also denied a Russian defense ministry report they had used an anti-aircraft missile. The Observatory said on that occasion a rebel group had used two heat-seeking missiles.

## Aerial Supremacy

Ahmed Al-Seoud, the head of a Free Syrian Army rebel group operating in northwestern

Syria, said: "Not one faction in the opposition has surface-to-air missiles." A former rebel commander and army defector, Brigadier General Ahmad Rahal, said he had information that the warplane in Aleppo was brought down by artillery fire. "The Syrian air force planes are old and so after a certain mileage they need overhaul and are forced to fly at very low altitudes. They risk getting hit" by gunfire, he told Reuters. A Syrian military source, however, said the incident was "a dangerous indication of the weapons the terrorists are obtaining."

Aerial supremacy has been a major advantage for the Syrian army that has been battling insurgents seeking to overthrow President Bashar Al-Assad. A fragile truce has held in Syria for over a month as the various parties try to negotiate an end to the five-year-old civil war. But the truce excludes Islamic State and Nusra Front, and air and land attacks by Syrian and allied forces continue in parts of Syria where the government says the groups are present. — Reuters

## UN ENVOY IN LIBYA, UNITY GOVT ASSERTS AUTHORITY

**TRIPOLI:** The UN Libya envoy travelled to Tripoli and met the new prime minister designate yesterday, in the latest sign an internationally backed unity government is asserting its authority over the capital. Martin Kobler flew into Tripoli for his first visit since Fayed Al-Sarraj arrived with members of his cabinet in the capital last week. The UN envoy had been prevented from travelling to the capital last month by authorities in charge of the city, who have so far refused to cede power.

The new government's arrival has raised hopes it will be able to restore some stability in Libya, which has been plagued by chaos since Muammar Gaddafi's 2011 overthrow. Kobler said on Twitter he had a "great meeting" with Sarraj and members of the unity government and that he was "moved by their courage and determination" in trying to set up in Tripoli. Kobler said he was also meeting with officials from Tripoli municipalities, after tweeting on his arrival: "Just arrived in #Tripoli... Thrilled to be here!" Kobler, a German diplomat appointed last year to spearhead international efforts to resolve the Libya conflict, posted photographs of himself descending from a UN turboprop plane and then meeting with officials including Sarraj. He was later seen walking in the streets of Tripoli's Old City, chatting with patrons in cafes and stopping for people to take selfies with him, an AFP photographer said.

**Visit Shows 'Degree of Control'**  
Libya has had rival administrations since



**TRIPOLI:** UN envoy for Libya Martin Kobler poses for a picture with Libyans during a tour of Tripoli's old city yesterday. — AFP

the Libya Dawn militia-backed alliance seized control of Tripoli in mid-2014, forcing the internationally recognized government to flee to the country's far east. The unity government has been formed under a power-sharing deal agreed by some lawmakers in December. Sarraj arrived by sea last Wednesday after the Tripoli authorities closed airspace to keep him out, and has since been operating out of a naval base. The new administration has been broadening its support, winning the backing of the Libyan Investment Authority, the National Oil Corporation and the Central Bank.

Ten coastal cities that were under the control of the Tripoli authorities have also backed the new government. Mattia Toaldo, a policy fellow at the European Council on Foreign Relations, said Kobler's visit was a clear signal that the Government of National Accord (GNA) was putting down roots in the capital. "Kobler's visit to Tripoli, after the many times he was refused landing and access... shows the degree of control of Tripoli by the GNA," Toaldo said.

Western governments are deeply concerned that Libya's disarray has allowed the jihadist Islamic State group to gain an important foothold in the country, but have said a foreign intervention can only take place at the request of a unity government. Most foreign representations have long since left the capital but Tunisia on Monday said it was reopening diplomatic missions in Tripoli following the new government's arrival. — AFP

## ITALY UPS PRESSURE OVER STUDENT MURDER IN EGYPT

**ROME:** Italy has upped its pressure on Egypt over slain student Giulio Regeni, warning it would not accept a "fabricated" account of the Italian's torture and murder from Egyptian prosecutors and police due in Rome yesterday. As Cairo confirmed the investigative team would fly to the Italian capital, Foreign Minister Paolo Gentiloni warned of unspecified "proportionate" consequences if Rome's demands for greater transparency on Regeni's fate were not met.

Regeni, 28, and a PhD candidate at Cambridge University, was found dead outside Cairo on February 3, his body bearing the signs of torture which an autopsy concluded had been inflicted over several days. On March 25, Cairo announced police had killed four members of a criminal gang specialising in abducting foreigners, and that they had found Regeni's passport in the apartment of a sister of one of the slain suspects.

That version of what happened to Regeni has been greeted with outraged scepticism in Italy, where there is a widespread suspicion that the murder was the work of elements in the security services. Cairo has rejected that theory as baseless. Gentiloni reiterated that Italy regarded the kidnapping gang story as a "new attempt to give credence to a convenient truth" and said he would reject any attempt to have it accepted as "a conclusion to the investigation".

Egypt responded tersely to those

remarks. "We refrain from commenting on these statements which complicate the situation, particularly as they come one day prior to the arrival of the Egyptian investigators' team," the foreign ministry in Cairo said in a statement. Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi said Italy would not stop until it got "the truth, full stop. The real truth." "We owe that to Giulio, his friends, his mother, father, his little sister and we owe it to all of us. We hope and we think Egypt can cooperate with our magistrates... we want, we want, we want the truth to see the light of day."

## Close Ties at Risk

Gentiloni told Italian lawmakers that Rome was still waiting to receive Regeni's mobile phone records and CCTV images from the neighborhood in which he was abducted. The minister also said Italy was seeking information on Regeni having "probably been placed under surveillance prior to his abduction." If these elements are not forthcoming, Gentiloni warned of damage to the usually close relations between the two countries. "The government is ready to react by adopting immediate and proportionate measures," he said, rejecting suggestions Italy could not afford a bust-up with a major trade and security partner. "In the name of reasons of state, we will not accept a fabricated truth...and we will not allow the dignity of our country to be walked all over." — AFP

## ZUMA SURVIVES IMPEACHMENT VOTE

**CAPE TOWN:** South African President Jacob Zuma easily survived an impeachment vote yesterday after a stormy session of parliament over a court ruling that he had violated the country's post-apartheid constitution. Lawmakers from Zuma's African National Congress (ANC) rallied to his defence, defeating the motion by 233 votes to 143 despite growing pressure for him to resign over the scandal. During the debate, Zuma was likened by the leader of the main opposition party to a "large and malignant tumour" on the ANC, which came to power in 1994 with the election of Nelson Mandela and the end of white-minority rule.

"When the highest court in the land ruled that the man occupying the highest office violated the constitution, it should have been the end of President Zuma," Mmusi Maimane, leader of the Democratic Alliance, told the assembly. "Corruption has infected the entire party like a cancer." Acknowledging that the ANC would use its overwhelming majority to defeat the impeachment motion, Maimane said that "when ANC MPs defend President Zuma and his corrupt acts, they will show that they are complicit in the spread of the disease." He vowed the ANC, which convincingly won the 2014 general elections, would pay the price when voters return to the polls.

The Constitutional Court last week issued a damaging ruling against Zuma over spending of public funds on his private residence. As lawmakers on both sides shouted insults at each other, the firebrand leader of the radical Economic Freedom Fighters, Julius Malema, said that "Zuma and the ANC want to convert

South Africa into a banana republic". Speaking on behalf of the ANC, deputy justice minister John Jeffery said that any impeachment bid required a "serious violation" of the constitution. While "the Constitutional Court judgement stated that the president failed to uphold, defend and respect the Constitution", it did not find a "serious" contravention, he said. The opening of the debate was suspended for more than an hour after opposition parties called on Speaker Baleke Mbete - who is chairwoman of the ruling party - to recuse herself. She refused.

## Critics Speak Out

Zuma was not seriously threatened by the vote, which requires a two-thirds majority to succeed. But he has been wounded by a series



Jacob Zuma

of scandals and has endured a torrent of criticism that could see him fail to serve out the last three years of his final term. He has been urged to resign by a number of senior ANC veterans who led the struggle against apartheid. The country's top court ruled last Thursday that Zuma had flouted the constitution by failing to repay some of the money spent on "security upgrades" at his rural home at Nkandla in the eastern province of KwaZulu-Natal.

The project, which cost taxpayers \$24 million, included a swimming pool, chicken run, cattle enclosure and an amphitheatre. A 2014 report by the government-appointed Public Protector, Thuli Madonsela, found that Zuma and his family had "unduly benefited" from the upgrades and ordered him to pay back some of the money, but Zuma stalled for two years. After the court ruling, Zuma apologised in a national television address on Friday for the "frustration and confusion" caused by the affair, but made it clear that he had no intention of responding to calls to resign. He said he would pay back some of the money as ordered.

Zuma was not in parliament for the impeachment debate, avoiding the chaotic scenes that have regularly erupted when he is present. Previous disruptions have been sparked by Malema's EFF, which vowed last week that it would in future physically prevent the president from speaking in parliament. Zuma has also been beset by allegations of corruption centered on a wealthy immigrant family from India that was alleged to have such influence that it could decide ministerial appointments. — AFP



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News

in brief

5 face prison in massive \$100m ID theft-tax fraud

**FORT LAUDERDALE:** Five people convicted of operating an estimated \$100 million tax refund fraud operation that stands as one of the nation's largest are facing prison sentences in South Florida federal court. The ring was centered in an unassuming house in the suburb of Miramar. Internal Revenue Service investigators say at least 10 laptop computers were used between July 2011 and May 2013 to steal tens of millions of dollars in fraudulent refunds using stolen identities. The Miramar group, all men in their 20s and early 30s, pleaded guilty earlier this year to fraud, identity theft and stolen mail possession charges.

Man charged in robbery, shooting of Knicks' player

**NEW YORK:** A Brooklyn man has been charged in the robbery and shooting of New York Knicks player Cleanthony Early outside a Queens strip club in December. Documents say when Early exited the club and got into an Uber car the group approached the vehicle with guns drawn. Authorities say Dowling was arrested Friday on unrelated charges and admitted to

being part of the crew that robbed Early. He didn't admit to being the gunman. It's unclear if he has an attorney.

1 killed, 13 hurt in car-van collision in New York

**MOUNT MORRIS:** Authorities say a head-on crash in western New York has left a 67-year-old woman dead and injured 13 people, most of them Chinese tourists. She was pronounced dead at the scene. The tourists from China were taken to the University of Rochester Medical Center. Officials say injured are adults ranging in age from 49 to 71. Four were released and nine remain in the hospital. The crash remains under investigation.

US to announce effort aimed at foreign corruption

**WASHINGTON:** US Justice Department's fraud unit is launching a new program aimed at targeting foreign corruption, the department said in a statement yesterday. The department said it would hold a conference call at 11 a.m. EDT (1500 GMT) to discuss the program under the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, but it gave no other details.



MILWAUKEE: Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump listens to his wife Melania Trump speak to supporters at a campaign stop on Monday. — AFP

**TED CRUZ LOOKS TO EMERGE FROM WI AS THE ALTERNATIVE TO TRUMP**  
'EVERYBODY HATES CRUZ', SAYS TRUMP

**MILWAUKEE:** US Republican presidential candidate Ted Cruz appears poised for victory over Donald Trump in Wisconsin, presenting himself as a uniter for Republican voters despite a Senate tenure marked by bitter feuds and uncompromising stances.

Cruz, a first-term US senator from Texas, is trying to make the case he is the last remaining Republican candidate with a pathway to beat Trump for the party's presidential nomination and is the best choice left for Republicans who cannot bring themselves to vote for the New York billionaire.

Wisconsin's primary contest will be a test of whether his strategy will work. Opinion polls show Cruz has opened up a lead in the state on Trump, front-runner to become the party's nominee in the Nov. 8 presidential election. Ohio Governor John Kasich is in third place.

"The entire country is looking to Wisconsin," Cruz said on Monday. "What we are seeing in Wisconsin is the unity of the Republican Party manifested." With a week of headlines focused on his missteps and his lag in Wisconsin polls, Trump released a plan early on Tuesday on how he would fulfill his campaign promise to make Mexico pay for the wall he has proposed along the US border. Trump vowed to cut off money transfers to Mexico unless it made a payment of \$5 billion to \$10 billion for the wall, if he is elected, The Washington Post reported. The Post said the move blocking remittances could cripple Mexico's economy. The real estate tycoon has made the wall a cornerstone of his larger platform targeting illegal immigration, a stance popular with his supporters.

In the Democratic race, US Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont has a slender lead in opinion polls in Wisconsin over front-runner Hillary Clinton and is trying to add to his momentum after winning five of the last six contests. He still faces a tough task in defeating the favored Clinton for the nomination.

Playing a party uniter is an unlikely role for Cruz, who forced the US government to shut down for six days in 2013 in a budget fight with Democratic President Barack Obama. Republicans ended up being blamed for the shutdown and Cruz's relationship with Senate Republicans leaders has been stormy.

"Everybody hates Cruz," Trump said at his rallies Monday. But enmity toward Trump among many in the party establishment is such that Cruz can now count five of his former rivals for the presidential nomination among his backers, including US Senator Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, who said earlier this year that the choice between Trump and Cruz "is like being shot or poisoned."

Cruz has taken steps to soften his image. He told Fox News anchor Megyn Kelly in a town hall on Monday in Madison, Wisconsin, that he wished he had done a "better job reaching out" to his Senate colleagues and building a broader coalition.

'Fevered pipe dream'

But he told reporters that only he and Trump had the ability to earn the 1,237 delegates from the primary contests necessary to win the nomination outright. If no candidate reached that number of delegates, Republicans' choices at a contested nominating convention in July would be limited to him and Trump, because Kasich had not won the minimum eight states to get on the convention ballot, Cruz said.

Cruz has intensified calls for Kasich to drop out of the race, prompting Kasich to bristle on Monday, "Don't push me around." Cruz also rejected talk that establishment Republicans might seek to nominate a new face at the convention, with names circulating like House of Representatives Speaker Paul Ryan or

2012 nominee Mitt Romney. He called it a "fevered pipe dream of Washington that at the convention they will parachute in some white knight."

"It ain't going to happen. If it did, the people would quite rightly revolt," said Cruz. While Cruz may carry the day in Wisconsin, the road to the nomination does not get any easier for him. The next states to vote, including New York on April 19 and five Northeastern states on April 26, are more Trump-friendly territory.

Trump leads with 737 delegates and Cruz has 475, according to an Associated Press count. Kasich, with 143 delegates, has no chance to gather enough delegates to win on the first ballot but has refused to end his candidacy. — Reuters



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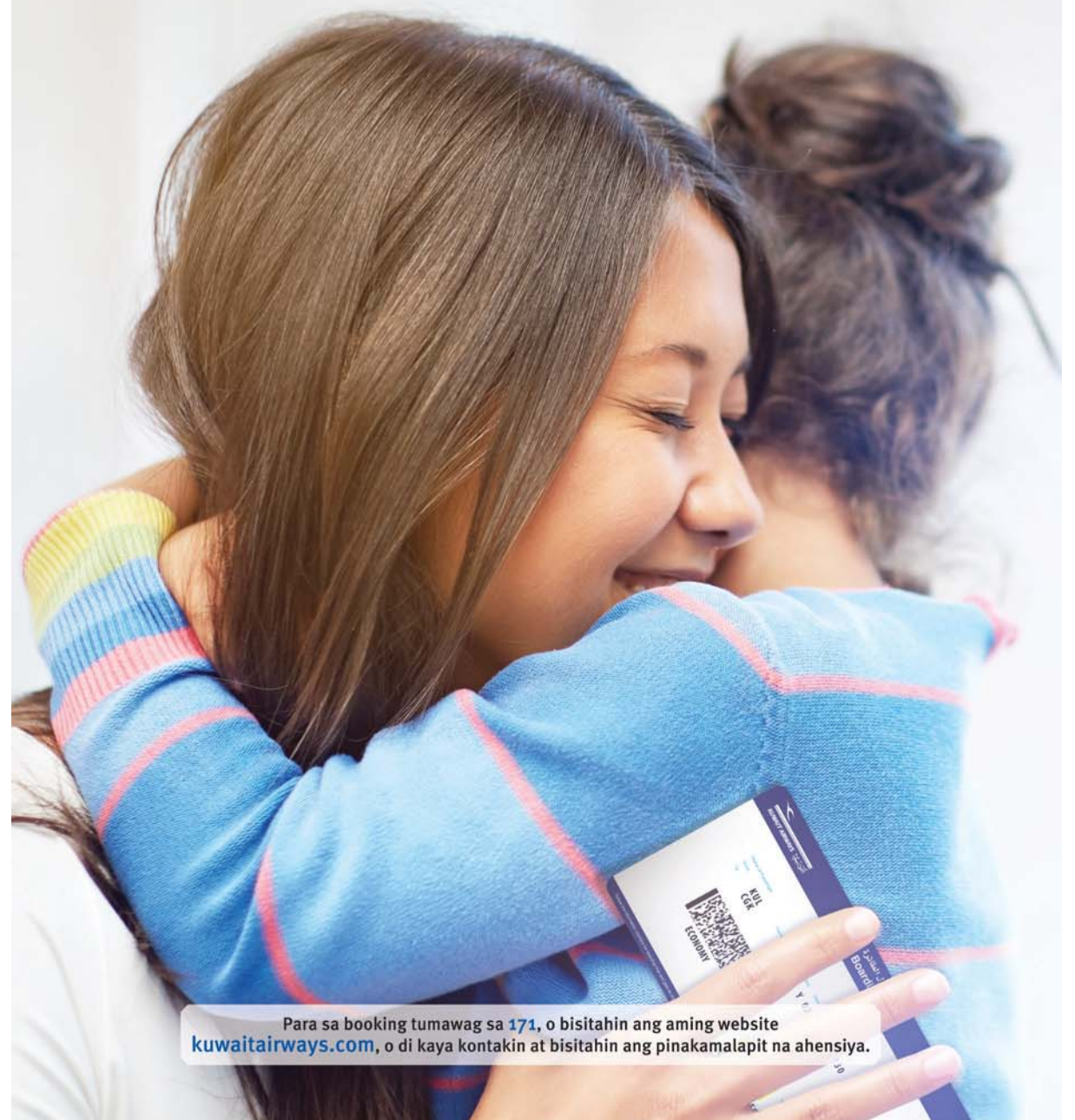
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## GREATER GLOBAL ACTION NEEDED TO TACKLE THREAT OF TERRORISM

**STOCKHOLM:** The threat of terrorism and mass migration will grow worse in rich and poor nations without greater global cooperation to tackle the causes of poverty and conflict, leaders of an international forum on peace building said yesterday. The Swedish co-chair of the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (IDPS) said conflict and violent extremism - such as the attacks in Paris and Brussels - coupled with rising migration had changed the global landscape.

Minister for International Development Cooperation Isabella L'vin called for all nations to speed and scale up efforts to tackle the causes of conflict and meet global goals agreed last year to end poverty

and inequality by 2030. Studies show the number of conflicts globally had been stable for the last decade but are now on the rise and 2014 was the most lethal year since the end of the Cold War, she said.

Conflict, poverty and climate change have forced 60 million people from their homes - the highest level since World War Two - with up to 1.5 billion people living in fragile states. L'vin called for a "coalition of the willing" to commit to supporting fragile and conflict-hit states, saying failure to tackle root causes of conflict and poverty would exacerbate world volatility and increase the risk of violence.

"This is maybe the opportunity to see the world is one and we need to work

longterm to help poor people in their countries and to create global security for all of us," she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation at the fifth global IDPS meeting. "The refugees that are coming into Europe right now remind us that the war going on in Syria is not so far away ... and we do have the instruments to try to stop new conflicts erupting."

### Risks of violence increasing

The IDPS meeting is the first international peace forum since the United Nations' 193 member states agreed last year to 17 global goals to end poverty and promote peace by 2030. United Nations Deputy Secretary General Jan Eliasson said

the world was at a "critical juncture", facing turmoil and risks from various forms of violence as well as "glaring inequality".

"We see civilians continue to pay the highest price in today's crises ... We have to confront these threats together," said Eliasson, a former Swedish foreign minister. But he said there was some good news with peace talks starting for Syria and Yemen and agreement on the U.N. global goals known as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). "If we live up to these intentions we could turn a different direction," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. In this new global landscape, L'vin said there was a need for the IDPS to play a stronger, more relevant role. Launched in 2008, its mission

is to find ways through political dialogue to support countries move from conflict to peace and resilience. The IDPS includes more than 40 countries, nine multilateral organisations including the World Bank and the United Nations and a rising number of civil society groups.

L'vin led a renewed commitment by the IDPS to the so-called New Deal agreed in 2011 that outlined five peace and statebuilding goals - legitimate politics, security, justice, economic foundations, revenues and services - with locally driven and locally led processes. "I hope this gives a new injection into the thinking of how we provide development aid and also how we do peacekeeping and peacebuilding," L'vin said. — Reuters



**VATICAN:** Pope Francis caresses a child as he makes a tour of St. Peter's Square at the end of a Mass for the Holy Year of Mercy on Sunday. — AP

## VATICAN EYES POSSIBLE POPE TRIP TO GREECE BUT NO DECISION

**VATICAN CITY:** Discussions are underway about a possible trip by Pope Francis to Greece as early as next week as the country begins deporting migrants back to Turkey.

Vatican spokesman the Rev. Federico Lombardi said yesterday that no decision had been made but in an email to The Associated Press he said "I don't deny that there are contacts about a possible trip."

A Greek ecclesiastic website, Dogma, reported yesterday that Francis was planning to visit refugees on the Greek island of Lesbos on April 15 along with Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and Archbishop of Athens Ieronymos. The Holy Synod of the Church of Greece, the decision-making body of the Greek church, said Francis had asked to come and the request had been accepted as it was a humanitarian visit of just a few hours.

A controversial European Union plan to stem the flow of refugees began Monday with more than 200 people deported from Lesbos and Chios back to Turkey. Human rights organizations have denounced the deportations as the undoing of Europe's obligations to protect refugees.

Francis, the son of Italian immigrants to Argentina, has been outspoken about the need for Europe and other countries to open their doors and hearts to people fleeing persecution and poverty.

In his first trip outside Rome, he visited the Italian island of Lampedusa, which has seen thousands of migrants arriving on smugglers' boats from Libya. And recently he celebrated a Mass at the US-Mexico border to pray for Central and South American migrants who died trying to reach the United States.

The Church of Greece said yesterday that Francis had proposed visiting Greece to raise awareness about the plight of refugees "searching for a better future in the European continent."

It said it had extended an invitation to Bartholomew, the spiritual leader of the world's Orthodox Christians, to visit at the same time. It said the visit of the leaders of the Catholic and Orthodox churches would send a "very strong signal" about the need to help refugees and protect Christians "who are cruelly suffering" in the Middle East. — AP

## LEAKS ABOUT OFFSHORE ACCOUNTS LEAVE RUSSIANS UNIMPRESSED

PUTIN IN THE CLEAR ALTHOUGH HE 'HAS TOO MANY FRIENDS'

**MOSCOW:** In the list of presidents, prime ministers, sheikhs, billionaires and other magnates cited in a sweeping worldwide investigation into hidden assets in offshore accounts, there was an odd man out: A Russian cellist. Up until now, 64-year-old Sergei Roldugin was known only in the Russian music community - as a People's Artist of Russia and the artistic director of the House of Music in St. Petersburg. What makes him stand out from other Russian musicians, however, is his close ties to President Vladimir Putin.

Roldugin features in Putin's early autobiography as a close friend and the godfather of Putin's eldest daughter, Maria. He pursued a musical career, and despite the fact that he never became a tycoon like many of Putin's other friends, he did somehow acquire a stake in the Rossiya bank, one of the first Russian firms slapped with US sanctions following Russia's 2014 annexation of Crimea.

### Suspicion of foul play

The US Treasury in 2014 described the bank as being "designated for providing material support to government officials" and co-owned by members of Putin's inner circle. But unlike other Putin friends who have built flourishing businesses in Russia, Roldugin, whose stake in Rossiya was reported at 3.3 percent, was not slapped with sanctions.

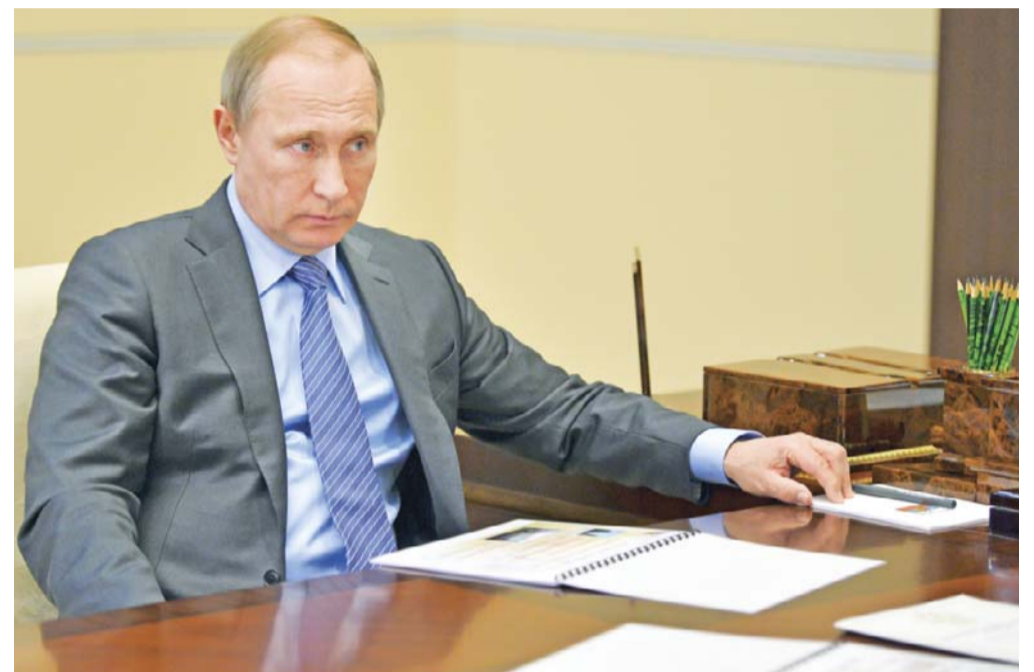
A myriad of documents that the Washington-based International Consortium of Investigative Journalists gained access to showed Roldugin - or someone posing as him - skillfully operating affiliated companies that controlled a significant share of a business empire that earned tens of millions of rubles per day from murky deals. The companies received millions from Putin's friends and Russian billionaires as well as preferential loans from a Russia-controlled Cyprus-based bank. The journalists who analyzed the leaked documents from the Panamanian law firm Mossack Fonseca, one of the world's biggest creators of shell companies, say the combined turnover of a company that Roldugin is reported to have owned through an intermediary between 2009 and 2012 was around \$2 billion.

When the Novaya Gazeta newspaper, which led the ICIJ investigation in Russia, approached Roldugin after a concert, the cellist had a friendly chat with the reporter but refused to talk about the offshore companies, saying the subject was "delicate."

Roldugin was unavailable for comment on Monday. A receptionist at the St. Petersburg House of Music said he was not in. The release of what has become known as the Panama Papers has sent officials in countries around the world scrambling.

Some have pledged to investigate claims of possible tax evasion, others like the prime minister of Iceland and the president of Ukraine face political storms over their alleged involvement in offshore companies. In Russia, however, the trove of documents showing a money trail leading close to the president has gone largely unnoticed.

Following hours of silence, state-owned Channel One in its 6 p.m. bulletin reported the story, leading with the denial by Putin's



**MOSCOW:** Russian President Vladimir Putin listens during a meeting in the Novo-Ogaryov residence on Monday. — AP

spokesman, Dmitry Peskov, and mentioning the dealings involving the Ukrainian president. The TV report said "many wonder" what could have triggered the investigation and alleged that the leak may have been a US-orchestrated attempt to remove Panama as a tax haven since it is competing for tax revenue.

### The blame game

Peskov blamed Western media for focusing on Putin even though he was not directly linked to any offshore activity. He suggested the ICIJ had ties to the US government. The ICIJ is not funded by the government and is part of the nonprofit, non-partisan Center for Public Integrity.

"It's obvious that there are many journalists there whose main profession is unlikely to be journalism," he said, alleging that "former employees of the State Department, the CIA, other security services" may have been involved in the publication of the leaks.

Peskov said Roldugin was a friend of Putin's but added the president "has very many friends." In past years, as Putin's friends were building fortunes by getting lucrative state contracts with no or little competition, independent media in Russia have published countless investigations suggesting a conflict of interest at the least - or possibly major corruption. These reports, however, did not lead to any official investigations, Russian government reshuffling or public discontent. Arguably the only exception was last year's protest by truck drivers who rallied against a hefty new road tax imposed by a company co-owned by a son of one of Putin's friends. Russian experts said even if the offshore scandal was getting coverage on Russian television, Putin still came out of it unscathed.

"There aren't any accounts directly connecting Putin to the companies, but even if there were, it is unlikely that this would shock his sup-

porters in Russia," Alexander Baunov of the Carnegie Center in Moscow told The Associated Press. Putin's detractors, he said, are looking in the wrong places for problems that could potentially destabilize his government.

What could be disastrous for Putin? "Anything that brings Russia back to the 1990s," said Baunov, referring to the withholding of salaries and a slump in living standards. In a country where all officials are believed to be corrupt by default, a revelation of corruption in Putin's inner circle or even his own misdeeds are not viewed as much of a sin.

"In a healthy society, all those friends of the national leader would already be behind bars while the leader himself would be a pariah," Dmitry Gudkov, the only Russian lawmaker who voted against the Crimean annexation said in a blog Monday. "In our (society) the reaction is: 'So what? He does not drink newborn babies' blood, thanks for this.' We know things could be worse."

### Unmoved

While Russian opposition activists were fuming on social media about the Panama Papers revelations, the reports left many more Russians unmoved. "Seriously, if someone had posted a photo of Putin watching 'Peppa Pig' it would have caused more of a stir," blogger Ilya Varlamov tweeted, referring to a popular cartoon series.

Unlike the reclusive banker Yuri Kovalchuk or Putin's childhood friend Arkady Rotenberg, the soft-spoken Roldugin has never hidden from the press, giving interviews about his love for music and Russian musical talent. "I don't like talking about Putin. It's private, I hope you understand," Roldugin said in a 2014 interview. But when asked where he thinks Putin's government is failing, he said: "I think there is not enough effort to fight corruption in Russia. I would like to see more decisive action." — AP



**MARSEILLE:** People demonstrate yesterday, one holding a placard reading "Youth in pain, elders in misery". — AP

## POLICE ARREST FRENCH PROTESTERS ANGRY OVER LABOR LAW CHANGES

**PARIS:** Protesters threw stones in Paris and French police sprayed tear gas during new strikes and demonstrations against proposed changes to France's work week and layoff practices.

The scuffles yesterday led to a few arrests and sent demonstrators fleeing in panic in eastern Paris. The lower house of Parliament is taking up the labor reforms yesterday after a string of strikes and protests. Socialist President Francois

Hollande's government, desperately trying to lower unemployment, says the bill will encourage hiring, especially of young people. But unions and students say it erodes hard-fought worker protections.

Covering their faces with hoods and scarves, some of the few hundred students demonstrating carried a banner reading "General Burnout - (Labor Minister Myriam) El Khomri to the ground. We are going to burn down all of Paris." — AP

## News

in brief

### Germany records 300 attacks on asylum shelters so far this year

**BERLIN:** There were almost 300 attacks and other criminal offences against German asylum shelters in the first quarter of the year, police said yesterday, which suggests the 2016 total could exceed last year's level. The arrival of more than one million migrants into Germany last year has prompted a significant rise in attacks against asylum shelters. They reached 1,029 last year, compared with 199 in 2014 and 69 in 2013. But the flow of migrants into Germany has slowed to a trickle in recent weeks, following the effective closure of the Balkan route bringing people through southeastern Europe, and it was not clear what effect that could have on future attacks. Of the 292 offenses registered in the first quarter - more than three attacks a day on average - 33 were arson attacks, 59 were acts of violence, and one was an explosion, police said. The rest were damage to property and propaganda offences, police added.

### Iceland PM threatens to dissolve parliament

**REYKJAVIK:** Iceland's prime minister yesterday threatened to dissolve parliament and call new elections if he were to lose the support of his junior coalition partner following an uproar over his offshore holdings revealed in the "Panama Papers". "I told the leader of the Independence Party that if the party's parliamentarians think they cannot support the government in completing joint tasks, I would dissolve parliament and call a general election," Prime Minister Sigmundur David Gunnlaugsson wrote on his Facebook page.



**Bangui:** French soldiers, part of Operation Sangaris, patrolling in the capital on May 20, 2015. — AFP

## PARIS OPENS NEW SEX ABUSE PROBE INTO TROOPS IN C. AFRICA

**PARIS:** French prosecutors have opened a preliminary investigation into new allegations of sexual abuse against French troops based in Central African Republic, a judiciary source said yesterday. The prosecutors' office said the probe was opened after the UN passed on allegations of sexual abuse involving French troops that took place in the eastern town of Dekoa between 2013 and 2015. The UN did not give details on number of the alleged victims, their ages, or the number of soldiers involved, the source said.

The investigation was opened on Friday, a day after the UN said more 100 victims had come forward with horrifying new accounts of sexual abuse by UN peacekeepers and French troops based in the war-torn country. Most of the vic-

tims were underage girls. They included accusations that French soldiers in the Sangaris force had in 2014 forced young girls to commit sex acts with animals in return for money.

Apart from French troops, the accusations concern soldiers from Burundi and Gabon who were serving in the UN peacekeeping force in Central African Republic (MINUSCA), also between 2013 and 2015.

AIDS-Free World, a civil society group that tracks peacekeeper sex abuse cases, said three girls told a UN rights officer that they were tied up and undressed by a French commander inside a camp and forced to have sex with a dog. The girls were then allegedly given about \$9 (eight euros) in payment. — AFP



**Brand Manager Dairy**  
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You will be responsible for developing brand communication which effectively reflects the brand objectives in order to build brand equity, providing brand direction to develop and executing product/brand marketing programs to build brand awareness and increase sales, as well as, reviewing market research to anticipate competition

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 Technologies Co. - Kuwait

You will be responsible for setting up and removing computer hardware and related equipment where appropriate, maintaining specific hardware/computer peripheral equipment, as requested, assisting with and providing support/troubleshooting for related hardware, keeping a log of all technical faults (support log), as well as, carrying out routine network/cabling maintenance tasks.

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**Project Controls Analyst**  
 Senior (OCN)  
 Vectrus - Kuwait

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 Kuwait

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**Product Specialist**  
 Imdad  
 Kuwait

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**Housing Officer**  
 Beyout Investment Group (BIG  
 Holding) - Kuwait

You will be responsible for coordinating emergency and regular repairs in coordination with housing maintenance, coordinating with maintenance and repairs with contractors, structural mechanical and electrical systems, in case issues remain open, as well as, inspecting customer's properties as assigned by the Project Manager.

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 Dubal Building Materials Co.  
 (W.L.L.) - Kuwait

You will be responsible for establishing and maintaining proper accounting practices and records as per the company requirements in order to support its managements of funds, as well as, supervising and managing all accounting and financial related issues and keeping records in files up to date.

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 Weatherford  
 Kuwait

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 I-Expatriate - KSA

You will be responsible for generating appropriate level of sales of the TBS products and solutions to adequately meet the company objectives in terms of coverage, market share figures and profitability, conducting market reviews and remaining updated on market evolution, as well as, identifying potential sources of growth (markets and products).

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**Product Specialist**  
 Imdad  
 KSA

You will be responsible for promoting and selling company's products to new and existing customers by visiting them regularly and constantly, performing certain after sales support functions such as conducting in-service training, as well as, following up on collection and maintaining good relationship with customers.

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 Parsons International Limited  
 KSA

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 Services - UAE

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**Supply Planner - Temp Role**  
 Michael Page International  
 (UAE) Limited - UAE

You will be responsible for managing market logistics to ensure inbound supply and distribution to meet customer service goals, tracking the delivery of orders into the market, managing any regulatory issues, as well as, the physical logistics, monitoring inventory and outbound logistics to customers and the management and shelf life of inventories.

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**Senior Property Executive**  
 Forum International  
 UAE

You will be responsible for attending all tenants' phone calls & responding to answers, negotiating with tenants rental fares within the guidelines received from Facility Manager, preparing and ensuring signature of tenancy contracts, as well as, following up collection of rental checks from tenants and attending all tenants' complaints & follow up

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**Assistant Manager - Human**  
 Resource  
 Tiro International - UAE

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**Store Manager - Debenhams**  
 Cosmetics - Doha City Centre  
 M.H. Alshaya Co. - Qatar

You will be responsible for maximizing store contribution by proactively driving sales, reducing stock loss and managing controllable costs, motivating and developing your team members will be integral to your role whilst ensuring the store complies with all company regulations and procedures.

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**IS Lead Engineer (Physical**  
 Security)  
 Qatar Airways - Qatar

You will be responsible for performing System Administration activities and support on HIA IT Physical Security Systems such as CCTV, Access Control Systems, etc. ensuring security standards are maintained as per laid down company policies, as well as, performing service/ installation of Access Control, CCTV Systems, and other various security related systems.

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**Sales Merchandiser,**  
 DOMASCO  
 Al Futtaim - Qatar

You will be responsible for managing stock levels and merchandising the product range to enhance the brand image, reporting any quality problems to the Service Centre and the Sales Manager, excellent customer care is required in order to reach your sales targets, as well as, working closely with the Sales Manager to ensure branding is displayed and stock levels replenished.

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**Recruitment Operations**  
 Coordinator  
 Qatar Airways - Qatar

You will be responsible for ensuring that all the information is tracked and logged in the appropriate systems and raising staff movement forms for internal and external candidates, following up with SMM approvers and coordinate queries between approvers and recruiters as needed, as well as, escalating appropriately the questions and concerns to Team Leaders, Managers and Recruiters when required.

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## FORMER TOP CHINESE MILITARY LEADER CONFESSES TO GRAFT

**BEIJING:** Former top Chinese military leader Guo Boxiong has confessed to bribe-taking, the official Xinhua news agency reported yesterday, citing military prosecutors who described the sums as "extremely huge".

Guo was for a decade one of the two vice chairmen of the Central Military Commission, second only to the Chinese president in the top body of the People's Liberation Army (PLA). He retired in 2012 and was expelled from the ruling Communist Party last year.

His fall came as President Xi Jinping seeks to consolidate his power and enhance his control over the PLA, the world's largest military and technically the armed force of the ruling party rather than

the Chinese state. Guo was found to have taken advantage of his position "to assist the promotion and relocation of other people, accepting an extremely huge amount of bribe personally and through his family", Xinhua cited military prosecutors as saying in a statement.

The 73-year-old had been formally charged and the procedure to prosecute him had begun, it added. In China criminal charges normally follow expulsion from the ruling party. Trial, conviction and a jail term is effectively guaranteed to follow in a court system controlled by the Communist Party. Since coming to power Xi has sought to impose his authority on the military, one of the targets of his wide-ranging anti-corruption drive. As well as

being the world's largest active military, a vast network of businesses are linked to the armed forces-so extensive that academics have dubbed it "PLA Inc". Officials have said it will be fully barred from providing "paid services" in three years' time.

Graft is endemic in China and critics say that without systemic reforms Xi's campaign is open to being used for political infighting. The hugely powerful former security chief Zhou Yongkang, who was sentenced to life in prison last year, is its most high-profile scalp, while another former Central Military Commission vice chairman, Xu Caihou, died of cancer while under investigation.

Along with Bo Xilai, whose fall predates Xi's ascension to the highest office, Guo is

the fourth former member of the ruling party's 25-strong Politburo to fall.

### 'Anti-corruption sword'

Guo "confessed to his suspected crime of bribery", Xinhua quoted an official of the military procuratorate as saying. Prosecutors had taken a "highly responsible attitude to the law and to history", the official said, and seized money and properties involved "in accordance with the law". Others involved who had committed crimes would be punished "without tolerance". Guo read and signed each interrogation transcript, the official said, adding his legal rights had been "earnestly guaranteed". Military prosecutors could not be reached for comment. Chinese media

poured scorn on Guo after he was expelled from the ruling party last year.

"One demon killed, all demons deterred," declared a commentary in the People's Daily, the party's official mouthpiece. "We must raise high and wield the sharp anti-corruption sword, so that the idea of going corrupt will be nipped in the bud and the corrupt will pay a price."

Guo's family built up an enormous fortune after he ascended to the highest echelons of power, news portal Netease.com reported at the time of his expulsion. His wife He Xiulan acted as a broker between him and senior military officers, taking bribes for promotions and refunding the money if the post did not materialise, it said. — AFP



**KUTAI:** This picture released on yesterday shows Indonesian environmental activist tending to an ill Sumatran Rhino (*Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*) after it was found in a pit trap. — AFP

## SUMATRAN RHINO DIES WEEKS AFTER LANDMARK DISCOVERY

**JAKARTA:** A critically endangered Sumatran rhino has died weeks after its chance discovery on the Indonesian part of Borneo island was hailed as a landmark conservation success, an official said yesterday.

The rare rhino was caught in a pit trap last month in East Kalimantan province in an area close to mining operations and plantations, where it was struggling to survive. It was the first physical contact environmentalists had made with a Sumatran rhino on Indonesian Borneo in more than 40 years, after it was assumed the animal was long extinct.

However Najaq, as the female rhino was known, succumbed to a leg infection after her health deteriorated in recent days, Indonesia's environment ministry confirmed. "The death of this Sumatran rhino proves they exist on Borneo, so we will continue protecting them," Tachrir Fathoni, a senior official at the environment ministry, told AFP. A post-mortem examination is being con-

ducted to determine the official cause of death, he added. Environmentalists discovered in 2013 that the Sumatran rhino was not extinct on Indonesian Borneo-as had long been thought-when hidden cameras captured images of the animals.

Conservationists had heralded the capture of the rhino in March as an exciting discovery, and expressed disappointment at the tragic turn of events. "This is a very valuable lesson that shows saving a rhino can be very difficult, and needs the support of experts," said WWF Indonesia head Efransjah, who like many Indonesians goes by one name.

There were once Sumatran rhinos all over Borneo but their numbers have dwindled dramatically, with poaching and the expansion of mining and plantation operations considered the main reasons for the decline.

The Sumatran rhino is the only Asian rhino with two horns, and are covered with long hair. It's estimated there are less than 100 left in the wild. — AFP

## NORTH KOREA CAN PUT NUCLEAR WARHEAD ON MID-RANGE MISSILE

'THEY WILL FIRE IT LIKE THAT IS A POLITICAL DECISION'

**SEOUL:** North Korea can mount a nuclear warhead on a medium-range missile, a South Korean official said on Tuesday in a new assessment of the capability of a country that conducted its fourth nuclear test this year.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said last month his country had miniaturized nuclear warheads to mount on ballistic missiles. It was his first direct statement of a claim often made in state media though never independently verified. "We believe they have accomplished miniaturization of a nuclear warhead to mount it on a Rodong missile," the South Korean official, with knowledge of South Korea's assessment of the North's nuclear program, told a small group of reporters on condition of anonymity.

The Rodong missile can fire a 1 ton warhead a distance of up to 2,000 km, the official said. That would put all of South Korea, most of Japan and parts of Russia and China in range. "We believe they have the ability to mount a nuclear warhead on a Rodong. Whether they will fire it like that is a political decision," said the official.

There was no direct evidence that the North has successfully mounted a warhead on such a missile, the South Korean official said. He declined to discuss the basis for the change in assessment. Staunch US ally South Korea has been facing off against its rival to the north for decades.

### The South's reaction

The South's conservative president, Park Geun-hye, has reversed a policy of trying to engage the North in dialogue and has instead adopted a hard line against it, particularly since the North conducted its fourth nuclear test on Jan. 6 and a month later launched a long-range rocket putting an object into space orbit.

The test and launch prompted the U.N.



**UNKNOWN LOCATION:** North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un (C) inspecting the test of a new-type anti-air guided weapon system. — AFP

Security Council to impose new sanctions. South Korea has previously said North Korea had made progress in its efforts to miniaturise a nuclear warhead but the capability was incomplete. South Korea's Defence Ministry said on Tuesday that assessment remained the military's position. Rodong missiles, developed from Soviet-era Scud missiles, make up the bulk of the North's short- and medium-range missile arsenal with an estimated stockpile of 200.

Experts have predicted that the delivery vehicle for the North's first nuclear warhead would be the medium-range Rodong missile, rather

than an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), which the North has yet to test. Despite threats to strike the mainland United States, the North is seen as several years away from building an ICBM that can carry a nuclear warhead.

Experts have previously said a functioning mid-range nuclear missile would need the technology to overcome the stress of launch and re-entry and to strike the target with precision, which requires repeated testing. The North fired a Rodong missile in March. It flew about 800 km the sea, in the first such launch since two Rodongs were fired in 2014. — Reuters

## TRAIN BLAST, A ROOF COLLAPSE AND FLOOD DEATHS TOLL RISE IN PAKISTAN

**QUETTA/MULTAN/PESHAWAR:** A bomb planted on the track killed at least one train passenger and wounded four others in Pakistan's restive southwest province of Balochistan yesterday, officials said.

The improvised explosive device exploded as the Jaffar Express from Rawalpindi passed over it 180 kilometers east of Quetta, local security official Naseer Ullah told AFP. "A passenger was killed and four others were wounded and moved to hospital," he said. A three-foot section of the track was destroyed by the bombing, which hit the second carriage. The injured were taken to hospital in the town of Sibbi 25 kilometers north of the blast site. A provincial home minister official in Quetta confirmed the details. There was no immediate claim of responsibility but Taliban militants are active in the region. Quetta is the capital of Balochistan province, which is also home to a separatist insurgency that has been raging since 2004. The province's roughly seven million people have long complained they do not receive a fair share of its gas and mineral wealth.

### Roof Collapse

A Pakistani official says a roof that was under construction at a religious school collapsed, killing five students. Local rescue official Natiq Hayyat says nine students were also injured in the incident in the central district of Dera Ghazi Khan yesterday. Hayyat says all the victims have been taken to hospital. The cause of the collapse was not clear. Pakistan has been hit by flash floods triggered by weekend rains that have killed 71 people in the country's northwest. Flash floods commonly occur during South Asia's summer monsoon season.

### Flood death toll rises

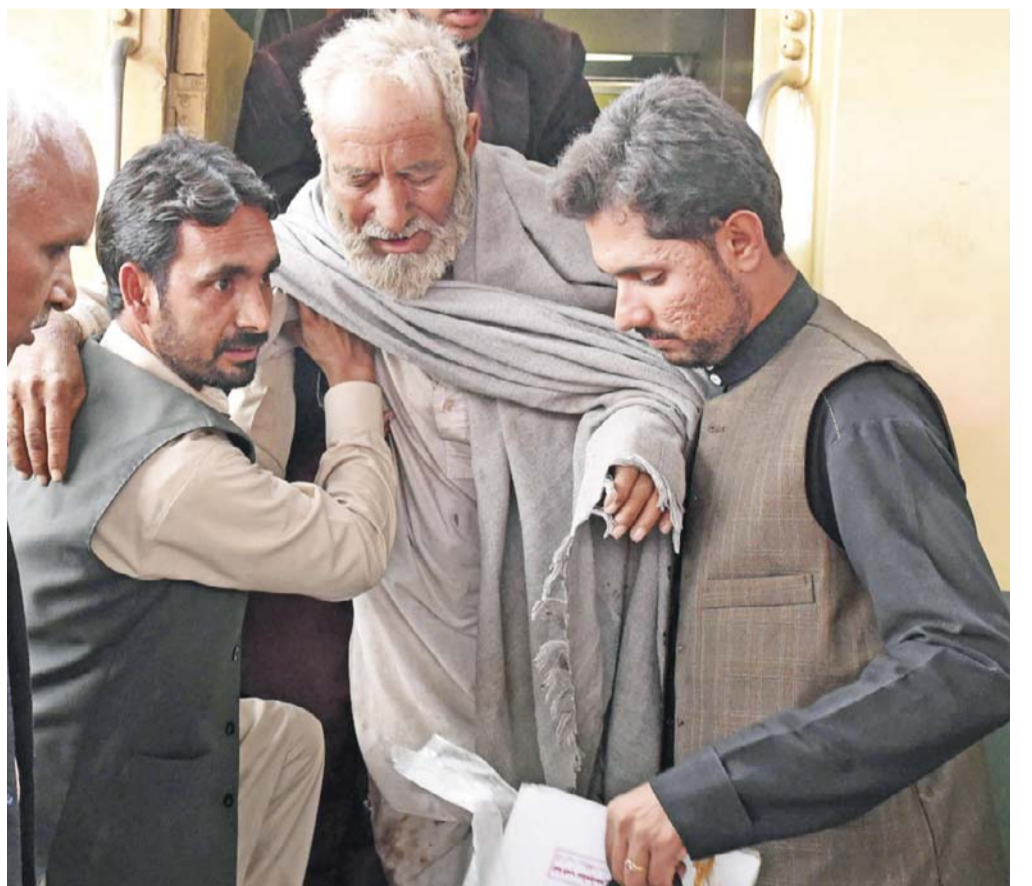
The death toll after heavy rains in Pakistan's northwest and in Kashmir rose to 71 Tuesday, officials said, as rescuers sought to evacuate dozens of people still trapped by landslides.

Ten more people were found dead in the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa after the weekend downpour triggered landslides and collapsed the roofs of dozens of houses.

"The number known to have died in rains so far in the northwest has now risen to 61 with over 350 houses damaged all over Khyber Pakhtunkhwa," a spokesman for the local disaster management authority said in a statement.

At least 30 people were still stranded following a heavy landslide in the area of Khoistan, he said. While in Pakistani-held Kashmir, dozens of local tourists remained marooned in the picturesque Neelum Valley as authorities attempted to evacuate them, a local official there told AFP.

At least 10 people have been confirmed killed there since the rain began Saturday. "My children are sitting under the open sky. My cattle and belongings were trapped under the debris," local resident Nasim Atakhar told AFP after her house collapsed. Poorly built homes across Pakistan, particularly in rural areas, are susceptible to collapse during the annual spring rains, which are often heavy. Severe weather in recent years has killed hundreds and destroyed huge tracts of prime farmland. During the rainy season last summer, torrential downpours and flooding killed 81 people and affected almost 300,000 people across the country. — Agencies



**QUETTA:** Pakistani passengers help an injured train blast victim as they arrive at a railway station yesterday. — AFP

## INDIA'S BIHAR BANS ALL ALCOHOL SALES

**PATNA:** The Indian state of Bihar completely banned the sale of alcohol in a surprise move yesterday, including liquor at bars and hotels. The state government had announced an end to sales of locally brewed liquor last week and said a complete ban would be phased over six months.

However Nitish Kumar, the state's top elected official, said the ban on local liquor was so popular that the government was ready to bar all sales of alcohol immediately. He said that feedback from across the state showed that the government's move had widespread support. "I feel this is the right time for social change in Bihar," Kumar told reporters.

But the government's sudden move has surprised store and bar owners. "We were taken totally by surprise," said Shankar Jha, the owner of the Liquid Bar in state capital Patna. "We are now awaiting instructions from the state excise department about how we should deal with our stocks," Jha said, adding that his bar would be

forced to fire the staff. Liquor store salesman Nitish Pandey was also left with unsold stock and no clear order what to do with it. The move is expected to cost the state government about 40 billion rupees (\$ 600 million) in revenues from taxes on alcohol sales. Liquor manufacturers can continue making their products as long as they are sold in other parts of the country.

Three other states have complete alcohol bans, Gujarat, Nagaland and Manipur. However bootleggers do brisk business in all Indian states with prohibition laws. Political analyst Ravi Ranjan Sinha said that Bihar's move to ban all alcohol sales was sudden and poorly thought out. "We don't know how the state will make up for the loss in revenue," he said, adding that smuggling of alcohol from nearby states would become rampant. Prohibition was one of Kumar's main campaign promises to women voters in state elections last year. — AP

## DIAMOND AND SCROLL BREAK AUCTION RECORDS IN HONG KONG

**HONG KONG:** A rare blue diamond set a new record at Sotheby's in Hong Kong yesterday after fetching HK\$248.29 million (\$31.8 million), despite a slowdown in China's economy which has affected the auction market.

The "De Beers Millennium Jewel 4", a 10.10 carat vivid blue diamond, broke the record for the most expensive piece of jewelry sold at auction in Asia, but at the lower end of estimates which predicted it would



**HONG KONG:** The 10.10 carat rare vivid blue diamond that new record at Sotheby's yesterday after fetching 248.29 million HKD. — AFP

fetch between \$30 and \$35 million.

Slightly larger than an almond, it is described by Sotheby's as the largest oval blue diamond ever to appear at auction and "internally flawless". It was sold to an anonymous phone bidder. "It was a very successful sale," Sotheby's international jewelry division worldwide chairman David Bennett said.

"The fact that it's a record price for jewelry in Asia I think speaks well about the Asian market... I think it's alive and well and very healthy," Bennett said. The sale came

hours after a scroll painting by Chinese master Zhang Daqian sold for a record-breaking HK\$270.68 million (\$35.93 million), also at Sotheby's.

It was snapped up by Chinese collector Liu Yiqian's Shanghai museum-the latest in a string of massive buys associated with the former taxi driver turned tycoon. Zhang's splashed ink and color scroll outstripped the top-end pre-sale estimate of HK\$65 million, breaking the record for the artist's work at auction.

A buyer from Liu's Long Museum ended hour-long bidding for the work, entitled "Peach Blossom Spring", with more than 100 bids cast. The sales comes despite a slowdown in the Chinese economy which expanded 6.9 percent in 2015, the worst performance in a quarter of a century and a far cry from years of double-digit increases.

There are fears that the combination of the Chinese economic slowdown and an anti-corruption drive by President Xi Jinping could hit the Asia market-both Sotheby's and Christie's posted lower totals at their autumn sales last year in Hong Kong compared with the two preceding years.

Liu, who has been making record-setting purchases at auctions in the past few years, stunned the art world when he bought a famed nude by Italian artist Amedeo Modigliani costing more than \$170 million in November.

He set a record for Chinese porcelain in 2014 by paying over \$36 million for a tiny Ming Dynasty cup depicting a rooster and hen tending to their chicks, known as the "chicken cup". Liu made world headlines by drinking from the cup after he bought it.

Auctioneers say despite China's economic downturn, there is still demand for top quality collectibles, and demand stretches across Asia.

The "Seal of the Mandate of Heaven" which belonged to the Kangxi Emperor, the longest reigning Chinese monarch, is to be auctioned today at Sotheby's as part of its spring sales season, with a starting at a price of HK\$50 million. — AFP





A general view shows pink flamingos standing on the mud flats at the Ras Al-Khor Wildlife Sanctuary with the Dubai skyline in the background, on the outskirts of the city yesterday. The sanctuary, which is Dubai's only desert wetland, occupies about 2.4 square miles on the banks of Dubai Creek and comprises of mudflats, lagoons, pools and mangroves. — AFP

## SAUDI POLICE COLONEL SHOT DEAD IN IS-CLAIMED ATTACK

RIYADH: A Saudi police colonel was shot dead in the Riyadh region yesterday, the interior ministry said, in an attack claimed by the Islamic State jihadist group. Colonel Kattab Majid Al-Hammadi was killed by gunfire "from an unknown source" in the town of Duwadimi, the ministry said in a statement, adding that an investigation has been launched. Najd Province, the IS affiliate in Saudi Arabia, said in a statement on Twitter that its jihadists had "assassinated" the officer.

It threatened further attacks against security forces in the Sunni-ruled kingdom. The attack is the second claimed by the Sunni extremist group against Saudi police in the past four days. The interior ministry announced that a foreign resident was killed in a bomb blast targeting a police patrol vehicle late on Saturday, also in the Riyadh region. Authorities did not specify the

nationality of the victim in that incident but said two security patrol vehicles parked in the area were damaged in the bombing claimed by Najd Province.

IS frequently claims attacks on Saudi security forces as well as deadly bombings and shootings that target the kingdom's Shiite minority. In August, an IS suicide bomber struck a mosque inside a Saudi special forces headquarters, killing 15 people. IS, which controls swathes of territory in Syria and Iraq, has claimed responsibility for a wave of attacks in the region and elsewhere, including deadly bombings in Brussels last month. In December, Saudi Arabia announced the creation of an "anti-terrorism" coalition whose members it said would share intelligence, counter violent ideology and deploy troops if necessary to combat extremists. The kingdom is also part of the US-led coalition bombing IS in Iraq and Syria. — AFP

## AMIR CALLS TO IMPROVE STATE'S FINANCIAL...

Continued from Page 1

Zalzalah said he, committee members, and Ghanem also met HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, who advised them to follow the instructions and recommendations of HH the Amir regarding what is best for the country.

Meanwhile, MP Ahmad Lari, rapporteur of the priorities committee, said yesterday that the implementation of the new electricity charges will start in the middle of 2017 after approval by the Assembly. Lari said that for private houses, a term used for citizens, the implementation is not expected before 2018. He said the government's plan stipulates to start the hikes with investment and commercial housing, a sector that includes apartments where the overwhelming majority of foreigners live.

The government is expected to bring its final proposal for the raises to the Assembly's financial and economic affairs committee today and the panel is expected to reject the government plan, Lari said. But the issue as a whole is listed on the agenda of the April 12 regular Assembly session after the grilling of the Commerce and Industry Ministry Yousef Al-Ali by MPs Ahmad Al-Qudhaibi and Mubarak Al-Harees on decisions allegedly violating the law.

During the session, the Assembly is also due to discuss the government's economic reform program, besides a number of other issues. MPs have strongly opposed a government bill to increase electricity and water charges on citizens and expatriates. They also vowed not to allow the government to harm low and middle income people.

The government has proposed a price of 5 fils for the first 3,000 kilowatts, which rises gradually to 15 fils above 9,000 kW. But MPs have proposed that consumption under 6,000 kW to remain at the current price of 2 fils per kilowatt and 5 fils for consumption above this. For apartments, the government proposed 5 fils per kilowatts for up to 1,000 kW, 10 fils for 1,000 to 2,000 kW and

15 fils for above that. MPs have not requested any reduction for this tariff.

Also, Al-Jarida newspaper quoted informed sources that the Manpower Public Authority will start applying the new increase on fees on some of its transactions from June, adding that the increases will affect transfers, renewals and first-time work permits. Sources said the fees charged for transactions at the MPA are the least compared with similar ones in other GCC countries, adding that the increase is necessary and will be definitely imposed.

Meanwhile, the MPA issued an administrative circular with regards to work permits issued for nationalities that require security approval, including Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq, Iran and Yemen. Sources said that employer who wanted to bring workers from the above-mentioned nationalities earlier got approval from the MPA, which used to contact the interior ministry, but now the entire matter is the responsibility of the interior ministry.

In another development, MP Adnan Abdulsamad asked Housing Minister Yasser Abul about the contractor who built government houses in northwest Sulaibkhat, of which online activists have published many defects and problems. The lawmaker also asked if the public authority for housing inspected the houses before it received it from the contractor and distributed it to citizens, and what was its assessment. He also asked if the ministry has taken any measures towards the complaints filed by citizens after receiving the houses.

Abul said that the ministry has received complaints from 14 percent of 4,452 houses distributed to citizens and that authorities resolved the problems in 90 percent of them. All the repairs in the houses were being made at the expense of the contractor, the minister said. Abul said that a technical committee was set up to study the issue and warned of stern penalties against those proven guilty. The minister meanwhile denied reports that the government plans to reduce the value of the housing allowance given to Kuwaiti families who are waiting their turn for a government house.

## KUWAIT, ITALY SIGN EUROFIGHTER CONTRACT

Continued from Page 1

training of both aircrews and ground personnel. The latter will be carried out in cooperation with the Italian Air Force, and in particular with the 20th Gruppo, ItAF Typhoon OCU (Operational Conversion Unit) based at Grosseto airbase.

According to the ministry's statement, the first two aircraft will arrive in the last quarter of 2019, with the complete arrival of all aircraft by 2022, and an expected in-service operation till 2050. Kuwait will get the Typhoon in its most advanced configuration: Tranche 3 planes equipped with the cutting-edge new electronically scanned array radar.

The National Assembly last month approved spending

an additional \$500 million as an advance payment for the jets. That funding came on top of \$10 billion additional defense spending already approved by parliament in January to upgrade the country's military. The state is a member of the US-led coalition that has been bombing Islamic State group targets in Syria and Iraq since last year, and is also taking part in a Saudi-led coalition pounding Iran-backed rebels in Yemen.

Last year it bought 24 Caracal military tactical transport helicopters and French light armored vehicles. Kuwait is the third Gulf nation to choose the Typhoon, according to the Eurofighter consortium. Saudi Arabia already flies the aircraft, which have been in service since 2003. Oman placed an order for twelve aircraft in Dec 2012. — Agencies

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In this Sept 17, 2015 photo, Saudi security forces take part in a military parade in preparation for the annual hajj pilgrimage in Makkah. —AP photos



In this Sept 17, 2015 photo, an Emirati gunner watches for enemy fire from the rear gate of a United Arab Emirates Chinook military helicopter flying over Yemen.

## GLOBAL MILITARY SPENDING NEARLY \$1.7TN

By Jon Gambrell

Global military spending rose in 2015 to nearly \$1.7 trillion, the first increase in several years, driven by conflicts including the battle against the Islamic State group, the Saudi-led war in Yemen and fears about Iran, a report released yesterday shows. The study by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute also noted that the Chinese expansion in the South China Sea and Russia's annexation of Crimea and support of Ukrainian separatists also accounted for nudging spending up 1 percent in real terms, compared to 2014.

For weapons manufacturers, the nonstop pace of airstrikes targeting Islamic State fighters in Iraq and Syria, as well as Saudi-led bombing of Yemen's Shiite rebels and their allies, means billions of dollars more in sales. But activists question continued US arms deals to Saudi Arabia as its Yemen campaign has killed civilians, while American fighter jet sales to both emerging military buyer Qatar and longtime ally Kuwait appear stalled.

The United States, with \$596 billion in defense spending, and China, with an estimated \$215 billion, led all countries in 2015, the annual report by SIPRI said. Saudi Arabia, however, came in third with spending of \$87.2 billion - double what it spent in 2006, according to the report. That fueled the first worldwide increase in military spending since 2011. Iraq spent \$13.1 billion on its military in 2015, up well over 500 percent from 2006 as it has rebuilt its armed forces following the US withdrawal and rise of the Islamic State group, SIPRI said.

While part of the US coalition fighting the extremists, Saudi Arabia also launched a war in Yemen in March 2015 to support the country's internationally recognized government after Shiite rebels known as Houthis earlier overran the country's capital, Sanaa. The Sunni kingdom views the Houthis as a proxy of Shiite power Iran, long its regional rival.

The United Arab Emirates also is taking part in both conflicts and

likely has spent billions of dollars to support its military in 2015 as well, though the Stockholm-based institute said it couldn't offer precise figures this year, senior research Pieter Wezeman said. Both the UAE and Saudi Arabia also sent troops into Bahrain to put down its 2011 Arab Spring-inspired protests. "This clearly is a reason for these countries to improve their so-called security forces, both to be able to fight against internal uprisings, whether a more-peaceful nature or more violent, but also of course to intervene in neighboring countries," Wezeman, who took part in the report, told AP.

But the air campaign waged by the Saudi-led, US-backed coalition in Yemen has been increasingly criticized by human rights activists over civilian deaths. Airstrikes account for 60 percent of the 3,200 civilians killed in the conflict, according to the United Nations, which has criticized coalition strikes that have hit markets, clinics and hospitals.

Yet arms deals continue, especially from the US. Asked about the civilian casualties, State Department spokesman David McKeeby said the United States remained "deeply concerned by the devastating toll of the crisis in Yemen." "We have remained in regular contact with the Saudi-led coalition and have reinforced to them the need to avoid civilian casualties and the importance of precise targeting," McKeeby said in a statement. "We have encouraged them to investigate all credible accounts of civilian casualties as a result of coalition strikes - and to report publicly the results of these investigations."

### Arms Manufacturers Busy

But both the Yemen war and the fight against the Islamic State group likely will keep arms manufacturers busy into 2016. Companies that may see increased sales include Boeing Co, General Dynamics, Lockheed Martin Corp and Raytheon Co, aerospace and defense analyst Roman Schweizer at Guggenheim Securities wrote March 28. "We have been bullish for the better part of a year that the Pentagon and its European and

(Gulf) allies will have to refill their stocks of missiles and munitions due to the current campaign against ISIS in Iraq, Syria, Yemen and even Libya," Schweizer wrote, using an alternate acronym for the extremist group.

Meanwhile, President Barack Obama promised America's "iron-clad commitment" to back its Gulf allies during a summit last May. In the time since, the US has made \$33 billion in arms sales to its Gulf allies, including an \$11.25-billion deal with Saudi Arabia that includes four armed warships to modernize its navy, McKeeby said. But the Obama administration has been criticized by US Sen John McCain, an Arizona Republican, for "failing to live to up the promises" made at the summit by allegedly stalling fighter jet sales to both Kuwait and Qatar.

"They are languishing on the shelf gathering dust," McCain said at a hearing on March 8. Tiny Qatar in the meantime has signed a deal for \$6.7 billion (\$7.6 billion) to buy 24 Dassault Rafal fighter jets from France. Kuwait yesterday finalized a deal to purchase 28 Eurofighter Typhoons, a deal estimated to be worth around \$8 billion. Obama will visit Saudi Arabia on April 21 for a meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council, which includes Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and the UAE. The jet sales likely will be a topic of discussion, as will Iran after its recently implemented nuclear deal with world powers.

Wezeman said international sanctions against Iran had seen its weapons technology lag behind its neighbors as its military spending dropped by 30 percent between 2006 and 2015. However, he acknowledged regional suspicions likely would keep Gulf military spending strong. "Iran is, of course, perceived as an adversary and also wants to be the main player in the region, a country which will potentially use its influence over different proxy groups in the region to destabilize countries," Wezeman said. "Both the expenditure and the armament procurement by states in the Gulf are clearly aimed at kind of keeping Iran in check." —AP



In this March 4, 2016 photo, delegates from the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) leave the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.



In this Feb 11, 2015 photo, navy cadets march during a rehearsal for the Victory Day military parade at the Neva River embankment in St Petersburg, Russia.



In this Sept 11, 2015 photo, US Navy sailors wear full dress white uniforms before a Sept 11 remembrance ceremony on board the USS Theodore Roosevelt aircraft carrier deployed in the Arabian Gulf in support of Operation Inherent Resolve, the military operation against Islamic State extremists in Syria and Iraq.

### Issues

## SAUDIS SET ASIDE FRUSTRATIONS WITH EGYPT WITH VISIT

By Angus McDowall and Lin Noueihed

Despite years of mutual frustration and disappointment over diverging priorities, Saudi Arabia and Egypt remain fundamental to each other's security, a message King Salman's visit to Cairo this week is intended to reinforce. The rare foreign trip by the Saudi ruler will counter media commentary in both countries of discord between the richest Arab state and the most populous, to show Riyadh still backs Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi.

Gulf monarchies have lavished aid on Egypt since 2013, but have grown increasingly disillusioned at what they see as Sisi's inability to address entrenched corruption and inefficiency in the economy, and at Cairo's reduced role on the regional stage. However, with Iraq, Syria and Yemen immersed in civil war, and Saudi Arabia preoccupied by its own region-wide tussle with Iran, Riyadh is determined to stop the Egyptian state from failing. It will maintain some aid despite its own tighter budgets from falling global oil prices, analysts say.

That position contrasts with Riyadh's approach to Lebanon, from which Gulf states have pulled aid in response to the growing role there of Iran's ally Hezbollah, evidence of Saudi Arabia's with-us-or-against-us regional doctrine. "The Saudis are very keen not to allow Egypt to collapse, but at the same time the Saudis cannot pay forever. I think King Salman will try to explain these issues," said Mustafa Alani, a security analyst with close ties to the kingdom's Interior Ministry.

In recent months, groups of Egyptian ministers have flown to Riyadh almost weekly for meetings with their Saudi counterparts, a diplomat said, and officials are planning to unveil Saudi investments of \$4 billion this week. Saudi Arabia is also expected to sign a \$20 billion deal to finance Egypt's petroleum needs for the next five years and a \$1.5 billion deal to develop its Sinai region, two Egyptian government sources told Reuters.

Egyptian intelligence sources said Sisi wanted the visit to soothe the recent strains in the relationship, attract more Saudi investment, reassure Riyadh over Cairo's support for its stance towards Iran and discuss possible arms deals. Agreements to cooperate more closely on a range of issues, from the armed forces to the economy, will be announced, say people in Riyadh, but are seen as unlikely to make the relationship significantly deeper. "It is like a married couple who argue but decide to stay together for the sake of the children," said Jamal Khashoggi, a prominent Saudi journalist.

### Disappointment

Once a central axis of Middle East politics, the relationship between Cairo and Riyadh has become increasingly peripheral since the 2011 Arab uprisings in a region now beset by civil wars and widespread unrest elsewhere. In Syria, where Saudi Arabia is a leading backer of rebels, it has worked most closely with Qatar and Turkey, political rivals of Egypt. In Yemen, Cairo has contributed naval forces to a Saudi-led military intervention, but Riyadh's main ally has been the United Arab Emirates.

Riyadh was a strong supporter of Sisi's rise to power as army chief in 2013 and president the following year, after his military overthrew a Muslim Brotherhood-led government that emerged from the revolution. While Saudi Arabia views Iran as its most pressing regional adversary, it also sees Sunni Muslim Islamist movements like the Muslim Brotherhood ultimately posing a greater threat to its dynastic system of rule and fears their rise in Arab allies. However, as Saudi Arabia has turned to confront what it sees as a threat of Iranian expansionism across the region, Egypt has grown ever more introverted, focusing on the turbulent aftermath of its uprising and counter revolution. Riyadh wanted Cairo to play a central role in its coalition fronting Yemen's Houthi group, which the kingdom says is allied to Iran. Egypt was reluctant to commit ground troops.

Western diplomats in Cairo and the Gulf said this strained ties somewhat, but that Riyadh had ultimately accepted Egypt's reasoning and its public pronouncements that it would defend Saudi Arabia from any external threat. "The fact is that because of its revolution and its domestic economic situation, Egypt is not what it was, and more and more the Saudis are taking this prominent role," said a diplomat. "The Saudis have some differences with them, but it's between consenting adults." Still, Egypt's naval participation in the Yemen campaign is seen in Riyadh as important and despite Cairo's unwillingness to join Gulf states in declaring Hezbollah a terrorist group, its regional position has broadly aligned with that of the kingdom.

### Lavish Aid

Both Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukri and Saudi Foreign Minister Adel Al-Jubeir dismiss any talk of recent strains, insisting there was no ill feeling over the Yemen campaign or other issues. "This is an historic visit," said Jubeir at a news conference on Tuesday. Shoukri, in an interview with the pro-government daily Al Youm Al Sabeel last week, he and Jubeir were "amazed" at suggestions the relationship was difficult. —Reuters

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## AGBONLAHOR IN CLEAR OVER DUBAI JAUNT

**LONDON:** Aston Villa have decided not to take further action against striker Gabriel Agbonlahor over his recent trip to Dubai, the Premier League's bottom club announced yesterday. Agbonlahor, 29, was pictured smoking a shisha pipe during a holiday in the city and was left out of the squad for Saturday's 4-0 home defeat by Chelsea while the club carried out an investigation. But in a brief statement on Twitter, Villa said: "Aston Villa Football Club has completed its investigation into Gabby Agbonlahor's trip to Dubai over the international break. "The club will be taking no further action." An academy graduate, Agbonlahor is Villa's longest-serving player and current club captain, but has made only 15 Premier League appearances this season, scoring once. Villa, who parted company with manager Remi Garde last week, are 15 points from safety with six games of the season remaining, making them near certainties for relegation. —AFP



## POCOCK HANDED THREE-WEEK SUSPENSION OVER NECK GRAB

**MELBOURNE:** Australia loose-forward David Pocock has been suspended for three weeks after pleading guilty to a charge of playing an opponent without the ball in the ACT Brumbies' 48-23 Super Rugby loss to the Waikato Chiefs on Saturday. Pocock grasped the neck of Chiefs number eight Michael Leitch in a maul six minutes from the end of the game, leaving the Japan skipper stricken on the ground, but did not receive any sanction from Australian referee Angus Gardner. The 27-year-old will only miss two Super Rugby matches, away against the Waratahs (April 16) and home to the Canterbury Crusaders (April 24), as the Canberra-based side have a bye this coming weekend. "With respect to sanction, I deemed the act of foul play merited a low-end entry point of two weeks," (governing body) SANZAAR duty judicial officer Adam Cassleden said in a statement yesterday. "I then added one week for aggravation due to the need to deter this type of dangerous foul play. The player is free to resume playing on April 25." — Reuters

## HIGUAIN GETS FOUR-MATCH BAN

**ROME:** Napoli's Argentina striker Gonzalo Higuain has been hit with a four-match ban following his sending off in Sunday's 3-1 defeat to Udinese, a blow for his team who are battling with Juventus for the Serie A title. Higuain was shown his second yellow card for kicking out at defender Felipe, prompting the striker to launch a verbal tirade against the referee. The 28-year-old had to be pulled away by team-mates as he tried to angrily remonstrate with Udinese players. Higuain, the top Serie A scorer with 30 goals, will miss upcoming games against Verona, Inter Milan, Bologna and Roma, severely damaging his side's chances of a first Serie A title in 26 years. Defeat left Napoli six points adrift of leaders Juventus, as they bid to snatch a first league title since Diego Maradona played his penultimate season at the club in 1990, with seven games to play. The disciplinary commission sanctioned "an insulting term" used against the referee as well as "a disrespectful gesture when he faced him and laid his two hands on his chest". —AFP



## OLYMPIC GOLD MEDAL WINNERS TO GET EXEMPTIONS

**AUGUSTA:** Golf's major championships threw their support behind the sport's return to the Olympics on Monday, offering exemptions for men's and women's gold medal winners this year to all grand slam events.

Augusta National chairman Billy Payne, who ran the 1996 Atlanta Games, told a news conference that the men's gold medal winner in Rio de Janeiro, where golf will make its return to the Summer Games for the first time in more than a century, would get an invitation to the 2017 Masters.

The Royal and Ancient and Ladies Golf Union will offer similar one-year exemptions to the men's and women's British Opens while the PGA of America and United States Golf Association followed suit with their two flagship events. With the LPGA Tour giving the women's gold medal winner in Rio an automatic exemption into the 2016 Evian Championship and the 2017 ANA Inspiration, all nine majors (four for men and five for women) will be supporting the initiative.

"We believe our game's visibility will be dramatically elevated by the global platform that only the Olympics offer," said Payne, speaking on the first official day of Masters practice. "New audiences from all over the world, some for the very first time ever, will be exposed to our great sport and come to know and appreciate the amazing athletes and heroes in golf.

"From this greater visibility, we believe will evolve greater participation in our game, and it will be a certain beneficiary."

Payne was joined on the podium by R&A chief executive Martin Slumbers, PGA of America CEO Pete Bevacqua and USGA chief executive Mike Davis, four of the most powerful men in golf united in their support of the Olympics.

### LESS ENTHUSIASTIC

But some golfers, including former Masters champion Adam Scott of Australia, have been less enthusiastic about the prospect of winning an Olympic medal, ranking it well behind the four majors in importance. Payne, however, said he fully expects that national pride will surface when golf's best find themselves in the Olympic cauldron while representing their country.

"My experience has been when looking at the joy and the happiness of kids competing all across the board in various Olympic endeavours, that there is nothing, nothing, more powerful than representing your country," declared Payne. "So I suspect that you will see that take over and totally capture the enthusiasm of the players for golf.

"I think what you feel now, and what you hear now, as some of these individuals themselves become part of the Olympics, probably change their mind."

While the support of the major championships for the Olympics was welcome, the gold medal winners are likely to come from a small group of players who have already qualified for berths in golf's showcase events.

However, the four men rejected any suggestion that offering major exemptions as an incentive in Rio was an insignificant gesture, seeing it instead as a positive move that will grow further interest in the sport.

"From our perspective, whether it's someone that is in the top rankings of the world or someone who is that Cinderella story, in both ways it's a positive," said Bevacqua.

"It's a positive for golf, it's a great story for golf and it's certainly a positive for the PGA Championship, regardless of who comes out of that field, both on the men's side and women's side." — Reuters



## KUWAIT WINS 6 GOLD, 3 SILVER AND A BRONZE HEROES' WELCOME FOR SHOOTING DELEGATION

By Abdellatif Sharaa

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait shooting sport delegation returned home to a heroes' welcome, following its participation in the 12th Arab Shooting Championship held in Cairo, Egypt. The delegation was received by President of Arab and Kuwait Shooting Federations Eng Duaij Al-Otaibi, Deputy Director General at Public Authority for Sports Dr Humoud Fulaiteh, Secretary General for Arab and Kuwait Shooting Federations Obaid Munahi Al-Osaimi, Kuwait Shooting Sport Club Assistant Treasurer Adnan Al-Ibrahim and KSSC board member Eng Hussam Al-Roumi.

Shooters were also welcomed by other officials and family members for their outstanding performance during the championship, having Kuwait flag in prominence, as they won six gold, three silver and one bronze medals in the tournament in which more than 422 shooters representing 17 countries participated.

Eng Duaij Al-Otaibi said Kuwait shooting had always worked on maintaining its highly advanced levels that it had reached, and Kuwait shooters achievements in Cairo, are evidence, on the hard work and preparations for the sake of Kuwait and its sports. He said this would not have happened without the support of HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

Eng Al-Otaibi hoped the adverse circumstance Kuwait sports is going through be removed, so that Kuwait can participate under its own banner in all international competitions, especially that the Olympic games are approaching, for which six of our shooters have qualified, and are expected to compete for medals.

Al-Otaibi also thanked Information Minister, State Minister for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah for his relentless support of Kuwait shooting in all fields, as well as his encouragement of shooters, which always prompted them to win various championships. He also thanked the Public Authority for Sports and its Director General Sheikh Ahmad Mansour Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and



his deputies for their efforts to meet the shooting sport requirements so that it continues its success in the name of Kuwait. Meanwhile, Secretary General of Arab and Kuwait Shooting Federation Obaid Munahi Al-Osaimi congratulated HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber, government and people for what the Kuwaiti shooters have achieved during the 12th Arab shooting tournament, during which competition was really fierce. He said the shooters were up to expectations and were able to claim their places on the medal stages. Al-Osaimi said the board of directors decided to honor the medal winners in this championship.

Kuwait trap shooters were able to win first place and the team gold medal followed by Egypt in second and Lebanon in third place, meanwhile in the trap individual competition Kuwait's Khalid Al-Mudhaf won gold, Egypt's Ahmad Qamar won silver, and Kuwait's Olympian Fuhaid Al-Daihani won bronze, on the final day of competition.



## MCILROY ACE SPARKS MASTERS ROAR AS GRAND SLAM BID LOOMS

**AUGUSTA:** Rory McIlroy didn't let the Masters field finish Monday's opening practice day before sending the message that he will contend to complete a career Grand Slam this week at Augusta National.

The four-time major winner from Northern Ireland fired a hole-in-one at the par-3 16th to inspire cheers from the spectators as loud as anything tournament play has inspired among the Georgia pines.

"I don't think I've ever heard a roar that loud in a practice round," McIlroy said.

The 26-year-old used a 7-iron to connect from 170 yards and ensure he owned bragging rights for the round over playing partner Chris Wood of England.

McIlroy is trying to win the Masters to become sixth player to complete a career Grand Slam, joining Jack Nicklaus, Tiger Woods, Gary Player, Ben Hogan and Gene Sarazen.

He has captured the 2011 US Open, the 2012 and 2014 PGA Championships and the 2014 British Open, but all of those came after he led the 2011 Masters only to squander his chances for a green jacket with a nightmare back nine on Sunday.

"What's great about Augusta National (is) we have really good drama on the back nine on Sunday," said reigning British Open champion and 2007 Masters winner Zach Johnson.

"It's an aura about it. It's really hard to pinpoint. It's something intangible. Something that especially if there's multiple names up towards the top, you just feel like there's something that's going to happen and it just does.

"When you have the best players in the world playing the back nine at Augusta on Sunday, the best comes out. I don't know

what it is about that side, but it just brings the best, and sometimes the worst, out in everybody."

Relax on focus for a single shot and title hopes can vanish into the water or the pine trees, as McIlroy knows all too well. "If you're not mentally prepared for it, the pin placement is there, the wind is here, you have to land it there, yeah, it bites you," Johnson said.

"Am I feeling comfortable? I'm still not comfortable. There are certain things that are just difficult." Dustin Johnson, whose sixth-place effort last year was his best showing in six Masters starts, agreed, saying, "There's a lot of opportunities to make birdie and then there's a lot of opportunities to make disasters, too."

### FIRST MAJOR TITLE

Sweden's Henrik Stenson, also seeking his first major title, warns against rushing into any shot at Augusta National.

"You've got to be patient," he said. "It's just the margins for error are so small."

A host of worldwide stars are expected to be among Sunday's back-nine contenders, including recent US PGA winners Jason Day and Adam Scott of Australia, two-time Masters winner Bubba Watson of the United States and Charl Schwartzel of South Africa, who birdied the last four holes to win the 2011 Masters.

Defending champion Jordan Spieth got his first in-depth sense of the Augusta National atmosphere as a Masters winner.

"It's a different feeling on the grounds having won the tournament," Spieth said. "It was a dream come true for me, so when I'm here, all that comes back to me. It's really special." — AFP



**AUGUSTA:** Sammy Schmitz plays a shot during a practice round prior to the start of the 2016 Masters Tournament at Augusta National Golf Club on Monday in Augusta, Georgia.—AFP





## KENYA HOPEFUL OF DODGING WADA SANCTIONS

**NAIROBI:** Kenyan sports officials are optimistic the country will be granted more time to pass a robust anti-doping law and avoid a threatened Olympics ban.

A World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) deadline to tighten its anti-doping law and provide funding for a proposed anti-doping agency expired yesterday with lawmakers having failed to pass a bill criminalising sports doping. The bill is intended to save Kenyan athletes from an Olympics ban

threatened by International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) president Sebastian Coe.

"We have submitted all our documents to WADA as required," sports minister Hassan Wario said yesterday. "Compliance required a raft of factors about four key factors—with legalisation being a part of that," he told the local Citizen TV channel.

Wario said Kenya had fulfilled its requirements and he did not expect it to be declared non-compliant when

the WADA board meets in Montreal, Canada, on May 12.

"We are also in contact with key heads of IAAF and WADA especially on the yet to be finalised anti-doping bill. So far we remain optimistic," Wario said.

Sports ministry official Gordon Oluoch said the government would be seeking a further extension from WADA after missing Tuesday's deadline and a previous one in February.

"They know that we have had a

delay because of the law-making process, and they will give us the necessary time for parliament to discuss the bill before it is made into law," Oluoch said.

Kenya's Olympic chief Kipchoge Keino welcomed the move to seek more time and said he would travel to Lausanne, Switzerland, on Tuesday to meet with International Olympic Committee (IOC) officials over the matter. WADA and IAAF have warned that Kenyan athletes will be banned from

the Rio 2016 Olympics if the east African nation is declared non-compliant.

Keino said he would press the IOC to also ask WADA to give Kenya more time. "We have to accept that it has taken us too long to pass the anti-doping laws, and therefore it was our own mistake and we cannot blame WADA or the IOC," said Keino. "But we have to act now since Kenya cannot afford to miss competing in the Olympics in Rio." —AFP

### WRESTLEMANIA ROUNDUP

## THE GRANDEST STAGE OF THEM ALL?

By Thari AlRashed

**KUWAIT:** The thirty second annual WrestleMania took place on April 3 at the AT&T stadium in Dallas, Texas. The show was filled with special appearances from fan favorites and heart clutching moments. A major announcement was also made at the grandest stage of them all. And also a record was broken with 101,763 fans in attendance.

The event started with the kick off show. Three matches were shown: Kalisto vs Ryback for the United States title, The Dudley Boys vs The Usos and finally the 10 Diva tag team match between team Total Divas and team Bad and Blonde. After the Diva's match we were treated to the first surprise of the night with an appearance by Nikki Bella. Who came out to celebrate the victory with her sister while sporting her neck brace from her recent surgery. The kick off show had a fresh feeling to it. Seeing the fans being escorted to their seats while matches were going on was a first in WWE programming and I oddly found that very exciting.

### THE SHOCKER OF THE NIGHT

The first match was the six person Ladder match for the WWE Intercontinental title. The contestants being the defending champion Kevin Owens, Dolph Ziggler, Sami Zayn, Zack Ryder, The Miz, Stardust and Sin Cara. That match had the only shocker of the night for me. And that was Zack Ryder winning that contest. I did not see that happening due to his lack of push storyline wise. He's been reduced to being a jobber since 2012 so having him win this match was a little odd for me.

Also I thought that this would be Sami Zayn's night, especially after the great match he had with Shinsuke Nakamura on NXT: Takeover Dallas on Friday. That match was one of if not the best match I have ever seen in my life. Thinking more of it made me think that Zack could be used as a transitional champion. Something that was confirmed the following night on Monday Night Raw when Ryder dropped the title to The Miz, less than 24 hours after he won the strap.

The Chris Jericho vs AJ Styles match went down as expected. Both athletes put on a stellar match that showcased why they are two of the best technical wrestlers in the history of this industry. Up next was the three on four handicap match between The New Day and the League of Nations. The match was not my favorite. A quantity over quality match with the League picking up the victory. In the end, however, we were treated to other surprise appearances by Hall Of Famers Shawn Michaels, Mick Foley and Stone Cold Steve Austin. The legendary trio cleaned house by taking the League of Nations out.

### STEALING THE SHOW

The following two matches stole the show in my humble opinion. Them being the Brock Lesner vs Dean Ambrose and the triple threat match for the newly reestablished WWE women's championship. The brawl between Brock and Dean lead to me become a fan of Mr. Ambrose. Even though he lost, he did so with flair after putting himself in numerous dangerous situations. He shined in defeat which isn't an easy task to accomplish.

The Triple Threat match between Charlotte, Sasha Banks and Becky Lynch was the match of the night and was the most anticipated women's pro-wrestling match not only in the history of WrestleMania but the entire industry. The women had a lot of expectations to live up to and they did not disappoint.

The reintroduction of the Women's Championship solidified the revolution of the women's division that started about a year ago. The match was filled with great spots, like the top turnbuckle moonsault that Charlotte delivered to both Sasha and Becky outside the ring. The only thing I didn't like was the finish of the match, since I did not want Charlotte to win. Her reign has been very stale in my opinion and having Sasha or Becky win the title would have made this match have a fairly tale ending that this WrestleMania desperately needed and only got with Zack Ryder who turned out to lose this title in a comedic way the very next day.

### THE FINAL SEGMENT OF THE SHOW

Shane McMahon vs the legendary Undertaker in a Hell in a Cell with Taker's career and the control power of Monday Night Raw was on the line in a Hell in a Cell match. The match was the longest match of the evening with a run time of 30.5 minutes. Shane's leap of the top of the cell to the announce table was another highlight of the evening. It was very scary to see but it furthered the "rich boy's street cred" since it showed that he wasn't afraid to put his body on line for the entertainment of the fans. A dangerous stunt that even the people who bash the sport for being fake will admit was a major risk.

The 20-man third annual Andre the Giant memorial Battle Royal was next and had a surprise appearance by none other than the legendary NBA superstar Shaquille O'Neal.

The Rock and John Cena made the final surprise appearances of the night. The Rock competed in a match that lasted six seconds against Erick Rowan of the Wyatt Family. The match became the shortest match in the history of WrestleMania.

The main event pitting Triple H against Roman Reigns for the WWE Championship was a snooze fest. I was not looking forward to this match since I cannot stand either competitor and find them both to be boring performers. The match dragged on for 27 minutes and 11 seconds. The finish saw Roman win by pin fall after delivering his patented spear.

### LEFT ME WANTING MORE

Summing up the show is a little tricky to do this year. Was it the best WrestleMania in my opinion? No - far from it. As a fan of the pro-wrestling industry for close to 20 years now I was left wanting more.

The WWE will be making its return to the Middle East with two live events in Dubai on April 14th and 15th at the Dubai Duty Free Tennis Stadium. This won't be the first time the WWE comes to Dubai and surely not the last due to the great turnout these events have here in the region.



Sonny Bill Williams

## WILLIAMS 'FIGHTING FIT' AS OLYMPIC BID BECKONS

**HONG KONG:** All Blacks star Sonny Bill Williams is "fighting fit" after recovering from a knee injury as he presses his Olympic bid at this week's Hong Kong sevens, his captain said yesterday.

The code-hopping Rugby World Cup-winner, who is now trying to bag Olympic gold, missed the last two world sevens series tournaments but appeared untroubled in training yesterday.

"He's fighting fit. He was disappointed to miss the last ones through a bit of injury and he's ready to go," captain Tim Mikkelsen told reporters in Hong Kong. Williams suffered a swollen knee before the Las Vegas sevens, with unconfirmed reports in New Zealand saying the problem was exacerbated by an economy-class long-haul flight to the United States.

Coach Gordon Tietjens was non-committal about the economy-class theory but he said Williams, 30, had been training hard before the problem flared. "I really can't answer that," he said. "He'd just basically come off a pretty hard training week and it flared up

so that's really what it was."

Williams, who has also enjoyed a distinguished rugby league career and has had success as a heavy-weight boxer, showed no problems as he played a practice game and sprinted the length of the pitch in training.

"Sonny Bill Williams is fine. He loves the sport. He's a great athlete, he commits himself really well, he's got such a professional work ethic," Tietjens said.

"He's a great example for all the other younger players that are coming into the sevens environment and that's what's really special about him: he just sets high standards. It's great for the environment."

Despite his pedigree, Tietjens said even a player of Williams' standing needed tournaments and intense conditioning work to successfully switch to fast-moving, hard-running sevens.

"You just cannot make the transition in a short space of time," he said. "You've got to play world series tournaments. The game's evolved since the last time

a lot of them would have played it. Even Sonny Bill Williams said the other day, this game's a different beast altogether. The conditioning levels are huge."

New Zealand, who won last month's inaugural Vancouver sevens, are hoping for another strong showing in Hong Kong, the highlight of the world series and regarded a dress rehearsal for the Olympic sevens in August.

After Hong Kong, the world series heads to Singapore, Paris and London before rugby makes its return to the Olympic Games in Rio after a 92-year absence.

"I've got players that are hungry to be an Olympian," Tietjens said. "They all want to go to Rio, and every time they go out and they play in that black jersey, it's a performance they want to remember as about what puts them in that team to go to Rio."

"So that's why it's (Hong Kong) really important. We can't afford not to play well and the players can't afford not to play well." —AFP

## MUTOMBO URGES MORE ASIANS TO FOLLOW YAO MING'S LEAD

**SINGAPORE:** Basketball legend Dikembe Mutombo yesterday hailed the induction of "best friend" Yao Ming into the NBA Hall of Fame and urged more Asians to follow the Chinese star's lead.

Mutombo said more Asian players should leave their comfort zone and take risks just like Yao, who is among 10 members of the class of 2016 to be enshrined in basketball's Naismith Memorial Hall of Fame in September.

"Regarding my colleague and best friend Yao Ming-I call him Big Yao-I'm very excited," the National Basketball Association's global ambassador told reporters in Singapore, where he was attending a meeting on promoting the sport among Asian children. "He deserves it... I salute him so much and I take my hat off for everything

he gave to us. I can't wait to give him a big hug," Mutombo, 49, added.

But Mutombo believes culture remains the biggest hurdle holding back Asian players from following Yao's footsteps in the world's top professional basketball league. "In Asian culture, people are much (more) reserved about opening up," the Congolese told AFP.

"I would love to see more Asian players coming to the NBA. These are some things that Yao and I have been discussing a lot, but for some reason so many of them are just hesitant."

"It took a lot of people to convince Yao Ming to get out of China. Yao just didn't come on his own. It was tough," Mutombo said. Former Houston Rockets star Yao was the number one pick in the NBA draft in 2002 after leading the Shanghai Sharks to the Chinese title that same year.

He was an eight-time NBA All-Star (2003-2009, 2011) and broke the record for most All-Star votes, previously held by Michael Jordan in 2005.

Despite the dearth of Asian players in the NBA, Mutombo said there are still many "great talents" who could join. "The sky's the limit," he said. Mutombo, an eight-time NBA All-Star and four-time NBA Defensive Player of the Year, led the league in blocked shots for five seasons in a row from 1993-94 to 1997-98.

His sideways finger wag after blocks became a trademark. In an NBA career that spanned 18 seasons from 1991 to 2009, Mutombo scored 11,729 points, grabbed 12,359 rebounds and blocked 3,289 shots. Since his retirement he has travelled the world as the NBA's global ambassador. He was on transit at the airport in Brussels when Islamic State group militants bombed it on March 22 but escaped unscathed.

"Even before I came to Singapore, I had so many emails from friends, colleagues and family members who were saying 'Why are you still travelling? You just had a bad experience two weeks ago,'" he said. But he added: "Life has to go on, just because one thing happens in your life today doesn't mean that tomorrow you can't live your life like you used to." —AFP



**SINGAPORE:** Congolese American retired professional basketball player Dikembe Mutombo (L) answers questions during a media roundtable interview in Singapore yesterday. Mutombo, an eight-time NBA All-Star and four-time NBA Defensive Player of the Year is in Singapore for the second meeting of the Jr. NBA Asia Advisory Council. — AFP



Justin Gatlin

## GATLIN COACH TO REMAIN AS US RELAY BOSS FOR RIO

**NEW YORK:** Sprinter Justin Gatlin's trainer will remain as US relay coach for the Rio Olympics after officials decided to delay implementing a new policy for the job, USA Track & Field (USATF) said on Monday.

Dennis Mitchell had told Reuters in February he stepped down from the position after USATF added a provision that prohibits a person from being the national relay coach if they coach someone with a high likelihood of being part of the relay pool. Gatlin, the world silver medalist at both 100 and 200 metres, is expected to be a key member of the U.S. men's 4x100m relay team at the Aug. 5-21 Rio Games. Mitchell, who served as a doping ban in 1999, never submitted an official resignation, however, and USATF's high performance executive committee decided in March to delay the effective date of the change, USATF said on Monday.

"Because Dennis Mitchell was selected as national relay coach and approved by the USOC (US Olympic Committee) under procedures that were put in place on September 10, 2014, any new provisions for the national relay coach policy, if enacted, will take effect late 2016," USATF spokeswoman Jill Geer said in a statement to Reuters.

"As a result of the new timeline, Dennis Mitchell will continue to serve as national relay coach through the 2016 Olympic Games, as previously approved by USATF and the USOC." Mitchell, 50, has been the U.S. relay coach for men and women events since 2014. His hiring had been controversial because of his 1998 positive test for the banned hormone testosterone. —Reuters



## PARIS-ROUBAIX CHANGES RACE TIME TO LET TRAINS PASS

**PARIS:** Organisers of the Paris-Roubaix cycling classic said yesterday they have changed the times of this weekend's race to avoid last year's fiasco where riders passed through a railway crossing after the barriers had come down.

Sunday's 'Hell of the North' is the third of the year's 'Monument' one-day classics and one of the most prestigious races on cycling's calendar. "We've decided to

move the start time to avoid repeating what happened last year with a train passing at the same time as the peloton," said race director Thierry Gouvenou. The start time at Compiègne in northern France has now been set for 10:40 local time (08:40GMT) instead of 10:20 (08:10) as initially planned. "But if weather conditions are difficult we'll start earlier at 10:30," he continued. "If they are

favourable it will be 10:50. A decision will be made on Saturday afternoon after a meeting of the teams' sporting directors." Last year's incident took place as the main peloton reached a level-crossing shortly at Waller crossing, 87km from the finish line. The lights had turned red by the time the main peloton approached, although the front end of the bunch made it through before the barriers were

lowered, just before the approach of a high-speed TGV. The SNCF company made an official complaint to French prosecutors saying the action had risked a deadly tragedy. "It's very complicated," said Gouvenou. "When we start to change the schedules to be comfortable on the Arenberg crossing, we're a lot less comfortable on the one that is 10km from the finish line. We're closer to a

Nostradamus prediction than science." "Compared to last year, the regulation of the International Cycling Union (UCI) have been clarified. It stipulates precisely what a closed level crossing is, on the first ring or flashing light signal, even if the barriers are not lowered." In such cases, a new start will be given to the peloton with the discrepancies registered at the time of the stop. —AFP



**OAKLAND:** Chicago White Sox's Melky Cabrera swings against the Oakland Athletics in the third inning of a baseball game Monday, in Oakland, Calif. Cabrera reached first base on a throwing error by A's Mark Canha, scoring two runs. —AP



**SAN DIEGO:** Los Angeles Dodgers starting pitcher Clayton Kershaw works against the San Diego Padre in the fifth inning of a baseball game Monday, in San Diego. —AP

## HACKETT READY TO PUSH FOR RIO AFTER ILLNESS SETBACK

**SYDNEY:** Australian swimmer Grant Hackett has admitted that poor health earlier this year almost ended the former world record holder's hopes of competing at a fourth Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro. The 35-year-old Hackett retired from competition after the 2008 Beijing Olympics before he returned to the pool 18 months ago in the hope of making the team for the Aug. 5-21 Games. "I finished (2015) strongly and was pleased with my fitness and felt like I was making good gains," Hackett told reporters in Adelaide, where he was finalising preparations for the Australian national championships.

"Then 2016, I hit a standstill with getting bronchitis and being sick in the first couple of months, which was frustrating," he added ahead of the April 7-14 meet that doubles as selection trials for Rio.

"I needed everything to go right in this preparation to come here and race against these guys. The competition at an Olympic trials is stiff and it steps up that level.

"At my age, six years out of the sport and only 18 months back into it, you have to put your bits and pieces together perfectly." The double 1,500 metres freestyle Olympic champion, whose quest for a third successive gold was ended by Tunisia's Oussama Mellouli in Beijing, has entered the 100m, 200m and 400m freestyle events

in Adelaide. He recognised, however, that his best chance of making the Rio squad was as a member of the 4x200 freestyle team. He won a bronze in the event at last year's world championships in Kazan. Hackett, who turns 36 in May, was not the only swimmer making a comeback in Adelaide with two-time 100m freestyle world champion James Magnussen returning after shoulder surgery forced him out of Kazan last year.

Magnussen, however, broke 49 seconds for the first time since the shoulder reconstruction at the New South Wales state championships last month.

The 24-year-old London silver medallist clocked 48.85 seconds leading off his 4x100 relay team, which was a huge boost for his confidence according to national coach Jacco Verhaar. "I saw his relief and rightfully so," Verhaar told Australian Associated Press. "It showed that he is back on track. From his trajectory from surgery to where he is now, he must be very happy with his progression from successful rehab." Magnussen, whose personal best is 47.10, needs to finish in the top-two to qualify for the individual event for Rio, though he will be pushed by Cameron McEvoy, who clocked a world leading 47.56 in February and teenager Kyle Chalmers, who recorded 48.68 last month. — Reuters

## JAPAN SUPERSTAR KITAJIMA FUMES AFTER RIO FLOP

**TOKYO:** Japan swim king Kosuke Kitajima was furious at himself yesterday after failing in his bid to qualify for this summer's Rio Olympics in the men's 100 metres breaststroke. The 33-year-old, who won double gold in the 100 and 200m breaststroke at the 2004 and 2008 Summer Games, had been expected to qualify for his fifth Olympics.

But Kitajima cut a forlorn figure after losing his battle with Yasuhiro Koseki at the Japanese championships as both missed out on the qualifying mark of 59.63 seconds. "I'm speechless," a dejected Kitajima told reporters after clocking 59.93 in the Tokyo final, a day after dipping under the Rio standard in the semi-finals.

"It's just so upsetting I couldn't swim my usual race. I was thinking too much and swam a negative race. It's my own problem, I'm gutted. I need to go and cool my head and come back ready for the 200." Asia's most decorated swimmer, Kitajima and Japan's new kid on the block Koseki will look to bounce back in the 200m on Friday. "Now I have to throw everything I have into the 200," added Kitajima. "I guess I don't have to be so concerned about the pace in the 200. Hopefully I will be properly up for that and swim more relaxed." Koseki, who won

Tuesday's final in 59.66, was equally blunt in his assessment despite the consolation of a national title. "I don't believe it," he said. "That was pathetic really." The post-mortem began almost immediately as Kitajima's long-term coach Norimasa Hirai said: "He showed unusual mental weakness. I can't put my finger on what went wrong."

There were tears of joy earlier when 15-year-old schoolgirl Rikako Ikee broke down after winning the women's 100m butterfly and booked her place in Rio. After clocking 57.71 to stun 200m world champion Natsumi Hoshi, Ikee melted hearts by sobbing uncontrollably during her poolside interview, completely unable to answer questions.

Japanese sensation Kosuke Hagino, already assured of a place on the blocks in the 400m medley and tipped to be one of the stars of the Rio Games, qualified fastest for the men's 200m freestyle final in a time of 1:46.28. Asian champion Ryoosuke Irie stormed into the men's 100m backstroke final in a quickest time of 53.31 while Kanako Watanabe, world champion in the women's 200m breaststroke, raced into the final of the 100m in 1:07.03. The Japanese nationals double as the country's Olympic qualifiers. — AFP

## KERSHAW BRILLIANT AS DODGERS THRASH PADRES

**SAN DIEGO:** Clayton Kershaw was brilliant on opening day, holding San Diego to one hit in seven innings and striking out nine to lead rookie manager Dave Roberts and the Los Angeles Dodgers to a record-setting 15-0 victory against the Padres on Monday. It was the most lopsided opening day shutout in major league history. The previous mark was a 14-0 win by the Pittsburgh Pirates over the Cincinnati Reds in 1911, according to STATS. Kershaw (1-0) allowed Jon Jay's single with two outs in the third and then retired his last 13 batters. The lefty improved to 4-0 in six opening day starts. Adrian Gonzalez had three of Los Angeles' 17 hits and three RBIs, and A.J. Ellis also drove in three runs. Chase Utley had three hits and two RBIs. It was the worst opening day loss in the Padres' 48-year history. San Diego had only four hits.

### ROCKIES 10, DIAMONDBACKS 5

Trevor Story became the first player to hit two home runs in his major league debut on opening day as Colorado spoiled Zack Greinke's initial start for Arizona. Greinke (0-1), who signed a \$206.5 million, six-year contract with the Diamondbacks, had his worst outing in nearly four years, giving up seven runs - six in one inning. He allowed three homers in a game for the first time since Aug. 19, 2009. Story also became the first National League player to hit multiple home runs in his first game. Four have done it in the American League.

### CUBS 9, ANGELS 0

Jake Arrieta yielded two hits over seven dominant innings while Miguel Montero homered and drove in three runs as Chicago opened a season of high expectations with an easy victory over Los Angeles. Anthony Rizzo and Jorge Soler drove in early runs and Villanova product Matt Szczur added a three-run double in the ninth for the Cubs. Garrett Richards (0-1) gave up three runs over five innings in his first opening day start for Los Angeles. The Angels managed just three hits while getting shut out on opening day for the first time since 2002 - the year of their only World Series championship. They had never lost an opener by more than seven runs.

### NATIONALS 4, BRAVES 3, 10 INNINGS

Daniel Murphy was a huge hit in his Washington debut with a home run and a go-ahead double in the 10th inning as the Nationals rallied past Atlanta in their season opener. NL MVP Bryce Harper homered in his first plate appearance of the season as the Nationals made a winner of Dusty Baker in his first game as their manager. Washington tied it in the ninth on Michael Taylor's sacrifice fly to shallow center field. Atlanta nearly escaped with a game-ending double play but Jayson Werth scored when catcher A.J. Pierzynski dropped Ender Inciarte's accurate throw that beat Werth to the plate.

### GIANTS 12, BREWERS 3

Denard Span homered and drove in five runs in his San Francisco debut as the Giants beat Milwaukee in their opener despite a sluggish start from under-the-weather ace Madison

Bumgarner. Span hit a three-run shot in the eighth inning and Joe Panik and Buster Posey followed with home runs off Ariel Pena. It marked the first time the Giants had connected for three straight homers on opening day. It was the first time any team had done it in an opener since the Padres in 1997, the Giants said in citing the Elias Sports Bureau.

### RANGERS 3, MARINERS 2

Cole Hamels handed Seattle ace Felix Hernandez his first opening day loss as Texas managed to win with just one hit. Prince Fielder blooped an RBI single off Hernandez during a three-run fifth inning that included three walks and two errors. Seattle had a chance to join the Boston Beaneaters (1887-96) as the only major league clubs to win 10 straight openers. Robinson Cano and Kyle Seager homered early for the Mariners, but the midgame mistakes cost them the lead in the debut of manager Scott Servais.

### ORIOLES 3, TWINS 2

Matt Wieters singled home the winning run with two outs in the ninth inning as Baltimore withstood two long rain delays in a season-opening victory over Minnesota. A game that was scheduled to start at 3:05 p.m. finally ended at 8:44, even though the playing time was only 2 hours, 48 minutes. With the score tied at 2-2, Chris Davis drew a two-out walk from Kevin Jepsen (0-1). After newcomer Mark Trumbo followed with his fourth single, Wieters lined a single up the middle. Zach Britton (1-0), the sixth Orioles pitcher, worked a perfect ninth. Baltimore has won 13 of its last 16 openers, including six straight. Minnesota hasn't won on opening day since 2008.

### REDS 6, PHILLIES 2

Zack Cozart had three hits and drove in the tying run with a sacrifice fly in the eighth inning

while Joey Votto followed with a bases-loaded single that sent Cincinnati over Philadelphia in an opener matching the majors' two worst teams from last season. The Reds scored five times in the eighth against Philadelphia's work-in-progress bullpen. Jay Bruce completed the rally with a two-run single in front of 43,683 fans, the largest regular-season crowd in Great American Ball Park history. Votto struck out in his first three at-bats but singled off left-hander James Russell for a 4-2 lead.

### BLUE JAYS 5, RAYS 3

Josh Donaldson, Michael Saunders and Josh Thole homered to help R.A. Dickey and Toronto beat Tampa Bay. All three home runs were hit off Drew Smyly (0-1), with Donaldson connecting for a solo shot in the fifth inning, Saunders delivering a two-run homer in the fourth and Thole going deep on a third-inning drive that umpires initially ruled was a double after a fan interfered by catching the ball before it reached the stands. The call was reversed after a replay review, erasing a 1-0 Tampa Bay lead. Dickey (1-0) gave up three runs in five-plus innings. Roberto Osuna worked a perfect ninth for his second save.

### WHITE SOX 4, ATHLETICS 3

Chris Sale struck out eight in a solid season debut to build off his franchise record last year, pitching Chicago past Oakland. Adam Eaton hit an RBI triple and Jimmy Rollins drove in a run during a four-run third inning in his first game with the White Sox playing back home in the East Bay. What had been planned as a marquee matchup between two American League aces never happened. Oakland right-hander Sonny Gray was scratched because of food poisoning that sent him to the emergency room. Sale (1-0) went seven innings, giving up three runs and seven hits. The left-hander set a team mark with 274 strikeouts last season. — AP

## MLB results/standings

San Francisco 12, Milwaukee 3; Baltimore 3, Minnesota 2; Texas 3, Seattle 2; Cincinnati 6, Philadelphia 2; Washington 4, Atlanta 3 (10 innings); LA Dodgers 15, San Diego 0; Toronto 5, Tampa Bay 3; Chicago Cubs 9, LA Angels 0; Chicago White Sox 4, Oakland 3.

American League				National League				
Eastern Division				Eastern Division				
	W	L	PCT	GB				
Toronto	2	0	1.000	-	Washington	1	0	1.000
Baltimore	1	0	1.000	0.5	Miami	0	0	0
Boston	0	0	0	1	Atlanta	0	1	0
NY Yankees	0	0	0	1	NY Mets	0	1	0
Tampa Bay	0	2	0	2	Philadelphia	0	1	0
Central Division				Central Division				
Chicago White Sox	1	0	1.000	-	Chicago Cubs	1	0	1.000
Kansas City	1	0	1.000	-	Cincinnati	1	0	1.000
Cleveland	0	0	0	0.5	Pittsburgh	1	0	1.000
Detroit	0	0	0	0.5	Milwaukee	0	1	0
Minnesota	0	1	0	1	St. Louis	0	1	0
Western Division				Western Division				
Texas	1	0	1.000	-	Colorado	1	0	1.000
Houston	0	0	0	0.5	LA Dodgers	1	0	1.000
LA Angels	0	1	0	1	San Francisco	0	1	0
Oakland	0	1	0	1	Arizona	0	1	0
Seattle	0	1	0	1	San Diego	0	1	0



## PAKISTAN APPOINTS SARFRAZ AHMED NEW T20 CAPTAIN

**ISLAMABAD:** Pakistan's Cricket Board yesterday announced Sarfraz Ahmed as new captain of the T20 team after Shahid Afridi stepped down following his side's humiliating early exit from the World Twenty20.

A statement on the PCB website described Ahmed—who led the Quetta Gladiators to the final in Pakistan's first-

ever franchise-based T20 league in February—as a “natural choice” for the position. “I spoke to Sarfraz this morning and conveyed to him that he was our natural choice for this position. His appointment is open-ended. I wish him good luck in his new role,” it quoted PCB chairman Shaharyar Khan as saying. Afridi resigned as captain Sunday

after his team's exit from the tournament's group stage.

Ahmed, a right-handed wicketkeeper-batsman who has played 21 T20 internationals and the same number of Test matches, as well as 58 one-day internationals, said he will invoke the team's fighting spirit. “We will play good cricket,” the 28-year-old told

reporters after his appointment was announced.

He showered praise on the outgoing captain Afridi, subject of some of the most scathing criticism in the wake of the team's performance in India. “I haven't seen a megastar like Afridi in my cricketing career. He has served Pakistan cricket for 20 years,” Ahmed

said. Head coach Waqar Younis resigned Monday following Pakistan's disastrous performance in the World Twenty20. The 2009 champions were widely criticised for a lacklustre performance in India, with just one victory against unfancied Bangladesh and big losses to India, New Zealand and Australia.— AFP

## MUTO LEAVES EVERGRANDE ON BRINK OF SHOCK EXIT

**SAITAMA:** Yuki Muto's second-half winner left title-holders Guangzhou Evergrande teetering on the brink of a shock AFC Champions League exit as they went down 1-0 to Urawa Red Diamonds yesterday. Muto's header seven minutes after half-time consigned Luiz Felipe Scolari's super-rich Chinese champions to their second defeat in four games and left them rooted to the bottom of Group H.

With two games to go, winless Evergrande have just two points so far, five points off second place and a spot in the last 16, with their title defence seemingly at an end.

Evergrande, part-owned by Internet giant Alibaba, are the poster-child for President Xi Jinping's push to turn China into a football power, which has translated into heavy investment in players by Chinese clubs. But the five-time defending Chinese Super League champions looked anything but winners in a cauldron atmosphere as they faced Japan's Urawa and their massed ranks of fans in Saitama.

If not for some agile keeping by Zeng Cheng, the scoreline could have been worse for a team featuring ex-Tottenham Hotspur midfielder Paulinho and former Atletico Madrid striker Jackson Martinez, their record signing. Muto put Evergrande on the ropes on 52 minutes when he

instinctively got his head to the box, following a cross from Takahiro Sekine.

Zeng saved brilliantly from Sekine at close range but Tadanari Lee was left thumping the turf in exasperation when he passed up an open goal and instead tamely poked his shot at the goalkeeper.

Zeng also saved from Shinzo Koroki one-on-one to keep Evergrande in it but the visitors' costly strikeforce was finding little joy at the other end of the pitch.

Urawa's victory lifted them to second in Group H behind Sydney FC, who moved to the verge of the knock-out stages with a 1-0 home win over South Korea's Pohang Steelers.

Milos Ninkovic grabbed the winner for Sydney, who now have nine points from four games, in the 51st minute and at the second attempt after two Pohang players failed to clear the ball.

Elsewhere, in Group F, free-scoring FC Seoul lost their perfect record when they were held to a 0-0 draw by China's Shandong Luneng, with Brazilian sharpshooter Adriano unable to add to his nine goals so far.

And Japan's Sanfrecce Hiroshima kept up their bid for the knock-out stages when they beat Thailand's Buriram United 2-0 away.— AFP



**NEW YORK:** Alex Killorn #17 of the Tampa Bay Lightning scores against Thomas Greiss #1 of the New York Islanders during the second period at the Barclays Center on Monday in the Brooklyn borough of New York City. The Islanders defeated the Lightning 5-2.— AFP

## TAVARES CAPS ISLANDERS' 3-GOAL SECOND IN WIN OVER LIGHTNING

**NEW YORK:** The New York Islanders responded to a rare public scolding from head coach Jack Capuano and moved closer to clinching a playoff spot Monday night, as Matt Martin, Brock Nelson and John Tavares scored in a span of less than six minutes in the second period of a 5-2 win over the Tampa Bay Lightning at Barclays Center. The rebuke by the usually protective Capuano came two days after a 5-0 loss to the Pittsburgh Penguins, a defeat that dropped the Islanders to 5-6-2 since March 9 and left a playoff spot in peril.

Tarasenko scored one third-period goal and assisted on another to give the St. Louis Blues a 5-2 win over the Arizona Coyotes Monday night that pulled the Blues into a first-place tie with the Dallas Stars in the Central Division. Both teams have 105 points with two games remaining in the regular season. If the two teams end the season tied, Dallas would win the tiebreaker. The win also moved the Blues six points ahead of the third-place Blackhawks.

**CANUCKS 3, KINGS 2**  
Jared McCann scored the winning goal and Ryan Miller recorded 40 saves—including 20 in the third period—as the Vancouver Canucks beat the Los Angeles Kings 3-2 Monday night. McCann's goal on a breakaway at 19:27 of the second period stood up as the winner as the Canucks (30-36-13) posted their third consecutive win. Before Monday, Vancouver failed in eight attempts to record a three-game win streak.— Reuters



**SAITAMA:** China's Guangzhou Evergrande midfielder Paulinho (L) keeps the ball against Japan's Urawa Reds during their football match of the AFC champions league first round group H in Saitama yesterday.— AFP

## RONALDO HUNTS MORE GOALS IN GERMANY

**WOLFSBURG:** Cristiano Ronaldo, the Champions League's top scorer this season with 13 goals, can add to his tally and extend his record against German clubs in the knockout stages at Wolfsburg. The 31-year-old is currently four short of matching his record in a Champions League season ahead of Wednesday's quarter-final, first leg, at the German league club with the return next Tuesday at the Bernabeu. The Portuguese star is on a rich run against Bundesliga sides and has found the net in all of the last six knockout ties played against German clubs in the Champions League.

It started back in the 2011/12 semi-finals when he bagged a brace against Bayern Munich as the Bavarian giants went on to suffer heartbreak in the final at home to Chelsea.

In the 2012/13 campaign, he netted against Borussia Dortmund as the German side reached the final at Wembley when they lost to Bayern. But in the 2013/14

campaign, when Real achieved 'La Decima', he notched a total of seven goals across the home and away meetings with Schalke, Borussia and Bayern.

Then last season, he claimed three goals in the last-16 tie against Schalke in a 5-4 aggregate win, netting twice in the shock 4-3 defeat in Madrid having also scored when Real won 2-0 in Gelsenkirchen. A home Champions League quarter-final against Ronaldo and Real is a dream tie for the Wolfsburg squad, who are without a win in their last three games. “You can only be impressed with Cristiano Ronaldo,” said Wolfsburg's Germany international Julian Draxler.

“Just look at the way he has performed over the years and the goals he has scored. Of course, you always follow the progress of a player like him. We hope we can keep him at bay as much as possible over the two games. But at the end of the day, this is about Wolfsburg versus Real Madrid, not Wolfsburg versus Ronaldo.” — AFP



Cristiano Ronaldo

### RANGERS 4, BLUE JACKETS 2

After whiffing in two previous tries to secure a spot in the NHL playoffs, the New York Rangers punched their ticket to the postseason Monday night with a 4-2 victory over the Columbus Blue Jackets in Nationwide Arena. The Rangers (44-26-9) were 0-2-1 and had lost to non-playoff qualifiers Carolina and Buffalo in the past week before taking care of the business on the road against the Blue Jackets. Columbus (31-40-8) is another opponent that will not be advancing past the regular season.

### PANTHERS 4, MAPLE LEAFS 3

Rocco Grimaldi scored two goals and the Florida Panthers held on to defeat the Toronto Maple Leafs 4-3 Monday for their third straight victory. Grimaldi potted both of his goals in the second period. The center entered the game with one goal for the season, which he scored on Nov. 4.

### BLUES 5, COYOTES 2

Kyle Brodziak scored twice and Vladimir

### NHL Results/Standings

Toronto 3, Florida 4; Vancouver 3, Los Angeles 2; St. Louis 5, Arizona 2; NY Islanders 5, Tampa Bay 2; Columbus 2, NY Rangers 4.

Eastern Conference					Western Conference					
Atlantic Division					Pacific Division					
	W	L	OT	GF	GA	PTS				
Florida	45	25	9	229	197	99	Dallas	48	23	9
Tampa Bay	45	29	5	219	191	95	St. Louis	48	23	9
Detroit	40	28	11	204	216	91	Chicago	46	26	7
Boston	41	30	8	233	220	90	Nashville	39	26	14
Ottawa	36	34	9	224	240	81	Minnesota	38	31	11
Montreal	36	37	6	211	228	78	Colorado	39	36	4
Buffalo	33	35	11	193	214	77	Winnipeg	32	39	8
Toronto	28	40	11	192	233	67				
Metropolitan Division					Central Division					
Washington	55	17	6	241	182	116	Anaheim	44	24	10
Pittsburgh	46	25	8	235	194	100	Los Angeles	46	28	5
NY Rangers	44	26	9	229	209	97	San Jose	44	29	6
NY Islanders	43	26	9	219	203	95	Arizona	35	37	7
Philadelphia	39	26	13	203	208	91	Vancouver	30	36	13
Carolina	34	29	16	192	216	84	Calgary	33	40	6
New Jersey	37	34	8	176	200	82	Edmonton	30	43	7
Columbus	31	40	8	205	246	70				

Note: Overtime losses (OT) worth 1 pt and not included in loss column (L).

## POCHETTINO HOPES EUROPEAN EXIT HELPS SPURS HUNT DOWN FOXES

**LONDON:** Tottenham Hotspur's clash with Manchester United on Sunday will show whether manager Mauricio Pochettino made the right call when he sacrificed progress in Europe to focus on clinching Spurs' first Premier League title in 55 years.

Second in the table and seven points adrift of leaders Leicester City with six games left, Spurs were knocked out of the Europa League by Borussia Dortmund 5-1 on aggregate after Pochettino rested key players in the last-16 stage.

The Argentine made seven changes to his team for the first leg in Germany, resting Eric Dier and leaving leading scorer Harry Kane on the bench, along with Mousa Dembele and Erik Lamela. Spurs lost the game 3-0, effectively killing off their hopes of progression to the quarter-finals.

They got over that disappointment by put-

ting three goals past Bournemouth in the league three days after the second leg, but Pochettino's hope that the absence of European action would help his players hunt down the Foxes were derailed by the international break.

Spurs had only a day to prepare for their match against Liverpool last weekend and duly allowed Leicester to stretch their lead by dropping two points at Anfield, but have eight days to prepare for the visit of United.

“We haven't had many clear weeks this season,” Pochettino told the club's website (www.tottenhamhotspur.com). “We've had a lot of midweek games but... now we have a few days to recover and try to prepare for United.”

“It's important because we only really had one day to prepare for Liverpool. International weeks can be difficult... but now we have six games left in six weeks and time to prepare the players. We will fight until the end of the season.”

Meanwhile, United midfielder Ander Herrera backed his team to raise their game against Spurs, citing their record against the top teams this season.

United beat Spurs in their opening league game of the campaign, and have also recorded wins over Arsenal, Manchester City and Liverpool, as well as an away draw at leaders Leicester City.

“When we play against a top team, I am not so worried about our performance because we usually do quite well,” the Spaniard told British media.

“We have to prepare very good... because we watched Tottenham's game against Liverpool. I think they deserved to win, they controlled the second-half almost fully, so it is not going to be easy.”

“But when we play against top teams I think we perform better.” — Reuters



## PSG V MAN CITY 'EL CASHICO' IS ALSO A GULF CLASH

**DOHA:** The Champions League quarter-final between Paris Saint-Germain and Manchester City today is not just a contest between two of Europe's richest clubs, it is also a battle of honour between Qatar and Abu Dhabi.

The English Premier League and Ligue 1 champions are emblematic of the domination of wealthy foreign owners in modern-day football. Between them they are estimated to have spent more than 1.5 billion euros (\$1.7 billion) on players, according to sports industry studies.

The football clash has sparked interest across the Middle East. Adding to the spice away from the football pitch, political relations between World Cup 2022 hosts Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, of which Abu Dhabi is one of the seven constituent emirates, have until recently been poor.

"Yes, you can say there is competition to see who has the best team," said Qatari football fan, Mohammed Al-Jazali,

talking of the competition between Qatar and UAE.

"It is like seeing if my BMW outperforms my neighbour's Mercedes." The tie has been dubbed "El Cashico", the "Oil and Gasico" and even the "Abu Derby" by inventive fans on social media.

It is clear that without Middle East involvement, this fixture would almost certainly not be taken place, and definitely not in the Champions League. Under Gulf ownership the two teams have been propelled into Europe's elite, uncharted territory for both sides.

Before Qatar Sports Investments (QSI) took ownership in 2012, PSG had most notably won two Ligue 1 titles and a UEFA Cup. They are estimated to have spent more than 550 million euros since on transfers.

Turbo-charged by Gulf wealth, PSG have won four consecutive league titles, and are bidding, like City, for their first Champions League semi-final. Chairman Nasser Al-Khelaifi, who also heads up

beIN Media, has made it no secret his aim for PSG to win the Champions League.

Similarly, City had last won a major trophy in 1976 and had been in the third tier of English football as recently as 1999 before being taken over by Abu Dhabi United Group, led by Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, in 2008.

### VALUABLE SIDE

In those eight years they have doubled to four the number of English league titles they have won since being formed in 1880. City are said to have spent one billion euros on players under their Abu Dhabi owners.

Now PSG are estimated by Deloitte to be the fourth most valuable side in the world with an estimated revenue of 480 million euros.

Manchester City are not far behind, the sixth most valuable club side, with a wealth of 463 million euros, say Deloitte. "Qatar's project is much bigger," added

Jazali. "It helps to get Qatar's image out there more effectively for the World Cup."

UAE-based City fan Chris Newbould disputes this, and pointed to Sheikh Mansour's investment in the city as well as the club. "Our guys have done it in a different way to the typical Qatari approach," he said.

"They have regenerated east Manchester, the (youth) academy is probably the best in the world. They seem to be in it for the long-term and I can't definitely say Qatar will do the same."

### OFF-PITCH RIVALRY

Beyond football, there is also a political aspect to this thoroughly modern clash.

In March 2014, the UAE withdrew its ambassador from Qatar in protest at Doha's support for the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt, although the envoy has since returned.

"Ties have improved markedly since... March 2014," said Kristian Coates Ulrichsen, a fellow for the Middle East Rice University's Baker Institute.

"Emir Tamim has been a regular visitor to the UAE and has patched up relations that came under unprecedented strain during the rule of his father and in the immediate aftermath of the Arab Spring."

British academic and author Christopher Davidson said the days of both states funding such expensive overseas projects as PSG and City may be over because of the slump in energy prices.

He conceded there are warmer relations between the Gulf state rivals, but questioned how long that will last.

"(There is) no trust at all between the two, with only their shared interest in maintaining a US alliance binding them together," he said. "Either regime would relish a chance to topple the other whenever the opportunity arose." —AFP

## EL CLASICO WIN BUOYS REAL'S BALE FOR WOLFSBURG MISSION

**WOLFSBURG:** Real Madrid star Gareth Bale says their El Clasico win over Barcelona has given the Spanish giants the perfect confidence booster for today's Champions League quarter-final, first-leg, at Wolfsburg.

Real used to have a terrible record away to German opposition in Europe, but their run to winning the 2014 final, when they claimed their tenth European crown, changed all that.

Having thrashed Schalke 6-1 in Gelsenkirchen two years ago in the last 16, they routed Bayern Munich 4-0 at the Allianz Arena in the semi-finals en route to beating Atletico Madrid in the final.

This time around, Zinedine Zidane's Real are clear favourites for the quarter-final first leg at Wolfsburg's Volkswagen Arena, especially after Saturday's 2-1 victory when Cristiano Ronaldo scored their late winner at arch rivals Barcelona with 10 men.

Ronaldo has found the net in all six knockout ties played against German sides and, with 13 goals to his credit this season, he is just four short of breaking his record in a single European campaign. Madrid are in the quarter-finals for the sixth time in a row. They are on their best run of the season after ending arch rivals Barca's 39-game unbeaten run with their sixth successive win and are in no mood to suffer an upset in Wolfsburg.

"I said mentally this win (against Barcelona) puts us in a great position, but we have to keep working hard," said Bale.

"The win builds confidence for the rest of the season. "But there's a long way to go in the Champions League and La Liga and we still have to keep fighting all the way," he added with Real chasing an 11th European crown.

Brazil midfielder Casemiro said Real will take nothing for granted at Wolfsburg. "In this round, there are no easy teams," said the 24-year-old. "Wolfsburg defend well, they have quick players in attack and we

need to respect them, but we will respect them playing our football, playing well and being Real Madrid."

### KNOCK-OUT STAGES

Real's top form is juxtaposed by Wolfsburg's recent results with the German Cup holders winless in their last three games since beating Gent at home in the last 16.

They were thumped 3-0 at Bayer Leverkusen last Friday, causing director of sport Klaus Allofs to confess they are not living up to their Champions League status in Germany's top flight.

Nevertheless, the hosts have a chance to pull off a shock victory having reached the knock-out stages of the Champions League for the first time. "We are looking forward to the game, we have nothing to lose," said Wolfsburg's Germany midfielder Julian Draxler. "I think that's a plus point for us. "We have already shown we can play well against top teams, but a lot of things must come together." Wolfsburg need to recapture the form which led to their 3-2 win at home to Manchester United in the group stages last December which eliminated the Red Devils from the Champions League.

Wolfsburg need no extra motivation with Draxler a self-confessed Ronaldo fan while forward Maximilian Arnold dreamed of playing against Madrid as a child.

Nevertheless, Wolfsburg will need to step up their performance to prevent the dream tie against Madrid becoming a real nightmare at home to Real. Zidane is expected to name the same full-strength team which started at the Camp Nou with French international Raphael Varane the only injury absentee.

Wolfsburg are without left-back Sebastian Jung who tore a knee ligament against Gent and is out for the season while midfielder Daniel Caligiuri has a groin injury. —AFP



**SAINT-GERMAIN-EN-LAYE:** Paris Saint-Germain's players take part in a training session yesterday in Saint-Germain-en-Laye, western Paris, on the eve of their UEFA Champions League football match against Manchester City. — AFP

## COACH BLANC WARNS PSG AGAINST OVERCONFIDENCE

**PARIS:** Paris Saint-Germain coach Laurent Blanc has warned his much-fancied side that they must not be overconfident heading into the first leg of their Champions League quarter-final against Manchester City at the Parc des Princes today.

The French champions are looking to reach the semi-finals of this competition for the first time in two decades but this is their fourth season running in the last eight, while City have never before been at this stage.

That has led many observers to give a polished PSG side, deserved winners against Chelsea in the last 16, the label of favourites to beat Manuel Pellegrini's men after they were relieved to avoid being drawn against Barcelona, regular rivals in Europe in recent seasons.

"All the little details are important in ties like these and the experience we have accumulated in the last few years could play a part," Blanc told a press conference at the Parc des Princes yesterday.

"What I see is that when the draw was made, everyone, including us, was satisfied to avoid the two ogres of European football at the moment in Bayern Munich and Barcelona.

"You could maybe include Real Madrid in that, so once we avoided these three teams I feel like the media and all the supporters thought, well it's an easy draw, but it is absolutely not.

"The players mustn't listen to anyone saying that because those people don't understand anything about football.

"City's project is sort of parallel to ours. They have talented players in every area, great quality and quantity of players."

Those similar projects that Blanc talks about have seen extremely rich Middle Eastern investors come into both clubs in recent seasons, transforming them from also-rans into leading forces at home and abroad.

Qatar-owned PSG have become France's dominant club and made rapid progress abroad since being taken over in 2011, while City have won just two Premier League titles since being bought by the Abu Dhabi United Group in 2008 and have toiled at times in Europe.

That led City's French midfielder Samir Nasrione of Marseille and who endured a difficult relationship with Blanc when he was in charge of France to question how PSG would cope playing in the Premier League rather than in the less competitive environment of Ligue 1.

Blanc, however, insists the intensity of English football does not give the country's clubs an advantage in Europe.

"Even in France people wonder whether Ligue 1 does us no favours," admitted Blanc. "Intensity is not everything. The English are so intense that they play a lot. They get to February, March, April or May and they are tired.

"We play in a different league because we are obliged to, and we want to, but if the English have a very competitive league it doesn't mean they have any guarantees of going far in Europe."

### DI MARIA FIT

PSG's own prospects are not helped by the absence due to injury of influential Italian midfielder Marco Verratti and Javier Pastore, but former Manchester United star Angel Di Maria is fit after picking up a knock playing for Argentina

last week and missing Saturday's 4-1 win against Nice.

City travel fresh from a 4-0 win at Bournemouth on Saturday in which Belgian playmaker Kevin De Bruyne scored on his return after injury.

Manchester City coach Manuel Pellegrini must decide whether to keep De Bruyne in his line-up in the French capital, while Yaya Toure has a heel injury and Raheem Sterling and Vincent Kompany are also on the sidelines.

Goalkeeper Joe Hart, who has had a calf problem, trained on Tuesday though and PSG will have to find a way of stopping City's star man Sergio Aguero.

"Kun is a magnificent player," said PSG defender Maxwell. "He has so many qualities and is like Romario was for Brazil, small and strong.

"We need to make sure he doesn't have space in which to make the difference." —AFP



**New Chelsea manager Antonio Conte**

## CHELSEA BOSS CONTE FACES MATCH-FIXING SENTENCE

**ROME:** An Italian court yesterday called for new Chelsea manager Antonio Conte to receive a six-month suspended prison sentence over match-fixing allegations. The current Italy manager, who will take over Chelsea after Euro 2016, is accused of sporting fraud.

The 'Calciocommesse' (football-betting) probe maintains that the 46-year-old former Juventus boss failed to expose an alleged rigged second-division match in May 2011.

The game involved Siena, whom Conte managed at that time. Conte, who denies any wrongdoing, was also ordered to pay an 8,000 euros (\$9,000) fine, by Cremona court public prosecutor Roberto Di Martino. The May 29, 2011 game suspected of being fixed for betting purposes ended with a 1-0 away win for Conte's side at Albinoleffe. Siena gained promotion to Serie A that season, with that success earning Conte the job at Juventus, the club he graced as a player for 13 years. In 2012, when he was in charge of Juventus, Conte was hit with a 10-month ban by the Italian football federation over the affair, reduced to four

months on appeal.

The new man at Stamford Bridge is due to hear his fate on whether he is hit with a criminal sentence in mid-May. Conte's lawyers elected for a fast-track trial in order to get it wrapped up before the European championships begin in France on June 10. Yesterday's development came less than 24 hours after Conte was appointed on a three-year deal to take charge of Chelsea.

He will succeed Guus Hiddink, appointed interim manager after Jose Mourinho's sacking in December. Conte took over the Italian national team in August 2014 and secured their Euro 2016 qualification.

He guided Juventus to three straight Serie A titles from 2012-14 before taking charge of Italy. The 'Calciocommesse' scandal broke in June 2011 and has seen many well-known figures from football serve bans for match-fixing, such as former Italy internationals Giuseppe Signori and Cristiano Doni. Around 100 people are still awaiting trial accused with various roles in the vast corruption scandal. —AFP



**WOLFSBURG:** Wolfsburg's striker Max Kruse runs with the ball during a training session at Volkswagen Arena on the eve of the UEFA Champions League quarter-final, first-leg football match between VfL Wolfsburg and Real Madrid yesterday in Wolfsburg, central Germany. —AFP



**Matches on TV**  
(Local Timings)

### UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

**VfL Wolfsburg v Real Madrid 21:45**

beIN SPORTS 2 HD

**Paris Saint-Germain v Man City 21:45**

beIN SPORTS 1 HD



## Sports

Kuwait wins 6 gold  
in Arab Shooting  
ChampionshipNew Chelsea boss  
Conte faces  
match-fixing  
sentence

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6, 2016

KERSHAW BRILLIANT AS DODGERS THRASH PADRES Page 17



KUWAIT: The victorious Kuwait Sports Club team holding the Amir's Cup after beating Al-Arabi Sports Club 3-1 in the final held at the Jaber International stadium yesterday. (Inset) HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah hands over the Cup to the winners. — KUNA

## KUWAIT TROUNCE AL-ARABI TO LIFT AMIR'S CUP

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Sports Club won His Highness Amir Football Cup for 11th time in the club's history after beating Al-Arabi Sports Club in a thrilling 3-1 final, held at Jaber International Stadium and attended by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

Kuwait began the clash offensively attempting to score first, and indeed scoring the first goal in the 3rd minute by Moroccan international Yasseen Salehi who converted a crossover and the ball passed by Al-Arabi goalkeeper Hameed Al-Qallaf's right hand side.

Salehi, posing a real threat on Al-Qallaf, scored the

second goal just two minutes later but the referee declared the player was off-side. Rocky Talal Jazea's unstoppable kick from outside the box in the 8th minute pushed Kuwait's lead to two goals to none.

Kuwait's Jordanian international Hamza Dardoor was tripped in the box in the 20th minute. Salehi's penalty kick secured Kuwait's three-goal difference lead.

Al-Arabi coach replaced midfielder Yusuf Al-Enezan with striker Hussain Al-Mosawi, who missed many chances to score and many attempts were saved by Kuwait's goalkeeper Musab Al-Kanderi.

Al-Mosawi scored his team's lone goal in the 52nd minute. Al-Arabi tried hard to close the gap despite relentless pressing. Al-Mosawi missed a penalty kick, saved by Al-Kanderi in the 82nd minute.

Qadsia leads with His Highness the Amir Cup's titles, winning the competition 16 times in its history. It is followed by Al-Arabi with 15 times. Kuwait won it 10 times.

In statements to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), Kuwait SC Chairman Abdulaziz Al-Marzouq commended the spirit of the players who showed great confidence throughout the final match. He said the players

were determined since the beginning of the season to achieve positive results, and indeed honored their promises. Salehi, scoring two of the three goals, said he was really happy to win the cup. He said the players were determined to do everything they could throughout the final game. Goalie Al-Kanderi, who saved a penalty kick, said the win boosted confidence of the players for future competitions.

Defender Fahad Al-Hajri said he was happy with the victory although the team was not successful in winning Kuwait League and His Highness the Crown Prince's Cup. — KUNA



BARCELONA: Barcelona's Luis Suarez, 2nd left, scores his side's 2nd goal during a Champions League quarter-final, first leg soccer match between FC Barcelona and Atletico Madrid at the Camp Nou stadium yesterday. — AP

## BARCA COMES BACK TO BEAT 10-MAN ATLETICO

**BARCELONA:** Luis Suarez scored two second-half goals to lead Barcelona to a 2-1 comeback victory over 10-man Atletico Madrid in the first leg of their Champions League quarter-final yesterday.

Fernando Torres opened the scoring in the 25th minute, but quickly went from hero to villain for Atletico when two reckless tackles saw him sent off in the 35th. Atletico resisted the defending champion's push for an equalizer until Suarez finally leveled with an opportunistic goal in the 63rd.

Suarez then put Barcelona ahead in the 74th when he played Dani Alves wide before sending the Brazil defender's cross past goalkeeper Jan Oblak with an unstoppable header. The win comes three days after Real Madrid ended Barcelona's Spanish record 39-match unbeaten streak with a 2-1 win at Camp Nou.

Besides recovering its winning ways after the disappointing "clasico" defeat, Luis Enrique's side avenged its exit at the hands of Atletico from the 2013-14 quarterfinals with its club-record 11th consecutive home win in the competition.

Suarez scored his team-high seventh and eight goals in the Champions League this season, as he and strike partners Lionel Messi and Neymar recovered their dominant form after underwhelming against Real.

But at full strength, Atletico's disciplined defense, which had Diego Godin back in the middle after an injury layoff, disrupted Barcelona's attack, a promising sign that coach Diego Simeone can take into the second leg in addition to the away goal.

After a pair of shots from Messi that sailed well wide, Barcelona got its first good chance almost 20 minutes in when Neymar's header just missed the bar after Dani Alves found him with a cross in the area.

Atletico had been content to absorb

Barcelona's attacks until Antoine Griezmann got its first shot. While his effort was off-target, Torres didn't miss a minute later to continue his great scoring record against Barcelona.

Gabi Fernandez led Atletico forward by passing to Jorge "Koke" Resurreccion, who in turn slipped a through ball to meet Torres's run. The striker did the rest by sending a first-time shot between the legs of keeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen for his 11th goal in 15 matches against Barcelona. The goal unsettled Barcelona and Griezmann almost added another, only for Ter Stegen to redeem himself with a spectacular dive to paw his volley past his post.

Charged with being Atletico's first line of defense, an over-eager Torres had picked up a booking for a foul on Neymar in the 29th, and a second clumsy tackle on Sergio Busquets earned him another yellow just minutes later.

Atletico succeeded in bunkering down without trouble until the action picked up after half-time. The visitors had the first threat through Felipe Luis' header, but after surviving the scare, Barcelona picked up the pace of its passing and hemmed Atletico into its box.

Messi almost struck with an acrobatic bicycle kick before Neymar fired the ball against the bar in the 51st. Seeing his team in trouble, Simeone sent on midfielder Augusto Fernandez for Yannick Carrasco. Even so, moments later Messi found the angle to force Oblak to make his first tough save.

With Atletico struggling to keep up, Suarez finally undid Atletico when he was in position to turn in Jordi Alba's errant shot. Barcelona continued to press and Suarez was both playmaker and finisher for the winning goal when he spotted Dani Alves free on the right wing before moving forward to thump in his pass. The return leg is at Atletico's Vicente Calderon Stadium next week. — AP

## VIDAL GIVES BAYERN SLIM LEAD AGAINST BENFICA

**MUNICH:** Arturo Vidal gave Bayern Munich a slender 1-0 lead for their Champions League quarter-final return leg at Benfica next week, after hitting the winner just 109 seconds into yesterday's first leg.

Bayern produced an off-key display at Munich's Allianz Arena and their fifth straight appearance in the Champions League semi-finals is far from assured. Rui Vitoria's Benfica can take plenty of heart before the second leg at the Estadio da Luz on Wednesday April 13, after subjecting Bayern to a frustrating second half in Munich. However, the Portuguese league leaders will be without top-scorer Jonas after the 32-year-old picked up a second-half booking, his third of the tournament.

In the build-up, Bayern coach Pep Guardiola had described Benfica as having "perhaps the best back four" in Europe, after leaking just 19 goals in the Portuguese league this season.

But it took less than two minutes for Bayern to break the Benfica defence. Franck Ribery crossed from the left and Juan Bernat, untroubled by the Benfica defenders, found Vidal in space to nod comfortably past Ederson. Benfica failed to cope with Vidal's late runs from midfield as he again got on the end of a cross with half-time approaching, but the ball bounced harmlessly onto the roof of the net. Having scored Bayern's winner with a spectacular bicycle kick last Saturday against Eintracht Frankfurt, Franck Ribery tried the trick again, but without the same success.

Vidal took a painful blow for the Bayern team just before the break when he blocked a shot from Benfica captain Nicolas Gaitan with his nether regions. But as the game wore on, Benfica's back four began to back up Guardiola's compliment by frustrating Bayern's attack, especially Robert Lewandowski and Thomas

Mueller. Vitoria's men will be without their Brazilian hot-shot Jonas, who has scored 30 goals in the Portuguese league, for the return leg after a 58th-minute foul on Vidal.

In a bid to shut Benfica's attacking game down, Bayern coach Pep Guardiola switched Joshua Kimmich for Spain international Javi Martinez with an hour gone. Bayern started to live dangerously.

There was pandemonium in the Bavarians' penalty area on 65 minutes when only desperate defending denied Jonas, who got off three shots. With 20 minutes to go, both coaches threw on game changers as Guardiola introduced fleet-footed France winger Kingsley Coman, then Mario Goetze for the final five. Vitoria brought on Mexico forward Raul Jimenez for Kostas Mitroglou. Bayern have only themselves to blame for not doubling their tally in the dying stages. — AFP



# Kuwait Times BUSINESS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6, 2016

China bank chiefs' low pay slashed; problems mount

Page 22

Ooredoo offers new internet packages; competitive prices

Page 26



Ford invests \$170 million in S Africa, creates 1,200 jobs

Page 26

## WORLD EQUITIES ROCKED BY NEW OIL SLIDE

Page 23



BIRMINGHAM: Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron speaks during a question and answer session on the forthcoming European Union referendum with staff of PricewaterhouseCoopers yesterday. —AFP

# TACKLING TAX HAVENS IS A TOUGH TASK

## PANAMA PAPERS BRING RENEWED CALLS FOR GLOBAL CLAMPDOWN

**LONDON:** There's one part of the British Empire on which the sun still does not set: Its tax havens. Britain's former world dominance has left it with a string of tiny territories scattered around the globe, and many of them have become hubs for hiding money. Despite growing political pressure, shutting down these and other tax havens may be easier said than done.

The leak of 11.5 million documents from a Panamanian law firm that specializes in discreet financial services for the wealthy has brought renewed calls for a global clampdown on shadowy financial activity. Many feel Britain bears an especially large duty to act. More than half the 200,000 companies set up for clients by Panamanian firm Mossack Fonseca in the leaked files are registered in the British Virgin Islands, a British overseas territory in the Caribbean.

"Britain has a huge responsibility," Jeremy Corbyn, leader of the main opposition Labour Party, said yesterday. "The government needs to stop pussyfooting around on tax dodging." As Britain's colonies gained independence after

World War II, London encouraged several small Caribbean islands to become tax havens as a means to self-sufficiency. As a result, many of the world's tax havens have British links, including overseas territories such as the British Virgin Islands, Bermuda and the Cayman Islands.

The Channel Islands of Jersey and Guernsey off the French coast, which are possessions of the British Crown, have been havens for the wealthy and their money for almost a century. The calls for change echoing around the world in the wake of the Panama revelations are not entirely new. When the global financial crisis erupted in 2008, cash-strapped governments looked for ways to claw back some of the billions hidden from tax authorities in overseas havens.

### Secret Dealings

Since then, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and the Group of 20 nations have persuaded more than 90 countries to share financial data in a bid to crack down on secret dealings. Fiona Fernie, head of tax invest-

igations at the law firm Pinsent Masons, said the resolve among governments was having a real effect. "The big difference - the sea change - was that world leaders have decided to come together on this matter, to shut down the loopholes," she said. "People can run, but eventually they will not be able to hide."

Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron has been among the loudest champions of greater transparency and is due to host an international anti-corruption summit in London next month. Legislation forcing British companies to disclose who really benefits from their ownership comes into force in June, and the government says it is "determined" to get the Cayman Islands and British Virgin Islands to adopt stronger transparency rules.

But the Panama papers contain embarrassing details of how the prime minister's late father, Ian Cameron, used an offshore shelter to keep his fortune safe from British tax. Corbyn and other opposition figures say British authorities must go further and take offshore tax havens back under

direct UK control - an extreme but not impossible move. Britain imposed direct rule on the Turks and Caicos islands in the Caribbean for three years from 2009 amid a corruption scandal.

Conservative lawmaker Dominic Grieve, a former attorney general, said eliminating the islands' tax-haven status could devastate local economies and would not stop abuse of the tax system. "What will in fact happen is that people will go to other havens which may in fact have far less good regulation, so what we would in fact be encouraging is the very money laundering and criminality that we want to suppress," he told the BBC.

### No Change Seen

Crawford Spence, associate dean of Warwick Business School, said the Panama revelations would put pressure on world leaders to do more, but he did not expect big change. Tax authorities in Britain have promised to investigate the leak, but Spence said "chronically understaffed" government bodies were no match for the tax evaders. "Those who run tax havens and advise their

clients to go through tax havens are so far ahead of the regulators, it's unbelievable," he said. "All the brightest people are working on that side, because that's where all the cash is."

Richard Murphy, an accountant and tax-reform activist, is more optimistic. He said the Panama papers show "a very significant decline in the number of new incorporations of offshore companies since 2008". He believes negative publicity, rather than legal reforms, is making the wealthy mend their ways. "I think the campaign against tax havens is working - but not at a legal level," he said. "People have realized there is a massive reputational risk to being caught in these places."

Justin Urquhart Stewart of Seven Investment Management said controversy over the huge leak could have the same effect on nations like Panama that have benefited from attracting offshore money. "Panama will be embarrassed into taking action to try to make sure this does not happen again," he said. "But be wary - once you've shut down one tax haven, lo and behold, you'll find there'll be another one along soon." —AP

## YOUTHS AGAINST LABOR BILL CLASH WITH PARIS POLICE

**PARIS:** Paris riot police yesterday fired tear gas and charged youths throwing stones, bottles and eggs during fresh protests against France's proposed labor reforms, making over 100 arrests. "Police everywhere, justice nowhere," hooded youths shouted as shopkeepers in the area rolled down their shutters. Police said 130 people were arrested on the sidelines of the march. Students have been in the forefront of a wave of sometimes violent protests over the Socialist government's labor reforms seen as too pro-business and unlikely to achieve their stated goal of reining in unemployment, which stands at 25 percent among young people.

Students barricaded dozens of high schools across France, but fewer than in previous protests. Student leader Pierre Monquet noted that the exam period is approaching and said the group was seeking permission to stage debates on the labour reforms in high schools. The Socialist government is desperate to push through reforms to France's controversial labor laws, billed as a last-gasp attempt to boost the flagging economy before next year's presidential election.

Unions and students are angry over the plans to make it easier for struggling companies to fire workers, even though the reforms have already been diluted once in a bid to placate critics. Yesterday's protests come as a parliamentary committee began debating the labor bill, with more protests set for Saturday. In between, several ministers including Education Minister Najat Vallaud-Belkacem have agreed to meet with youth groups.

In the southern city of Marseille, protesters overturned rubbish bins and threw eggs during a demonstration that drew around 1,500 according to police. Last Thursday some 400,000 people protested across France and students forced the closure of some 200 schools. —AFP



PARIS: Youths shout slogans during a demonstration against proposed changes to France's work week and layoff practices yesterday. —AP

## SAUDI BUSINESSMEN INVESTING \$4 BILLION IN PROJECTS IN EGYPT

**CAIRO:** Saudi businessmen are investing \$4 billion in projects including the Suez Canal, energy and agriculture, and have already deposited 10 percent of that sum in Egyptian banks, the deputy head of the Saudi-Egyptian Business Council told Reuters, two days before Saudi Arabia's King Salman visits Cairo. Egypt has been struggling to attract foreign investors since an uprising in 2011 drove them away and left it short of the dollars that it relies on for imports of everything from food to medicines and petroleum products. "Ten percent of the capital has been deposited in Egyptian banks, they will complete 25 percent within three months," Abdallah bin Mahfouz said in an interview. He said there would also be investments in the medical sector.

Bin Mahfouz said the government had been making efforts to resolve difficulties faced by nine Saudi-owned firms in securing official permits for their projects, and that he expected to see progress soon. "A positive meeting took place on April 2 with Investment Minister Dalia Khorshid and the Saudi commercial attaché ... along with representatives of the companies facing hurdles," he said. Bin Mahfouz said the Egyptian market was an attractive one, and any short-term instability would not have a major effect on the sentiment of the new Saudi investors, whose investments were for the medium to long term.

At the end of 2015, there were 3,302 Saudi-owned companies in Egypt, with a total capital of \$27.9 billion, Bin Mahfouz said. Egypt's foreign currency reserves have fallen from \$36 billion in 2011 to \$16.56 billion last month. It says it is aiming for foreign direct investment of around \$8-10 billion in 2015/16. Tomorrow, during King Salman's visit, Saudi Arabia is expected to sign a \$20 billion deal to finance Egypt's petroleum needs for the next five years and a \$1.5 billion deal to develop its Sinai region, two Egyptian government sources said. —Reuters



# CHINA BANK CHIEFS' LOW PAY SLASHED; PROBLEMS MOUNT

## SALARY CUT PART OF CHINA'S SOE REFORMS

**BEIJING:** For the bosses of China's state-owned banks, running some of the world's biggest financial institutions just got a lot less appealing last year, as the government slashed their compensation in half as part of a wider austerity drive. The top executives' pay was already very modest by Western standards. But now they are earning less than many first-year bankers in the United States and Europe, while the disparity with Western bank CEOs is enormous and widening.

For example, Jiang Jianqing, chairman of Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC), the world's biggest lender by assets, made less than 550,000 yuan (\$85,000) in compensation last year. That was down 52 percent from 1.1 million yuan in 2014, according to the bank's latest annual report. His compensation was just 0.3 percent of the \$27 million received by JPMorgan Chase & Co Chief Executive Jamie Dimon in 2015. It was also a fraction of the 14.3 million Swiss francs (\$14.8 million) that UBS Chief Executive Sergio Ermotti received in compensation for 2015.

The biggest Chinese banks are typically led by bureaucrats appointed by the central government and for many, the top jobs are often the passport to powerful political positions in the future. But their pay is capped - and has now

been savagely cut. The disparity in salaries of Western and Chinese bank executives has got bigger ever since the big Chinese banks first broke into the top league of global rankings after the financial crisis. Today, China's top four banks are among the world's top 10 banks by assets.

The pay cuts at China's top banks come at a particularly challenging time as lenders battle with bad debts that have risen to a decade high. The banks are also struggling to grow their business due to a slowing economy. In the past, executives at China's state-owned enterprises (SOEs) often had opportunities to get additional payments and perks to make up for the low salaries. But President Xi Jinping's sweeping anti-graft campaign has turned the spot on government officials, further curbing their ability to get any such extra income.

### SOE reforms

Beijing is aiming to transform executive compensation at its biggest state firms by cutting salaries, curbing misuse of non-salary benefits and holding managers responsible for the performance of their firms, as part of SOE reforms. Under the plan, which is being implemented from 2015, top bosses at 72 central government-owned firms, which also includes major compa-

nies such as PetroChina Co Ltd, China Petroleum & Chemical Corp (Sinopec) and China Mobile Ltd face pay cuts of as much as 50 percent.

The figures just released show that when it comes to the banks, Beijing imposed the full penalty. As salaries at top US banks have recovered after the collapses and bailouts of the 2008-2009 financial crisis, China bank executives have seen their compensation heading in the opposite direction. Salaries for the chairmen and presidents of China's five biggest banks all dropped 50 percent in 2015, the lenders' just released annual reports show.

The hefty pay cuts for its top bankers came as China's weak economy pressured the lenders' profits. China's big banks last month reported their weakest profit growth in a decade. China Construction Bank, the country's second-biggest lender, slashed chairman Wang Hongzhang's annual compensation to less than 600,000 yuan in 2015 from 1.2 million yuan in 2014. The chairmen at another three major Chinese state lenders - Agricultural Bank of China, Bank of China and Bank of Communications also only pocketed half of what they earned in 2014, their annual reports showed. Besides the chairmen of the lenders, their presidents also saw their compensation halve in 2015, the reports showed. — Reuters

# SEERA REPORTS \$2.8 MILLION PROFIT

**MANAMA:** Seera Investment Bank BSC, a Sharia compliant investment bank headquartered in Bahrain announced its results for the year ended 31st December 2015, reporting net profit attributable to shareholders of \$2.8 million for the year compared to a loss of \$52.3 million for the previous year. The net profit attributable to shareholders for the fourth quarter 2015 was \$2.4 million compared to a loss of \$24.6 million for the same quarter last year. The increase in income is mainly attributable to fees on the acquisition and structuring of new investments and gains from exits completed during the year.

As reported in the published summary financial statements, total assets of the Bank as of 31st December 2015 stood at \$169.1 million. Investment in Ijarah Assets, representing Seera's investment in Falak Aviation Fund, has declined to \$74.1 million compared to \$119.3 million in the previous year. This decline represents a significant de-risking of the Bank's aviation portfolio from 11 aircraft in 2007, to 3 aircraft at present. These disposals are a result of Seera's focused strategy to reduce its exposure to the aviation sector following the 2008 financial crisis.

Hamad Al Ameeri, Seera's Chairman of the Board of Directors commented "Seera's strategy to de-risk its exposure in the aviation sector together with exits from a number of other investments has strengthened the Bank's balance sheet and enabled it to end the year with liquid assets of \$43 million and a Capital Adequacy ratio of around 27%, providing a strong platform for continued growth.

Furthermore, the Bank's liabilities at end of the year reduced to \$21.4 million compared to \$56.8 million in the previous year, primarily from the repayment of the debt on various aircraft from sale proceeds." Al Ameeri added "During 2015, Seera has continued to extract value from its existing investments and at the same time continued to grow its business through new transactions. During the year the Bank has successfully exited from a number of investments and significantly de-risked the aviation portfolio and completed new transactions."

Providing further detail on the exits during the year Al Ameeri stated "In February 2015 the Bank successfully exited from the Sharia compliant financing provided for the development of a UK Student Housing project in London gener-



**Abdulla Janahi, Chief Executive Officer, Seera Investment Bank**



**Hamad Al Ameeri**

ating strong returns for our investors and in June the sale of Kosan Crisplant, a private equity investment in Denmark, was completed. Seera's Falak Aviation Portfolio which at the beginning of 2015 comprised of 7 aircraft was reduced to only 3 aircraft at the end of the year through selective disposals."

Abdulla Janahi, Seera's Chief Executive Officer commented on Seera's new investments "During the early part of the year the Bank's investment in the development of dementia care homes in the UK was very well received by our investors. The project is ahead of schedule and planning permission was obtained 9 months ahead of schedule." He further added "In December, Seera together with another local institution successfully completed a US Multifamily transaction comprising of two properties located in Atlanta. The portfolio has an occupancy of around 95% and is projected to offer attractive risk adjusted returns for Seera and its investors over the investment holding period." Looking ahead Janahi added "Although global and regional markets are currently

impacted by low oil prices, there are positive indications that the current situation will not persist for long with many analysts expecting improvements to happen towards the end of the year. The general message from various market experts is that of 'cautious optimism', due to positive momentum in developed economies which will continue to benefit from relatively lower oil prices. With this in mind, Seera will, continue to selectively identify opportunities in its target markets.

A number of potential investments are already in the pipeline and are expected to be completed during the next few months. In addition, the Bank will continue to opportunistically exit from certain existing investments and a number of such exits are being explored." Seera has investments in the transportation and real estate sectors in addition to smaller investments in the utilities and energy sectors. The Bank's investment strategy is to maintain a diversified investment portfolio geographically and industry wise, focusing on sectors underpinned by strong fundamental demand, and to avoid speculation driven sectors.

## National Bank of Kuwait Financial Markets Daily Report

Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Change	Daily Performance %	Yearly Performance %
Dow Jones	17,792.75	17,737.00	-55.75	▼	-0.31
NASDAQ	4,914.54	4,891.79	-22.75	▼	-0.46
S&P 500	2,072.78	2,066.13	-6.65	▼	-0.32
Financial Times	6,164.72	6,082.62	-82.10	▼	-1.33
DAX	9,822.08	9,601.53	-220.55	▼	-2.25
CAC 40	4,345.22	4,253.58	-91.64	▼	-2.11
Swiss	7,731.81	7,633.87	-97.94	▼	-1.27
Nikkei 225	16,123.27	15,732.82	-390.45	▼	-2.42
Topix	1,302.71	1,268.37	-34.34	▼	-2.64
Hang Seng	20,498.92	20,177.00	-321.92	▼	-1.57
Straits Times	2,835.35	2,800.97	-34.38	▼	-1.21

Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Change	Daily Performance %	Yearly Performance %
Kuwait	5,201.86	5,201.63	-0.23	▼	0.00
Saudi Arabia	6,710.91	6,185.95	-524.96	▼	-7.82
Dubai	3,378.54	3,369.74	-8.80	▼	-0.26
Abu Dhabi	4,385.47	4,309.03	-76.44	▼	-1.74
Bahrain	1,133.64	1,132.67	-0.97	▼	-0.09
Qatar	10,234.36	10,008.77	-225.59	▼	-2.20
Oman	5,562.88	5,569.96	7.08	▲	0.13
Lebanon	1,177.99	1,172.78	-5.21	▼	-0.44
Jordan	2,165.77	2,161.84	-3.93	▼	-0.18
Egypt	7,577.07	7,669.69	92.62	▲	1.22
Morocco	9,438.42	9,490.31	51.89	▲	0.55
Tunisia	5,460.56	5,445.54	-15.02	▼	-0.28

Currency	Kuwaiti Dinar	Saudi Riyal	US Dollar	Euro	Sterling Pound	Swiss Franc	Japanese Yen	Australian Dollar
Kuwait Dinar		12.3240	3.2992	2.9030	2.3218	3.1617	363.97	4.3722
Saudi Riyal	0.08114		0.2677	0.2356	0.1884	0.2565	29.53	0.3548
US Dollar	0.30310	3.7354		0.8799	0.7037	0.9583	110.32	1.3252
Euro	0.34447	4.2453	1.1365		0.8000	1.0893	125.40	1.5080
Sterling Pound	0.43071	5.3000	1.4210	1.2500		1.3621	156.79	1.8044
Swiss Franc	0.31629	3.8979	1.0435	0.9180	0.7342		115.14	1.3829
Japanese Yen	0.00275	0.0339	0.0091	0.0080	0.0064	0.0087		0.0120
Australian Dollar	0.22872	2.8187	0.7546	0.6631	0.5307	0.7231	83.25	

Currency	US Dollar	Kuwaiti Dinar	Saudi Riyal	Bahraini Dinar	Qatari Riyal	Omani Riyal	Emirates Dirham	Egyptian Pound
US Dollar		0.30310	3.7354	0.3741	3.6268	0.3831	3.6576	8.7700
Kuwaiti Dinar	3.2992		12.3240	1.2341	11.9657	1.2640	12.0673	28.9343
Saudi Riyal	0.2677	0.08114		0.1001	0.9709	0.1026	0.9792	2.3478
Bahraini Dinar	2.6734	0.81030	9.9861		9.6958	1.0242	9.7781	23.4454
Qatari Riyal	0.2757	0.08357	1.0299	0.1031		0.1056	1.0085	2.4181
Omani Riyal	2.6101	0.79112	9.7497	0.9763	9.4662		9.5466	22.8904
Emirates Dirham	0.2734	0.08287	1.0213	0.1023	0.9916	0.1047		2.3977
Egyptian Pound	0.1140	0.03456	0.4259	0.0427	0.4135	0.0437	0.4171	

Currency	1-Week	1-Month	3-Month	6-Month	1-Year
Kuwaiti Dinar	0.00	1.19	1.44	1.63	1.94
US Dollar	0.39	0.43	0.62	0.89	1.20
Euro	-0.37	-0.33	-0.25	-0.13	-0.01
Sterling Pound	0.48	0.51	0.58	0.74	0.99
Swiss Franc	-0.80	-0.78	-0.72	-0.65	-0.53
Australian Dollar	2.07	2.11	2.01	1.99	1.94
Canadian Dollar	0.00	0.90	0.90	1.01	1.08

Country	2-Year	5-Year	10-Year	30-Year
United States	0.72	1.17	1.72	2.55
Europe	-0.49	-0.37	0.08	0.70
United Kingdom	0.38	0.78	1.35	2.23

Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Change	Daily Performance %	Yearly Performance %
Kuwait Oil	31.35	31.39	0.04	▲	0.13
Brent	35.66	35.08	-0.58	▼	-1.63
West Texas	34.52	34.07	-0.45	▼	-1.30
Gold	1214.65	1232.56	17.91	▲	1.47
Silver	14.87	15.14	0.27	▲	1.82

## EXCHANGE RATES

### AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES	
Japanese Yen	2.709
Indian Rupees	4.599
Pakistani Rupees	2.887
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.082
Nepali Rupees	2.846
Singapore Dollar	225.750
Hongkong Dollar	39.016
Bangladesh Taka	3.857
Philippine Peso	6.576
Thai Baht	8.624

### GCC COUNTRIES

Saudi Riyal	80.710
Qatari Riyal	83.139
Omani Riyal	786.123
Bahraini Dinar	803.770
UAE Dirham	82.403

### ARAB COUNTRIES

Egyptian Pound - Cash	34.150
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	34.456
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.412
Tunisian Dinar	151.630
Jordanian Dinar	426.450
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.017
Syrian Lira	2.157
Morocco Dirham	31.842

### EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer	302.500
Euro	347.570
Sterling Pound	433.630
Canadian dollar	234.532
Turkish Lira	108.040
Swiss Franc	319.430
Australian Dollar	235.190
US Dollar Buying	301.300

### 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
Japanese Yen	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	0.432280	0.432280
Czech Korune	0.004714	0.016714
Danish Krone	0.042139	0.047139
Euro	0.0338690	0.0346690
Norwegian Krone	0.032317	0.037517
Romanian Leu	0.076909	0.076909
Slovakia	0.009011	0.019011
Swedish Krona	0.033103	0.038103
Swiss Franc	0.308670	0.318870
Turkish Lira	0.101221	0.111521
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.222485	0.233985
New Zealand Dollar	0.201729	0.211229
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.226335	0.234835
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	0.036919	0.039669
Indian Rupee	0.004287	0.004677
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002629	0.002809
Kenyan Shilling	0.002976	0.002976
Korean Won	0.000253	0.000268
Malaysian Ringgit	0.074085	0.080085
Nepalese Rupee	0.002867	0.003037
Pakistan Rupee	0.002682	0.002962
Philippine Peso	0.006500	0.006780
Sierra Leone	0.000073	0.000079
Singapore Dollar	0.220522	0.226522
South African Rand	0.014542	0.023042
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001695	0.002275
Taiwan	0.009242	0.009422
Thai Baht	0.008269	0.008819
Arab		



# WORLD EQUITIES ROCKED BY NEW OIL SLIDE

**LONDON:** Europe's main stock markets dived yesterday, after another sell-off across most of Asia that was sparked by a fresh drop in oil prices, dealers said. Around 0900 GMT, Frankfurt's benchmark DAX 30 index was down 2.5 percent compared with Monday's finish, as dire German factory orders sparked fresh questions about the health of the euro-zone's biggest economy. Elsewhere, France's CAC 40 index shed 2.0 percent and Britain's FTSE 100 dropped 1.4 percent in value. World oil prices lan-

guished close to one-month lows on persistent worries over the global supply glut, weighing on energy shares. Sentiment failed to win a boost from news that euro-zone private sector business activity nudged higher in March after a sharp fall in February, according to a survey from data firm Markit.

### Oil, economy woes

"The FTSE 100 was down in early trading following downbeat overnight sessions on

Wall Street and in Asia, with volatile crude oil prices and global economic concerns continuing to have an impact on investor sentiment," said Russ Mould, investment director at stockbroker AJ Bell. The mood darkened as gloomy data showed that German industrial orders—a key measure of demand for goods in Europe's top economy—declined in February. Provisional official data showed a decrease in orders of 1.2 percent month-on-month in February, weighed down by falling foreign demand. That fol-

lowed an increase of 0.5 percent in January.

Analysts polled by financial services firm FactSet had penciled in a modest increase of 0.3 percent for February. "A poor February for German factory orders ... adds to euro-zone woes," said analyst Mike van Dulken at traders Accendo Markets. In Asia and Europe, energy companies nursed heavy losses as oil prices fell further. "WTI crude is eyeing a move back below \$35 per barrel," noted analyst Tony Cross at traders Trustnet Direct.

"As a result it's the natural resources stocks that are scattered across the foot of the index, with Royal Dutch Shell and BP also being dragged very much into the fray." BP slid 1.94 percent to 338 pence and Shell's 'A' shares shed 2.35 percent to 1,638 pence. In Paris, French peer Total saw its stock decline 1.77 percent to 38.48 euros. Investors were handed a negative lead from Wall Street, where the plunge in crude oil but wiped out Friday's jobs-fueled gains.

### US tightens M&A rules

The US Treasury meanwhile announced new rules on Monday aimed at stemming the tide of mergers between US and foreign businesses designed to sharply lower the US company's tax bill. The news sparked worries over pharmaceuticals giant Pfizer's record \$160 billion proposed purchase of peer Allergan, dealers said. In response, Allergan and Pfizer said they would be reviewing the impact of the US announcement. The news sent Allergan shares slumping more than a fifth in after-hours New York trade. "We are conducting a review of the US Department of Treasury's actions," the pair said in a brief statement. "Prior to completing the review, we won't speculate on any potential impact." Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew said the toughened regulations target companies moving their headquarters, but not their US operations, to low-tax domiciles abroad via so-called inversion deals. On the upside in Asia yesterday, Shanghai stocks jumped on easing Chinese economic worries after Friday's better-than-forecast manufacturing data.

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report									
Tuesday 05 April 2016									
Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing	High	Low				
Price index	-0.23	5,201.63	5,201.86	5,205.86	5,178.30				
Weighted Index	0.64	356.42	355.78	356.77	354.83				
KSX 15	3.38	839.98	836.60	840.53	834.75				
Trades									
Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change		
MARIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	104	0.0		
IKARUS	84	79	36,700	2,960	7	84	▲ 5.0		
IPG	320	320	366	117	1	320	▲ 10.0		
NAPESCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	730	— 0.0		
ENERGYH	44.5	44.0	1,500	66	3	44.0	— 0.0		
GPI	40.5	38.0	9,703,710	381,479	138	39.0	— 0.0		
ARAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	102	— 0.0		
<b>Oil &amp; Gas</b>			<b>9,742,282</b>	<b>384,623</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>799.04</b>	<b>▲ 0.71</b>		
KFOUC	196	184	1,438,001	265,097	42	188	▼ -6.0		
DPCC	520	495	972,951	497,522	55	500	▼ -20.0		
ALKOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	610	— 0.0		
ALQURAIN	194	192	194,010	37,405	15	192	— 0.0		
<b>Basic Materials</b>			<b>2,505,562</b>	<b>800,085</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>931.98</b>	<b>▼ -20.83</b>		
KCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	380	— 0.0		
REFRI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	310	— 0.0		
CABLE	360	350	320,993	114,260	40	355	▲ 5.0		
SHIP	142	138	20,298	2,823	6	142	— 0.0		
PCEM	1,020	1,020	2,500	2,550	2	1,020	— 0.0		
PAPER	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	410	— 0.0		
MRC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	72	— 0.0		
ACICO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	285	— 0.0		
GGMC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	450	— 0.0		
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	134	— 0.0		
KPAK	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	310	— 0.0		
KBMM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	250	— 0.0		
NICBM	236	236	18	4	1	236	— 0.0		
EQUIPMENT	52	51	312,754	16,073	9	51	▼ -1.0		
NCCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	99	— 0.0		
GYPSUM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	102	— 0.0		
SALDOOKH	70	68	63,900	4,391	6	70	▲ 1.0		
AGLTY	465	460	303,147	140,963	21	465	▼ -5.0		
EDU	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	200	— 0.0		
CLEANING	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	39.0	— 0.0		
CITYGROUP	480	440	38,901	17,601	10	480	▲ 25.0		
KGL	47.5	45.5	2,000	84	3	47.5	— 0.0		
KGPC	218	208	40,780	8,479	4	208	▼ -10.0		
HUMANSOFT	010	050	3,902	2,185	2	010	▲ 20.0		
NAFAIS	144	144	5,000	720	2	144	▼ -2.0		
SAFWAN	270	270	120,000	32,400	8	270	— 0.0		
GFC	33.5	33.5	500	17	1	33.5	— 0.0		
MAYADEEN	27.5	25.0	7,137,985	184,203	117	25.5	▼ -1.5		
CGC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	790	— 0.0		
MITCC	83	82	1,281,495	105,585	16	83	— 0.0		
UPAC	700	650	47,352	31,574	16	670	— 0.0		
ALAFCC	212	212	3,554	753	2	212	— 0.0		
MUBARRAD	59	57	155,575	9,088	10	59	▲ 1.0		
LOGISTICS	71	70	734,100	51,400	27	70	— 0.0		
SCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	87	— 0.0		
GCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	78	— 0.0		
QCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	66	— 0.0		
FCEM	75	75	35,000	2,625	3	75	— 0.0		
RKWC	99	99	100	10	1	99	▲ 5.0		
SPEC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	79	— 0.0		
<b>Industrials</b>			<b>10,635,894</b>	<b>727,796</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>972.19</b>	<b>▲ 3.04</b>		
KSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	164	— 0.0		
NSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	84	— 0.0		
PAPCO	108	108	500	54	1	108	— 0.0		
CATTL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	134	— 0.0		
DANAH	75	73	32,010	2,357	4	75	— 0.0		
POULT	176	176	10,000	1,760	1	176	— 0.0		
FOOD	2,520	2,500	19,152	48,275	5	2,500	▼ -40.0		
<b>Consumer Goods</b>			<b>61,672</b>	<b>62,446</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1070.97</b>	<b>▼ -6.66</b>		
MHC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	200	— 0.0		
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	920	— 0.0		
YIACO	150	150	1,000	150	1	150	▲ 10		
<b>Health Care</b>			<b>1,000</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>919.89</b>	<b>▲ 7.19</b>		
KCIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,020	— 0.0		
KHOT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	210	— 0.0		
SULTAN	62	62	10,500	651	5	62	▼ -3		
CABLETV	26.5	26.5	700	19	1	26.5	▲ 3		
EYAS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	385	— 0.0		
IFAHR	186	186	10	2	1	186	▲ 10		
QULAFUEL	112	110	45,425	5,082	20	112	▲ 2		
MUNTAZAHAT	85	83	94,850	7,873	9	85	▲ 2		
JAZEERA	870	870	1,247	1,085	1	870	▼ -20		
SOOR	114	112	35,042	3,985	9	112	▼ -2		
FUTUREKID	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	110	— 0.0		
ALNAWADI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	70	— 0.0		
ALRAI	142	142	1,500	213	1	142	— 0.0		
ZIMAH	52	48.5	7,334,323	365,375	213	49.5	▼ -2		
UFIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	100	— 0.0		
Mezzan	1,120	1,120	315,369	353,213	10	1,120	▼ -20		
<b>Consumer Services</b>			<b>7,838,966</b>	<b>737,497</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>919.26</b>	<b>▲ 1.36</b>		
ZAIN	350	345	1,120,686	391,612	45	350	▲ 5		
OOREDOO	1,080	1,020	4,221	4,307	8	1,020	▼ -20		
HITSTELEC	28.5	27.5	1,730,457	48,331	25	28.5	▲ 1		
VIVA	1,050	1,040	146,783	153,122	62	1,040	— 0.0		
<b>Telecommunications</b>			<b>3,002,147</b>	<b>597,372</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>607.91</b>	<b>▲ 2.00</b>		
NBK	650	640	725,282	464,251	49	650	▲ 10		
GBK	222	216	2,888,368	612,138	67	222	▲ 6		
CBK	435	425	20,177	8,581	6	435	▲ 5		
ABK	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	335	— 0.0		
ALMUTAHED	435	435	33,430	14,542	8	435	— 0.0		
KIB	194	192	106,034	20,569	6	194	▼ -2		
BURG	340	335	517,127	175,793	18	340	▲ 5		
KFIN	480	470	1,111,031	527,251	71	475	— 0.0		
BOUBRYAN	390	385	3,186,257	1,238,226	80	390	▼ -5		
AUB	184	184	155,762	26,660	6	184	▼ -2		
ITHMR	40.0	38.0	18,950,933	732,688	206	39.0	▲ 1		
WARBANK	174	172	388,055	67,152	65	174	— 0.0		
<b>Banks</b>			<b>27,982,456</b>	<b>3,889,851</b>	<b>582</b>	<b>809.06</b>	<b>▲ 2.33</b>		
KINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	285	— 0.0		
GINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	670	— 0.0		
AINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	485	— 0.0		
WINS	102	102	2,179	222	2	102	▲ 2.0		
KUWAITRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	200	— 0.0		
FTI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	50	— 0.0		
WETHAQ	35.5	35.5	7,500	266	1	35.5	▼ -2.5		
DKIKWT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	355	— 0.0		
<b>Insurance</b>			<b>9,679</b>	<b>489</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1035.54</b>	<b>▼ -8.65</b>		



**JAKARTA:** This photo shows a building under construction in Jakarta. The Indonesian government has removed double taxation on real estate investment trust securities in a bid to attract more investors to the local property game, local media reports said. —AFP

## GOLD SNAPS 2-DAY DECLINE AS EUROPEAN STOCKS SLIDE

**LONDON:** Gold rebounded by 1 percent yesterday, snapping two days of losses as risk appetite evaporated, pushing European stocks down 1.5 percent and knocking the dollar to a 17-month low against the yen. That helped to reverse a two-day drop in gold that had sent prices back towards their lowest since late February. Uncertainty over the outlook for US monetary policy limited moves, however.

Spot gold was up 1.4 percent at \$1,231.90 an ounce by 0930 GMT, while US gold futures for June delivery gained \$14.10 to \$1,233.30. German shares led equities losses after data showed the biggest fall in German factory orders for six months, suggesting that Europe's biggest economy is becoming caught up in a global slowdown. Crude oil prices fell and the euro retreated a quarter of a percentage point against the dollar. "If I look at markets, I would say that there is some safe-haven buying," ABN Amro analyst Georgette Boele said.

"Gold doesn't want to go lower at the moment, so people are looking for a reason to buy it, and that seems to be negative equities." Gold had posted its biggest quarterly rise in nearly 30 years



# Mohamed Naser Al Sayer & Toyota Launches THE ALL-NEW 2016 INNOVA - FULL OF LIFE

More stylish and spacious, the 2016 Innova boasts superior styling, cutting edge engineering, exciting new features and an improved safety package than ever. Combine all these developments with the same quality, reliability and economic performance you have come to expect from Innova and you have for yourself a drive that will bring you day to day journeys to life.



- Bold new design seamlessly blends toughness and sophistication
- Refined interior exudes luxury and elegance befitting a premium vehicle
- Enhanced performance and versatility are the hallmarks of the new Innova
- Comprehensive safety features offer all-round protection

Mohamed Naser Al Sayer (MNSS), one of the Al Sayer Group Holding Companies held a press conference to unveil the all-new 2016 Innova "Full of Life", popular multi premium vehicle from Toyota. Mr. Johan Heislitz, Senior Business Director TOYOTA MNSS welcomed delegates from Toyota Motor Corporation Mr. Koichi Ikemoto, Assistant Chief Engineer for the 2016 Innova, Mr. Toshihiro Kuroki General Manager MENARO, Mr. Hironatsu Tanigawa Sales and Marketing Manager MENARO along with representatives of the press and media at the event which was held at Toyota Al-Rai Showroom.



During the opening speech Mr. Johan Heislitz, Senior Business Director TOYOTA MNSS said "This event marks Toyota's dedication to continue its journey with the introduction of ever better cars, staying ahead of competition at the same time always aiming to exceed customer expectation. We will be unveiling the full change new generation Innova 2016, Toyota's popular multi premium vehicle. Market leading vehicle in its segment, the all new Innova is all set to reinforce its appeal with an even more impressive appeal. Towards the beginning of 2016, Toyota had set the momentum for new launches with introduction of the pioneering hybrid Prius in to the middle east region, following that we had several successful events."

Toyota is once again redefining conventional notions of a Multi-Purpose Vehicle (MPV) with the launch of the all-new 2016 Toyota Innova in the Middle East. The new Innova, which can comfortably seat up to eight passengers, combines the essence of an MPV with the tough, emotional elements of an SUV to introduce the ultimate family vehicle. The global model we know today debuted in 2004, and over the years, Innova's superb versatility, impressive performance and excellent value have earned customers and admirers the world over.

According to Hiroki Nakajima, Executive Chief Engineer of the Innova, "The new Innova's design direction grew from my insights into the expectations of customers who desired not only its high functionality but also a stylish

vehicle as well. The new vehicle intends to replace the conventional image of an MPV with a bold appearance that hints at the presence of an SUV. I am confident that this ground-breaking image will satisfy customers who are looking for something special. Its appeal is best expressed through its positioning statement: The MPV designed for 'multi performance'. Innova has always remained true to its purpose as an MPV – delivering a spacious and comfortable journey regardless of the road or weather. We also took Innova's Quality, Durability and Reliability (QDR) philosophy to a new level with this latest model."

"The new Innova will not only satisfy existing customers who love its legacy, but it will also win over customers looking for a spacious and more stylish vehicle with additional features," said Takayuki Yoshitsugu, Chief Representative, Middle East and North Africa Representative Office, Toyota Motor Corporation. "The model has received significant upgrades that extend beyond just its appearance. Our team had held extensive interactions with customers to determine the design and mechanical direction the vehicle should take. The new Innova has been built to exceed customer expectations throughout its model life. At the same time, it has been designed to not only protect the existing market but also pioneer a new category of MPVs. We sincerely appreciate the support of all our customers who have put their faith in the Innova over the years and we look forward to delighting them with

this new model."

According to Mr. Mohammad Al Anazi, Manager Vehicle Sales Toyota MNSS "The All New Innova is full of life, its comprehensive grounded on the values of Toyota Quality, Durability and Reliability. The First generation Innova achieved tremendous recognition over the past 10 years. Second Generation Innova further takes this success forward, elevated in terms of appeal and aesthetics in addition to the impressive specification and driving dynamics. Innova is a popular multi premium vehicle in the Asia Pacific region, a leader of the segment. Its comfort and durability is unbeatable."

#### Tough yet Sophisticated Design

The new Innova's exterior is carefully designed with SUV elements. The sculpted body is both stylish and impressive, aiming for a visual effect that makes the tyres look bigger. Subtle aerodynamic effects and more emotional colours also enhance the exterior.

A strong three-dimensional mass emphasises the shape of the vehicle, creating a stable and imposing appearance. The chrome-plated moulding of the trapezoidal grille has been designed to connect with the headlamps, while the side turn signals, positioned on the lower portion of the bumper, have been given distinctive shapes to accentuate the corner and provide a sharp overall impression.

The side view of the Innova is just as dynamic and sporty. The top profile of the side windows slopes down towards the rear, giving a flowing impression that balances the overall height of the vehicle. The shoulder line runs from the headlamps to the rear combination lamps to produce a connected image, while the front and rear fenders are structured to emphasise the presence of the large, sporty wheels.

The Innova's wide, stable rear appearance is complemented by accents that create an advanced presence. The eye-catching rear combination lamps have been positioned higher up, adding to the sense of stability the vehicle projects and are emphasised by the structural theme of the rear. Aero Stabilising Fins have been added to the rear combination lamps – contributing to stability and controllability. The innovative shark-fin styled radio antenna adds a striking touch to the roof towards the rear, as does the high-mount LED stop lamp.

The 2016 Toyota Innova is available in a choice of 6 colours. These include Super White, White Pearl CS, Silver ME, Gray ME, Attitude Black MC and Avant-Garde Bronze ME.

#### Spacious and Refined Interior

The new Innova features an emotional interior design that combines strength and space. The wide, spacious







interior atmosphere puts emphasis on all the seats while also creating a silhouette unique to a high-quality MPV. Silver and woodgrain-patterned ornamentation are boldly placed throughout the cabin to exude luxury and elegance befitting a premium vehicle.

The steering wheel has a tilt and telescopic steering column and it is designed to combine the structural motif of the instrument panel with the luxurious elegant touches. This expresses harmony with the vehicle interior and a sense of luxury. The driver-friendly instrument panel enables a wide field of view and features a variety of accents and technology features to create a luxurious impression. Coordinated with the rest of the interior, the advanced driver interface also offers ample visibility and usability.

A 4.2-inch TFT colour Multi-Information Display allows the driver to access a multitude of vehicle information, important warnings and in-car entertainment. The display is positioned high on the instrument panel, only slightly out of the driver's line of sight, allowing the driver to easily and safely monitor vehicle information while driving. It displays content like driving information, idling-stop time, Eco-Drive indicator (Eco Judge/Eco Wallet), navigation display function and audio operation function. The new Innova also has a 6-speaker specialised audio equalizer to achieve low-distortion playback at low range and a clear playback at middle to high range.

The new Toyota Innova 2016 offers seating for up to eight passengers including the driver based on the second-row options. The car is available with 8-seat (6040/ split, fold-down seats for second row) configuration option. Further, all the seats are a comfortable and satisfying place to spend time, with a host of refined features, especially in the second row, to accommodate the driver's demand of an active lifestyle. Ergonomic shapes and materials combine with optimal seat firmness to provide second-row seat passengers with enhanced ride comfort, and the flexible seat arrangement also allows for easy folding and stowing with an easy-to-reach hook to increase luggage compartment space and allow for one-touch operation. Seatback tables for the second-row seats have been integrated into the front seatbacks and can hold laptops, drinks and other items. Head clearance has been increased by 5 mm for the front seats and 10 mm for the third-row seats – creating the feel of a spacious interior.

Various storage compartments have been made



available to provide practical storage options for both family and business use. Device connections are in place to provide superior functionality and allow devices such as smartphones and laptops to be used freely. The centre console tray of the second-row seats features, a DC-12 V power outlet is integrated in the back of the centre console box.

The Innova comes with an all-new air-conditioning unit that helps maintain a cool interior - even in traffic on a hot day at maximum occupancy.

**Enhanced Performance and Versatility**  
The new Innova is available with petrol and diesel

engine options to choose from. The available petrol engine is a 2.7-litre 4-cylinder engine which produces 164 hp and 25.0 Kg-m of torque. The engine are mated to a 6-speed Super-intelligent Electronically Controlled Transmission that delivers enhanced fuel economy and driving performance.

Sound insulation performance around the new Innova's engine compartment has been greatly increased. Noise is reduced at its source and further isolated from the cabin to realise exceptional quietness that can be appreciated on every drive.

A new suspension, equipped with a proven double wishbone (front) / 4-link suspension (rear) combination, enhances ride comfort on all road surfaces, from paved to rough. Advanced damping technology – which allows for driving force to be controlled in real time based on actual road conditions, thus reducing vehicle pitch behaviour – further contributes to a smooth, comfortable ride with less vibration and harshness.

**Comprehensive Safety Features**

The 2016 Toyota Innova puts a lot of emphasis on safety and comes packed with a number of active and passive safety features.

The Innova's Anti-lock Braking System (ABS) with Electronic Brake-force Distribution (EBD) prevents the tyres from locking during braking and allows for measured brake-force distribution between the front and rear wheels according to the vehicle condition.

High-tensile strength steel sheets and supplementary materials are also widely used throughout the body structure to help reduce passenger injuries and impact-absorbing materials throughout the cabin further contribute to occupant protection. In the event of a collision, impact energy is absorbed and effectively distributed. The frame structure absorbs impacts in three steps, reducing their effect on areas such as the body, engine and interior.

The new Innova is also available with a full-colour display. The vehicle also features an advanced Pedestrian Protection Performance system where impact-absorbing structures are used for parts such as the engine hood, front fender and cowl to reduce impact force to the heads and legs of pedestrians during a collision. The 2016 Toyota Innova comes with the Supplemental Restraint System (SRS) for the front seats along with a knee airbag for the driver.





# ETIHAD HOLIDAYS LAUNCHES A NEW CAMPAIGN

## 'GUARANTEED SUNSHINE OR YOUR NEXT HOLIDAY FOR FREE'

**KUWAIT:** Etihad Holidays has launched a new campaign promising "guaranteed sunshine or your next holiday for free" to attract more UK based visitors to holiday in Abu Dhabi. The initiative aims to bring more business and leisure travellers to the UAE capital over the summer months. The "Abu Dhabi: sunshine guaranteed or your next holiday for free" campaign will apply to every booking that consists of a flight and hotel-inclusive package between May and September. Visitors who experience more than 5mm of rainfall during their stay in Abu Dhabi will receive another holiday free of charge. Etihad Holidays is launching the campaign alongside the opening of its new UK office. In the UK, Etihad Holidays will operate under its own Air Travel Organizer's License (ATOL) and as a member of ABTA, the UK's leading travel association.

In 2015, more than 230,000 passengers travelled from the UK to Abu Dhabi,

a 14 percent rise on figures for 2014 - according to recent statistics released by the Abu Dhabi Tourism and Culture Authority. Mohammed Al Bulooki, Vice President UAE Commercial at Etihad Airways, said: "Our guests from the United Kingdom are repeatedly telling us that they want the acclaimed Etihad Airways experience to extend to every part of their journey to Abu Dhabi and we aim to deliver on their wishes. We are confident that this amazing destination, which we are proud to call home, will enthral and captivate all those who visit us via our three gateways in the UK. "Abu Dhabi is already a thriving and cosmopolitan tourism hub which has a considerable amount to offer every visitor, whether they are here for the year-round sunshine, the spectacular cultural sites and institutions, or for the ultimate adventure getaway. We are committed to being a key driver in helping to further grow the tourism industry in the



Emirate." Etihad Airways currently serves three UK airports, with three flights per day from London Heathrow, two flights per day from Manchester Airport and

five flights per week from the Scottish capital, Edinburgh.

In addition to purchasing holidays in the UAE, UK guests will be able to

choose from more than 300 packages for destinations in China, Malaysia, Maldives, Oman, Seychelles, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam. Etihad Holidays, launched in 2004, offers dynamically packaged holidays at exceptional rates with many of the world's leading hotel brands and provides an extensive range of additional services including its stopover program, tours, excursions, family attractions, safaris, and car hire, all of which use the Etihad Airways and partner airline flight network.

Etihad Holidays' dedicated agent portal includes product information, package suggestions and options with preferable commission rates to incentivise the trade on bookings. Packages can be booked through our dedicated website, Etihad Holiday offices or your preferred travel agent. For more information about Etihad Holidays, visit [www.etihadholidays.co.uk](http://www.etihadholidays.co.uk).



## SAFAT HOME PRESENTS COOKING SHOW FEATURING CELEBRITY CHEF

**KUWAIT:** Safat Home collaborated with AHLAN! Magazine and X-cite and organized The Cooking Show on March 22nd at the Safat Home Shuwaikh showroom, starring none other than the renowned local celebrity chef Adlah Al Sharhan. It was an eventful night attended by culinary admirers, local media personalities and select invitees. Chef Adlah brought her culinary expertise and her enthusiasm to teach the audience a variety of refined cooking techniques.

Al Sharhan's stage presence was uncanny and interactive which gave the audience a chance to participate, learn one-on-one culinary skills, quick tips to prepare an appetizing meal and even grab a spoonful of taste. At the course of the event, Chef Adlah stated that direct interactions with the audience gave her great pleasure to see their expressions and emotions up-close and personal. Safat Home's Brad Bagherian Marketing and CRM Manager said: "We're delighted to see our kitchen come to life, gathering one of the most celebrated of Kuwaiti chefs with our customers and the media". Safat Home's wide kitchen collection is a key offering customers don't want to miss, in addition to a variety of home

solutions. Safat Home showcases 20 kitchen displays made from Aluminum and space wood, offering different kitchen styles that effectively reflect different market tastes and budgets in. The kitchen area also includes space saving units and accessories. All Safat Home kitchens come with 15 years warranty. Safat Home also highlighted two high quality lines of kitchenware during The Cooking Show: Trudeau and Kela.

"Trudeau" is a leading North American brand and of innovative quality products, dedicated to creating a unique experience in preparing and serving foods and beverages, at home and on-the-go, with products ranging from kitchen gadgets, lunch bags, snack containers, utensils, baking accessories. German Brand "Kela" offers the best in functionality and quality. Made primarily from high-quality stainless steel, the German designed products are constantly inspected for durability, resilience and sustainability. The brand is known to offer a wide range of kitchen tools and accessories from fruit baskets, pots, pans, and utensils, as well as a wide variety of bathroom furniture & accessories.

# FORD INVESTS \$170 MILLION IN S AFRICA, CREATES 1,200 JOBS

**PRETORIA:** Ford Motor Company is investing R2.5-billion (\$170 million US dollars) to expand operations in South Africa at its Silverton Assembly Plant in Pretoria, South Africa, to produce the all-new Ford Everest, along with the new Ford Ranger that was launched at the end of last year. This investment will create approximately 1,200 new jobs at Ford South Africa and within the South African supplier network. "Our customers love the capability and utility offered by the all-new Ford Everest," said Jim Farley, Ford executive vice president and president of Europe, Middle East and Africa. "By producing the Everest in South Africa, we will be able to make it more readily available, and in a greater variety of models, for customers throughout Sub-Saharan Africa."

"The R2.5-billion investment reaffirms the importance of these markets as part of our growth strategy across the Middle East and Africa," Farley added. "It further reinforces South Africa's position as a strategic export base for Ford Motor Company." The Silverton facility joins Auto Alliance Thailand in Rayong; Ford's Chennai plant in India (where it is sold as the Endeavor) and the JMC Xiaolan Plant in Nanchang, China, as production hubs for the Everest. Initial production at Silverton of the Everest will commence in the third quarter of 2016, with the first units expected to come to market in the fourth quarter. South African-produced models will be sold locally and exported to markets across Sub-Saharan Africa.

Part of this investment has been directed towards the production of the new Ranger, which is already running at maximum capacity at the Silverton Assembly Plant - with domestic sales and export demand at an all-time high. The Silverton Assembly Plant features state-of-the-art automation utilising Ford's global manufacturing processes, and will be equipped to produce 100,000 Everest's per annum. "The all-new Everest has been extremely well received since it was launched in September last year, with demand far outstripping supply," said Jeff Nemeth, president and CEO of Ford Motor Company Sub-Saharan Africa Region.

"This crucial investment will enable us to increase volumes and expand the Everest range to eight derivatives across a broader price range. It will allow customers across Sub-Saharan Africa to choose from two powerful engines mated to robust six-speed automatic or manual transmissions for exceptional capability."

Currently, the all-new Everest is imported from Thailand, using the locally produced 3.2-litre five-cylinder DuratorqTDCI engine. It is only available in South Africa in 3.2 Automatic guise in two specification levels - XLT and the range-topping Limited.

With the commencement of local production, a 2.2-litre DuratorqTDCI four-cylinder diesel engine will be added to the range, along with a wider spread of specification levels. Built at Ford's Strandale Engine Plant in Port Elizabeth, the latest-generation DuratorqTDCI diesel engines - which are also used in the new Ranger - offer maximum fuel economy along with exceptional performance. The all-new Ford Everest is a rugged seven-seat SUV featuring body-on-frame construction, intelligent four-wheel drive and an Advanced Terrain Management System to help navigate challenging terrain with ease. In recent years, Africa has emerged as an

unit, Middle East and Africa comprising 67 markets to support the region with a dedicated focus and clear understanding of the unique conditions and customer needs.

The African growth story continued in 2015, when Ford confirmed that it would assemble the Ford Ranger in Nigeria, using semi knock-down (SKD) kits and components imported from South Africa. Ford Motor Company's growth story goes beyond its manufacturing expansion in South Africa. In 2015, Ford sold 78,471 passenger cars and light commercial vehicles in South Africa, the highest number on record. The South African-built Ranger



**PRETORIA:** Ford invests R2.5 billion (\$170 million) in local production of the all-new Ford Everest seven-seat SUV, and expansion of the new Ranger pickup program at its Silverton Assembly plant in Pretoria, South Africa. The expansion will create 1200 new jobs, and will allow Ford to export the all-new Everest into Sub-Saharan Africa countries.

increasingly important region for Ford, with continued investment and growth.

In 2008, Ford announced plans to build the Ford Ranger at its Silverton Assembly Plant with an investment of R3.4 billion. The investment allowed Ford to transform both of its South African plants into world class facilities to produce the Ford Ranger and DuratorqTDCI engines for local consumption and export. The Ford Ranger is exported to 148 countries in Africa, Middle East and Europe, while engines and machined components are supplied to Argentina, Thailand, North America, India and China. In 2014, Ford formed its newest business

pickup performed particularly well, with an 18.1% year-on-year increase in sales and a total of 33,920 Rangers sold in 2015.

"As we continue to grow our business here in South Africa we are committed to improving the skills of our employees and creating new opportunities within the company and the broader supply chain. It is only through the dedication and commitment of our work force, suppliers, dealers, union and government partners that we have been able to secure this investment and expand our operations, broadening our footprint in Africa even further," Nemeth concluded.

# EQUITY INVESTORS SHOULD NOT RELY ON THE CENTRAL BANKS ANYMORE

**KUWAIT:** The mandates for most central banks are to use monetary policies that are at their disposal to create an environment where economic growth flourishes and at the same time to control inflation. At present, they are trying to ignite inflation and at the same time create sustainable economic growth. Their monetary policy tools are far exhausted. Investors have been relying on them to come to the rescue whenever the stock markets get into turmoil. They have been obliging forcefully but I think it is no longer the case.

Global financial markets and central banks work together most of the times. They do come to the rescue of each other, sometimes. Their attitude may change in response to market or other central banks actions. They supposed to behave like wise men and give good future directions for investors and businessmen so they can plan their future investment strategies. Sadly this is not the case at present and most of them have become hostages to their actions.

A good and clear example of how the central banks have become hostages to their actions is happened this year. By the middle of February most global stock markets have seen a big correction and technically have entered a bear market. Suddenly the Federal Reserve abandoned its rate rise plan and the European Central bank went very aggressive in its policy of negative rates and widened its Quantitative Easing policy to purchase corporate bonds.

Stock markets made a fast rebound and managed to claw back most of its losses to close the first quarter with some losses. Now the test for investors is how companies performed during the first quarter and are they in a position to deliver good results. If first quarter earnings results are good then the central banks are off the hook for the time being. But if companies report bad results and markets get into correction again, will the central banks come to the rescue again. I very much doubt it.

Low rates, in the short run, are good for share prices. It should encourage savers into riskier assets such as stocks and bonds. Also, low rates reduces rate at which future earnings must be discounted. Some investors argue that it justifies higher earnings multiples by doing so it makes bonds less attractive. I

believe investors should compare equity valuations to those of the longest maturing bonds rather than cash rates. Stocks have no maturity so the longer the bond is the more accurate it is when making the relative valuation comparison.

Central banks are creating money like never before. They hoping this money will ultimately spent by savers and consumers.

But most of this large money has found its way into stocks and bonds. Some of it has been busy chasing higher investment return in foreign markets that at the same time carry much bigger risk. This is the hot money that looks for higher return wherever they find them. Central banks trying to discourage this hot money from leaving their shores but with no luck at all. Whereas the Federal Reserve raised rates and talking about more on the way other central banks have been lowering rates.

Never been before so much diversion in the policies of the global central banks. Their actions seem so desperate that investors are more nerves' and mar-

kets are more volatile than ever. The latest decision by the US central bank not raise rates has calmed the market down a bit. At least for the time being. This plus the reassurance by the Chinese government that economic growth still intact have helped investors to chase some of the bombed out commodity and oil stocks. Here lies the risk for investors. Talk by central bankers and government authorities should not be the base for investments. Talk to calm the markets down is just talk. Investors should be focusing on investment fundamentals more than ever.

Now it is absolutely clear that stock markets have become dependent on money sloshing around the world looking for places to invest with assurance from central banks. Over the past few years the global economy has been on a downward trend not strong enough for the central banks to tighten monetary policy and at times weak enough to continue with their printing money policy. It is also clear that investors' reliance on central banks is a game coming to the end.

## BURGAN BANK OFFERS PREMIER CUSTOMERS 15% DISCOUNT ON BIRTH PACKAGES AT ROYALE HAYAT

**KUWAIT:** Burgan Bank announced today its latest promotion to its Premier Banking customers, offering them a 15% discount on birth packages at Royale Hayat Hospital. Female Visa Platinum Debit or Credit cardholders are to use their Burgan Bank card and enjoy a unique comforting delivery experience through their booking of Royale Orchid suite, Orchid suite, Jasmine or Lotus suite.

That is in addition to a discount on other medical services like the Pediatric Dentistry treatments and the CosmeSurge - for non-surgical solutions. Burgan Bank is committed to rewarding its premier customers with exclusive offers that are tailor-made for their own lifestyle and aspirations, and will continue

accommodating optimal customer convenience with the provision of added value benefits inside and outside Kuwait.

To experience unmatched convenience and benefits with the rewarding features of the Premier banking package, clients must present their Visa Platinum Debit or Credit cards to avail instant services and promotions from the selected partners.

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## OOREDOO OFFERS NEW INTERNET PACKAGES; COMPETITIVE PRICES

### HIGH-SPEED INTERNET STARTING AT KD 4

**KUWAIT:** Ooredoo Kuwait, a member of the international Ooredoo Group, launched new Internet packages offering unrivalled performance and flexibility. Ooredoo's revamped data packages not only allow its customers to access as much Internet content as they like, whenever they like, without the inconvenience of daily caps - but also allow unused data services to roll-over into the following month. New customers can get packs that start from KD 4 with 200 GB of internet, twice the size offered previously for the same price. Additionally, Ooredoo's KD 7 pack can be coupled with a variety of tablets or an Apple TV, with a generous allowance of 400 GB a month. Customers who enjoy video games or who live in big households with many users can get a sufficient 1 TB of internet for KD 10 only.

Existing customers of the KD 7.5 have been upgraded 100 GB to 400 GB, while customers on contract with the KD 10 offer have been upgraded to 600 GB. Mijbil Alayoub, Director of Corporate Communications at Ooredoo Kuwait said: "We're always working on innovative offers and on improving our current plans."

With our new internet plans, high-speed internet is affordable to all segments, regardless of their needs. This is an extension to our deep-rooted belief in our mission to enrich the lives of communities through telecommunication technology." Ooredoo customers will continue to enjoy the option of coupling their package with new routers, tablets or gaming consoles. For more information, visit [www.ooredoo.com.kw](http://www.ooredoo.com.kw)



## TECHNICOLOR STORES HOLLYWOOD HISTORY IN A BOTTLE

**LOS ANGELES:** A Technicolor scientist surrounded by the latest virtual reality technology inspects a vial containing a few droplets of water - and one million copies of an old movie encoded into DNA. The company has come a long way since the Hollywood golden age, when the world gazed in awe at the lush palette of "The Wizard of Oz" and "Gone with the Wind" provided by its three-strip cameras. Now celebrating its centenary year, Technicolor's laboratories are at the cutting

edge of the science of filmmaking, leading a worldwide revolution in immersive entertainment.

"We are bigger today in LA than we were 70 years ago or 50 years ago," Technicolor chief Frederic Rose said at a recent ceremony where he accepted a "star of recognition" from the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce. Rose used the occasion at Technicolor's Sunset Boulevard studios to showcase the company's latest jaw-dropping innovation - the encoding of movies

into artificial, "non-biological" DNA.

Jean Bolot, vice-president for research and innovation, held up a vial barely bigger than a bullet containing a million copies of 1902 French silent film "A Trip to the Moon," the first movie to use visual effects. DNA is almost unimaginably small - up to 90,000 molecules can fit into the width of one human hair - so even such a large library is totally invisible to the human eye. All you can see is the water in the tube. "This, we believe, is what the future of movie archiving will look like," Bolot said.

Scientists have been experimenting with DNA as a potential storage medium for years but recent advances in modern lab equipment have made projects like Technicolor's a reality. The company's work builds on research by scientists at Harvard University, who in 2012 successfully stored 5.5 petabits of data - around 700 terabytes - in a single gram of DNA, smashing the previous DNA data density record by a factor of one thousand.

### Oscars Glory

DNA is a long, coiled molecular "ladder" - the famous double helix structure - comprising four chemical rungs, adenine, cytosine, guanine and thymine, which team up in pairs. Bolot's team digitized the "A Trip to the Moon" into data in the form of zeros and 1s in computing's binary code, and transcribed it into DNA code, which was then turned into molecules, using lab-dish chemicals. The contents are "read" by sequencing the DNA - as is routinely done today in genetic fingerprinting - and turning it back into computer code.

Converting movies into man-made DNA

brings huge advantages, said Bolot, who points out that the archives of every Hollywood studio, currently taking up square kilometers of floor space, could fit into a Lego brick. Another problem overcome by DNA storage is that the format for reading it doesn't become obsolete every decade or so, unlike celluloid, VHS, DVD and every other medium in the history of filmmaking.

"If I gave you a movie in the form of these floppy discs from the beginning of the IBM PC, you would not even know how to read the movie because there are no more floppy disc readers," Bolot said. "The guys at Harvard told me if you left this (vial) on a hot Arizona pavement with trucks running over it, and you come back in 10,000 years, it will still be readable." "A Trip to the Moon" took six weeks and tens of thousands of dollars to convert, but Bolot's team is working on streamlining the technology into something that would be genuinely commercially viable. "We don't know yet if that's going to work but if it does - and we'll know, we expect, within a year - then this will really unlock a new age for archiving," he said.

Founded in Boston in 1915, Technicolor relocated to Hollywood in the early 1920s and has provided post-production on thousands of films across the world. Its first feature, "The Gulf Between," finished in 1917 in an old converted railroad car, used a two-color technique that photographed a single strip of black and white film with green and red filters. Spool forward to February this year and Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu's "The Revenant" became the fifth straight "best cinematography" Oscar-winner

color-finished by Technicolor engineers. Richard Crudo, head of the American Society of Cinematographers and a director of photography on numerous features, has been working with the company's engineers since 1978 and describes them as "outstanding."

### Virtual Reality

"With the switchover to digital technology there have been a lot of changes and a lot of companies have fallen by the wayside," he told AFP. "But Technicolor has managed to make the transition very handily and maintain their standards." Perhaps the most exciting development in entertainment in recent years has been the emergence of sophisticated, hyper-realistic virtual and augmented reality, and Technicolor has been an early adopter, buying up industry-leading studios.

Last year it announced the \$295 million acquisition of The Mill, the world's largest visual effects and content creation studio for the advertising industry. Technicolor's portfolio also includes leading visual effects company MPC, which worked on Ridley Scott's "The Martian," and previewed the film with a 360-degree virtual reality flight onto the surface of Mars, via a headset. It's all a far cry from the two-color printing days, and quite what technologies Technicolor will be developing in another 100 years is anyone's guess. "You should always go back to the original Star Trek series as a source of inspiration for what's next," Rose, who has been at the helm of the company since 2008, told AFP. "And if you don't have access to it, you should read one of the Asimov novels for ideas." —AFP



**HOLLYWOOD:** A vial containing a few droplets of water - and one million copies of an old movie encoded onto DNA - is displayed during a media tour at Technicolor's Sunset Boulevard studios on March 30, 2016. —AFP

## LINE, KAKAO FLOURISHING AMONG YOUNG ASIANS

**SEOUL:** Forget Facebook and Twitter. Two of Asia's biggest social media players, Kakao Talk and Line, are growing by making mobile messaging apps an integral part of the lives of young Asians who prefer to communicate more privately instead of shouting out in virtual arenas and risking troubles with trolls - or disclosing aspects of their lives to their parents they'd rather not share. Kakao Talk is the top messenger app in South Korea, with more users than Facebook or Twitter. People use it to hail cabs and transfer money, advancing toward a cashless society. Even South Korean government officials prefer Kakao chat rooms for communicating with colleagues as opposed to email.

In Japan, where Line users outnumber those on Facebook or Twitter, people buy cute digital stickers to link to messages and use the app to search for music and jobs. In doing so, the apps are serving as test beds for digital services, demonstrating ways the latest trends in technology and communication can be integrated with daily life in the 21st century. Above all, they are making money, although some of their products, such as digital stickers, would be a hard sell in other markets. Silicon Valley investors and tech startups everywhere are watching closely.

Here's a look at Kakao Talk and Line, Asia's top messenger app companies.

**KAKAO TALK:** Headquartered on the southern island of Jeju, South Korea. The app was released in 2010.

**OWNED BY:** Kakao, South Korea's No. 2 Internet search engine, which counts former Naver CEO Kim Beom-su as the largest shareholder.

**NUMBERS:** 48 million active users globally, including 40 million in South Korea. Sales at the owner of Kakao Talk reached 932.2 billion won (\$808.5 million) last year.

**HITS:** Kakao Talk itself and its cute emoticon characters. The company was able to build on the success of Kakao Talk when it launched Kakao Story, an Instagram-like service which was at one point more popular than Facebook among South Koreans. But its user growth has been slowing. The latest big hit is Kakao Taxi, an Uber-like taxi hailing service.

**MAKING MONEY:** The 2012 launch of Kakao Game proved its first big jackpot. Many mobile games adopted a business model where users would have to either

invite Kakao Talk friends or pay to play more rounds or buy virtual items. This fueled huge growth in the mobile game market in South Korea, helping some game developers go public and amass cash. It also allowed advertisers like Uniqlo and mom-and-pop stores to interact with users one-on-one.

**CHALLENGES:** Game revenue has declined since peaking in 2014 as game developers began to distance themselves to save commission fees. Following a controversy in 2014 over South Korean authorities' seizure of Kakao Talk user data, many customers have migrated to Berlin-based competitor Telegram. Since then, South Koreans have become wary of what they say on the app, which has not severely dented its traffic but has hurt its reputation.

**EXPANSION:** Kakao Talk has unsuccessfully tried to expand in Japan and



**SEOUL:** Passengers use their smartphones on a subway train yesterday. —AP

Indonesia, both countries where Line is strong. Instead, the company has largely focused on developing new services for its huge Korean customer base.

**ANALYST TAKE:** "They have to get a momentum in the mobile advertisement market, but no messenger companies have established themselves as strong an advertisement platform as Facebook," said Justin Lee, an analyst at BNP Paribas in Seoul. Earlier expectations for monetizing messenger apps may have been overly optimistic, he said. "Because of the limitations of one-on-one services, its appeal as an ad platform is not as big as Facebook."

**LINE:** Headquartered in Tokyo. Founded in 2011.

**OWNED BY:** South Korea's No. 1 Internet search engine company Naver Corp.

**NUMBERS:** 215 million active users globally, 68 million in Japan. Recorded 120.7 billion yen (\$1.1 billion) in sales last year.

**HITS:** Line has leveraged businesses such as merchandising of dolls and other goods featuring mascot-like characters such as Brown the bear. It also rakes in revenue from the sale of emoticon stickers, called "stamps" in Japan, to use with Line messages. Many stamps are free or cost very little, and Line has opened stamp designing to the public, enhancing their appeal. Cab drivers, for instance, use special stamps with their industry jargon handy for quick communication with other drivers in their team. Some 2.4 billion

around that problem, Line has come up with its own prepaid cards that can be charged at convenience-store chains.

**CHALLENGES:** Line is entering the mobile operator service in Japan, to be launched in a few months, starting at an affordable 500 yen (\$4.40) a month, using the telecommunications infrastructure of major Japanese carrier NTT DoCoMo. Nearly half of mobile phone users in Japan haven't yet switched to smartphones, and Line hopes to attract those users when they finally make the switch.

**EXPANSION:** Line has also been focusing on expanding to Thailand, Taiwan and Indonesia. To appeal to such markets, it has created locally oriented serial dramas to watch. It also offers music and job-search services and is branching into online news.

**ANALYST TAKE:** "It is important for Line to continue focusing on its localization strategy," said Jun Wen Woo, an analyst at IHS. "Users from Japan and Taiwan may have similar interests in Japanese comics, but users from Thailand and Indonesia might be more interested in other content such as games." Line users have been dropping outside the four main countries, Japan, Taiwan, Thailand and Indonesia, she said.

### FACEBOOK AND TWITTER:

Facebook, which boasts 1.6 billion users globally, has about 16 million monthly active users in South Korea and 25 million in Japan. Instagram, the photo-sharing mobile app owned by Facebook, has 6 million users in South Korea and 8.1 million in Japan. Globally, Instagram has 400 million users. Facebook has been gaining traction along with Instagram in South Korea. Facebook's users there jumped nearly 50 percent from 2013 to 2015.

Twitter, meanwhile, has 320 million users around the world and 35 million in Japan, one of its largest markets. It is popular in Japan for its quick, newsy feel and the option for anonymity that Japanese tend to favor. Koreans tend to view Twitter as a niche, alternative platform for people seeking to voice opinion anonymously. Twitter does not disclose a country-specific user number for South Korea. Seoul-based market research firm Ranky.com estimates that there are 1.2 million Twitter users in the country, but its estimate is based on a survey of 60,000 Android phone owners and does not include iPhone users. —AP



**NEW YORK:** This Feb 19, 2014 file photo shows the Facebook app icon on an iPhone. —AP

## FACEBOOK TESTS TECH TO HELP BLIND PEOPLE ENJOY PHOTOS

**MENLO PARK, California:** Facebook on Monday began using artificial intelligence to help people with visual impairments enjoy photos posted at the leading social network. Facebook introduced machine learning technology trained to recognize objects in pictures and then describe photos aloud. "As Facebook becomes an increasingly visual experience, we hope our new automatic alternative text technology will help the blind community experience Facebook the same way others enjoy it," said accessibility specialist Matt King.

The feature was being tested on mobile devices powered by Apple iOS software and which have screen readers set to English. Facebook planned to expand the capability to devices with other kinds of operating systems and add more languages, according to King, who lost his vision as a US college student studying electrical engineering. The technology works across Facebook's family of applications and is based on a "neural network" taught to recognize things in pictures using millions of examples.

More than two billion pictures are shared daily across Facebook, Instagram, Messenger and WhatsApp, King said.

"While this technology is still nascent, tapping its current capabilities to describe photos is a huge step toward providing our visually impaired community the same benefits and enjoyment that everyone else gets from photos," King said. The Silicon Valley-based social network said that it was moving slowly with the feature to avoid potentially offensive or embarrassing gaffes when it comes to automatically describing what is in pictures.

Words used in descriptions included those related to transportation, outdoors settings, sports, food, and people's appearances. The Facebook technology made its debut less than a week after Microsoft enticed software developers with a suite of offerings that let them tap into the power of cloud computing, big data, and machine learning. The Cortana Intelligence Suite boasted the ability to let applications see, hear, speak, understand and interpret people's needs. Microsoft said that a "Seeing AI" research project was underway to show how those capabilities could be woven into applications to help people who are visually impaired or blind better learn what is around them, say by scanning scenes with smartphone cameras or specially equipped eyewear. —AFP

## LEICA CLOCKS UP RECORD SALES AHEAD OF HUAWEI PARTNERSHIP

**FRANKFURT:** Leica, the top-of-the-range camera maker, clocked up record sales last year, its chief revealed in a newspaper interview yesterday ahead of the expected unveiling of a new smartphone built in collaboration with China's Huawei group. "We are pleased to announce that we booked record sales of more than 365 million euros (\$415 million)," chief executive Oliver Kaufmann told the business daily Handelsblatt in an interview. "That represents an increase of 12 percent over the previous year. In view of the transformations our industry is currently undergoing, that's remarkable for a medium-sized company such as Leica," he said.

Leica's reputation dates back to the pioneers of photo-journalism Robert Capa and Henri Cartier-Bresson. The firm, with its trademark red-button logo, has undergone a difficult period over the last decade after being slow to catch on to digital photography and also in the face of ferocious competition from Asian rivals. Bought in 2005 by Austrian entrepreneur Andreas Kaufmann, the investment fund Blackstone acquired a stake in 2011. And Leica is "the only company of our size" in the sector which is still headquartered in Europe, Kaufmann said. "All other camera makers are based in Asia."

But Leica has succeeded in rejuvenating its brand without losing its luxury image. After collaborating with Japan's Panasonic, Leica announced at the end of February a



**Andreas Kaufmann**

partnership with China's Huawei. The partners are shortly to reveal a joint smartphone. "Lots of companies, including mobile phone and computer makers, enquired" about possible cooperations, Kaufmann said. "But no-one else aside from Huawei recognized and acknowledged Leica's technical expertise and is also bringing lots of know-how with it, too," he said. Huawei has rapidly emerged as the world's third-biggest maker of mobile phones after Samsung and Apple and is targeting the high-end market. —AFP

## QUALITYNET LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE

**KUWAIT:** Qualitynet, Kuwait's no. 1 provider of ICT, enterprise, data communication and Internet solutions, announced the launch of their new and improved website (www.qualitynet.net), taking inspiration from global design trends and popular customer requests. The fully responsive site will offer a smooth and interactive experience over multiple platforms and devices. The launch marks an important milestone in the brand's strategic journey to enhancing the overall Customer Experience.

Ali E AlEsmail, GM - Customer Services and Information Service, Qualitynet, stated: "Our new site is the result of the combined efforts of many people, both internally and externally, brought together towards the single goal of creating a more flexible, friendly and interactive website. The site is fully responsive, offering a similar experience over laptops, tablets and mobiles among others. We have placed special emphasis on providing rich content on all our services catering to multiple sectors, supported by audiovisual media, which will also help in presenting the latest in industry news and services in an easy manner."

"The portal is designed with customer priorities in mind," said Ali. "To add to the fast and friendly web experience, we have incorporated easy links to QStore, our Online Store and to Testahel, our rewards program. While QStore provides the easiest way to subscribe or renew your subscription through a few clicks, the Testahel site



**Ali E AlEsmail**

lets you find out what awaits you in the form of reward points, valuable gifts and other benefits" he added.

Another highlight of the new site is the special emphasis given to corporate and enterprise sector, not just through the extensive information on services, but

also via QBusiness, the online portal for corporate customers. Ali stated: "Through QBusiness, our corporate customers can securely access their complete list of services, charges, dues and technical details. QBusiness also provides the option to make online payments and service requests, track service tickets and even communicate one-on-one with their account managers, thereby making the whole service experience much more convenient and transparent."

The new website also makes it easier for the brand to interact with its customers and fans. In addition to linking to its popular social media channels, the website also sees the introduction of a blog, which will focus on technology news, the latest from global technology events such as World Mobile Congress (WMC), International Telecoms Week (ITW) and Gitex Technology Week, industry updates and much more. Customers and blog readers can interact with the brand via the blog and subscribe to receive the latest blog updates to their email.

Ali concluded by saying: "We are proud to launch the new site, as it offers one more opportunity to serve our customers better. Our core importance lies in providing the best grade of service and support to our customers. This has been our focus from the day we started, and this will continue to be our focus as the leading total solutions provider in Kuwait."



## CHOLESTEROL DRUG FAILS TO IMPROVE THE HEART

**WASHINGTON:** An experimental drug that greatly increases levels of "good" cholesterol has no effect on heart health, a comprehensive clinical trial found, leaving researchers shocked and disappointed. It is also a blow to patients who were hoping for an alternative because they cannot or will not take statins, which can cut low-density lipoprotein (LDL), or bad cholesterol. The study involving more than 12,000 patients at high risk for serious cardiovascular problems found that the drug evacetrapib had no benefits, according to research presented Sunday at the American College of Cardiology conference in Chicago.

Manufacturer Eli Lilly stopped the trial in October when the drug was found to be ineffective. But now experts have given a

comprehensive explanation of what happened. Two other drugs in the same class as evacetrapib, known as CETP inhibitors and designed to raise levels of HDL cholesterol-high-density lipoprotein, the "good" type-have also failed, presenting experts with a quandary.

### 'Disappointed and surprised'

"We have a paradox: Here we've got an agent that more than doubles the levels of good cholesterol and lowers bad cholesterol and yet has no effect on clinical events," said lead author Professor Stephen Nicholls. "We were disappointed and surprised by the results," added Nicholls, of The University of Adelaide in Australia and cardiologist at Royal Adelaide Hospital. On average, patients taking evacetrapib daily

for at least 18 months lowered their LDL cholesterol by 37 percent and increased their HDL cholesterol high-density lipoprotein, the "good" type-by 130 percent compared with patients taking a placebo.

However, there was no difference between the two groups in terms of the primary "endpoint" of the research-including the amount of time until cardiovascular death, heart attack, stroke or coronary artery bypass surgery. "As we close out the trial, we're trying to understand how a drug that seems to do all the right things in terms of blood cholesterol levels doesn't then translate into reducing clinical events," added Nicholls.

Steve Nissen, chairman of Cardiovascular Medicine at Cleveland Clinic, attempted to put a positive spin on

the disappointing outcome. "These findings illustrate the importance of performing large, high-quality outcome trials," he said. "Just looking at the effects a therapy has on cholesterol levels doesn't always translate into clinical benefits." However, Nicholls cautioned that evacetrapib could potentially benefit patients with low risk of serious heart trouble, although that was not part of the study. The findings could challenge conventional thinking regarding the benefits of HDL cholesterol in protecting against cardiovascular problems, he said. They also suggest that existing treatments, such as statins, are already so effective that they cannot be improved upon.

### Side effect woes

However, some people with high cho-

lesterol are hoping for an alternative to statins because they complain about side effects such as muscle pain and weakness. They have high hopes for a new drug like Repatha, produced by the US company Amgen or its rival Praluent, sold by the French firm Sanofi with its American partner Regeneron. The two new powerful anti-cholesterol drugs of the same class were approved last year by the Food and Drug Administration only to patients with a hereditary form of high bad cholesterol and those with cardiovascular disease but not for prevention. These new anti-cholesterol drugs don't cause side effects on muscles in most people, according to a recent clinical trial. But they are very expensive, costing around 14,000 dollars a year. — AFP



**SINGAPORE:** A worker fumigates an area against aedes mosquitoes which carry the dengue virus at a residential estate yesterday. — AFP

## VIETNAM REPORTS FIRST ZIKA INFECTIONS, RAISES ALARM

2 WOMEN, ONE PREGNANT, ARE THE FIRST TO BE INFECTED IN VIETNAM

**HANOI:** Mosquitoes have infected two women with the Zika virus in Vietnam, health authorities said yesterday, in the country's first cases of a disease linked in Brazil to thousands of suspected cases of microcephaly, a rare birth defect. A 64-year-old woman in the beach city of Nha Trang and a pregnant 33-year-old in Ho Chi Minh City fell sick in late March, and three rounds of tests have confirmed they are Zika-positive, health officials said.

The sufferers are in stable condition and no further infections have been found among their relatives and neighbours, the health ministry said in a statement. "After epidemic investigations, we consider the source of infection could

be mosquito," Deputy Health Minister Nguyen Thanh Long said of the patient in Ho Chi Minh City. She is eight weeks pregnant, Long said in a Vietnam Television broadcast, but gave no details of the first woman.

Health officials have quarantined the living areas of the patient's families and taken samples from others living nearby for further tests, said Nguyen Chi Dung, head of Ho Chi Minh City's department of preventive medicine. The World Health Organization is working closely with Vietnam, a WHO official told a health ministry meeting to announce the infections.

Zika is carried by mosquitoes, which transmit the virus to humans. The WHO says there is a

strong scientific consensus that Zika can cause microcephaly as well as Guillain-Barre syndrome, a rare neurological disorder that can result in paralysis, though conclusive proof may take months or years. Microcephaly is characterized by unusually small heads that can result in developmental problems.

Zika has been endemic in Asia, with infection cases confirmed in Bangladesh, South Korea, Thailand and China. Brazil said it had confirmed more than 860 cases of microcephaly, most of which it considers to be related to Zika infections in the mothers. It is investigating more than 4,200 additional suspected cases of microcephaly. — Reuters

## WHY THE ZIKA VIRUS IS CAUSING ALARM

**G**lobal health officials are racing to better understand the Zika virus behind a major outbreak that began in Brazil last year and has since spread to many countries in the Americas. The following are some questions and answers about the virus and current outbreak:

### How do people become infected?

Zika is transmitted to people through the bite of infected female mosquitoes, primarily the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, the same type that spreads dengue, chikungunya and yellow fever. The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) said *Aedes* mosquitoes are found in all countries in the Americas except Canada and continental Chile, and the virus will likely reach all countries and territories of the region where *Aedes* mosquitoes are found.

### How do you treat Zika?

There is no treatment or vaccine for Zika infection. Companies and scientists are racing to develop a safe and effective vaccine for Zika, but the World Health Organization (WHO) said it would take at least 18 months to start large-scale clinical trials of potential preventative shots.

### How dangerous is it?

The PAHO said there is no evidence that Zika can cause death, but some cases have been reported with more serious complications in patients with pre-existing medical conditions. It has also been associated with Guillain-Barre syndrome, a rare disorder in which the body's immune system attacks part of the nervous system.

### How is Zika related to microcephaly?

According to the World Health Organization, there is a strong scientific consensus that Zika can cause the birth defect microcephaly in babies, a condition defined by unusually small heads that can result in developmental problems. In addition, the agency said it could cause Guillain-Barre syndrome, a rare neurological disorder that can result in paralysis, though conclusive proof may take months or years. Research in Brazil is being conducted to confirm the suspected link to microcephaly, with initial findings expected within months, according to public health officials. Brazil said it has confirmed 944 cases of microcephaly, and considers most of them to be related to Zika infections in the mothers. Brazil is investigating an additional 4,291 suspected cases of microcephaly. Research in Brazil indicates the greatest microcephaly risk is associated with infection during the first trimester of pregnancy. Recent studies from other countries have shown evidence of Zika in amniotic fluid, placenta and fetal brain tissue.

### What are the symptoms?

People infected with Zika may have a mild fever, skin rash, conjunctivitis, muscle

and joint pain and fatigue that can last for two to seven days. But as many as 80 percent of people infected never develop symptoms. The symptoms are similar to those of dengue or chikungunya, which are transmitted by the same type of mosquito.

### How can Zika be contained?

Efforts to control the spread of the virus focus on eliminating mosquito breeding sites and taking precautions against mosquito bites such as using insect repellent and mosquito nets. U.S. and international health officials have advised pregnant women to avoid travel to Latin American and Caribbean countries where they may be exposed to Zika.

### How widespread?

Active Zika outbreaks have been reported in at least 41 countries or territories, most of them in the Americas, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Brazil has been the country most affected. Africa (1): Cape Verde Americas (33): Aruba, Barbados, Bolivia, Bonaire, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Curaçao, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Martinique, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Puerto Rico, Saint Martin, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, St Maarten, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, US Virgin Islands and Venezuela Oceania/Pacific Islands (5): American Samoa, Fiji, Kosrae, Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, Samoa, and Tonga

### What is the history?

The Zika virus is found in tropical locales with large mosquito populations. Outbreaks of Zika have been recorded in Africa, the Americas, Southern Asia and the Western Pacific. The virus was first identified in Uganda in 1947 in rhesus monkeys and was first identified in people in 1952 in Uganda and Tanzania, according to the WHO.

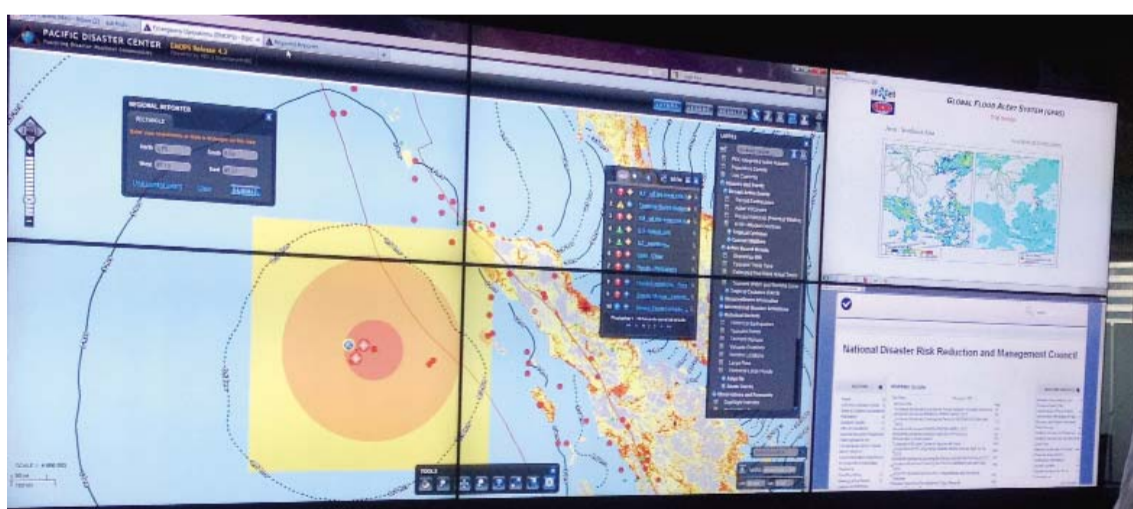
### Through sexual contact?

The World Health Organization (WHO) said sexual transmission is "relatively common" and has advised pregnant women not to travel to areas with ongoing outbreaks of Zika virus. The US CDC is investigating about a dozen cases of possible sexual transmission. All cases involve possible transmission of the virus from men to their sex partners. On Feb 27, France said it had detected its first sexually transmitted case of Zika in a woman whose partner had traveled to Brazil. On March 31, the WHO said six countries where Zika is not known to be spreading by mosquitoes have reported locally acquired infections, probably through sexual transmission, naming Argentina, Chile, France, Italy, New Zealand and the United States. — Reuters

## RESEARCHERS FOCUS ON DATA TO COMBAT ZIKA

**HONOLULU:** As the Zika outbreak takes hold in Latin America, researchers thousands of miles away in Hawaii are using data to figure out where it might spread next. In the last three months, researchers from the University of Hawaii at the Pacific Disaster Center have focused on combatting the mosquito-spread virus. So far, the Maui-based center has worked to map the spread of Zika, which can help health officials and local governments figure out where to target mosquito eradication efforts or increase access to health services.

Gwen Tobert, a foreign affairs officer with the State Department, said they're using the center's products to follow how the Zika outbreak is developing and to better understand how it affects communities in Latin American countries. She said their maps help officials to decide where and how to respond to the outbreak. The World Health Organization recently declared Zika virus a "public health emergency of international concern," which is linked to birth defects and has infected thousands of people in Latin America. Pacific Disaster Center Executive Director Ray Shirkhodai said his organization is using data that's publicly available - for instance, the number of Zika cases - as well as data on rainfall, the location of roads and airports to show where Zika could spread. They've also worked directly with governments in Latin American countries to gather information such as locations of hospitals and health care policies to figure out which countries could respond better to an outbreak. For instance, a map that charts data involving ambulance response as well as the number of available hospital beds and physicians shows Brazil could recover faster from a potential health crisis like Zika than Paraguay or Bolivia.



**JAKARTA, Indonesia:** The Pacific Disaster Center's app, Disaster Alert, is displayed at the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance in Jakarta, Indonesia, to map an earthquake. — AP photos

### International rescue

"The impact has been on the ground and pretty real," Shirkhodai said, adding that the center is working with government officials to figure out what other kinds of products

might be useful. In recent years, the Pacific Disaster Center has worked with agencies ranging from the Department of Homeland Security to the Department of Defense to create apps to map disasters. Their work has

been used to direct international rescue efforts during disasters ranging from a 2015 earthquake in Nepal to Tropical Cyclone Winston in Fiji last month.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency works closely with the Pacific Disaster Center to map storms and other hazards in the Pacific, said Susan Hendrick, an agency spokeswoman. FEMA also worked with the center to understand disasters' impact on local residents and infrastructure.

During Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines in 2014, Brian Steckler, who recently retired as director of the Naval Postgraduate School's Hastily Formed Networks program, said the school teamed up with the Pacific Disaster Center to help set up Internet service for emergency responders. The groups also helped to map out areas where the storm had damaged Internet infrastructure and phone lines. — AP



**KIHEI, Hawaii:** Ray Shirkhodai, executive director of the Pacific Disaster Center, demonstrates how to use the mobile app, Disaster Alert, at the center based.

## REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGY TIED TO HIGHER RISK OF BIRTH DEFECTS

**NEW YORK:** Women who use in vitro fertilization (IVF) and other reproductive technologies may be more likely to have children with certain birth defects than their peers who conceive the old-fashioned way, a US study suggests. The authors caution that the findings are too preliminary to deter women from trying to conceive this way. They say the increased risk of complications may be at least partly due to older maternal age and other health factors that lead women to try assisted reproductive technology (ART) in the first place.

The study team couldn't tell what was behind the increased risk of birth defects in babies conceived using ART, said Dr Sheree Boulet, a health scientist in the division of reproductive health at the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention who led the research. "That said, our manuscript suggests that factors related to underlying subfertility - which is what leads many couples to explore ART services - could increase the risk of birth defects," Boulet added by email.

Boulet and colleagues reviewed data on more than 4.6 million babies born in Florida, Massachusetts and Michigan from 2000 to 2010. About 1.4 percent of these babies, or roughly 65,000, were conceived using reproductive technology, according to a report in JAMA Pediatrics. Overall, for every 10,000 babies, almost 59 of those conceived using ART had at least one non-genetic birth defect, compared with about 48 of those conceived the old-fashioned way.

Most of the women who didn't use ART were under 30, while the majority of the women who

conceived using reproductive technology were at least 35 years old. Even after researchers adjusted for mother's age and other health characteristics, infants born via ART were 28 percent more likely to have these birth defects than babies conceived without reproductive technology.

Among babies born after an ART process known as fresh embryo transfer - when a woman is stimulated with fertility medications and has eggs retrieved and embryos implanted all within the same reproductive cycle - the risk of birth defects was 53 percent greater with women who had ovulation disorders. For the subset of women who underwent a newer ART process known as assisted hatching - when scientists help the embryo emerge from a layer of proteins so it can better attach to the uterus - the risk of birth defects was 55 percent higher.

One limitation of the study is that it lacked data on birth defects in pregnancies that didn't result in a live-born child, which means it may have underestimated the prevalence of birth defects, the authors note. It's also possible that ART-conceived babies are monitored more closely, resulting in a higher detection rate for birth defects among these infants. "Even though the study found differences in risk of birth defects, it should be remembered that overall prevalence of these defects is low," said Judy Stern, a professor of obstetrics and gynecology and pathology at Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth in Lebanon, New Hampshire. "The vast majority of babies born from ART were normal," Stern, who wasn't involved in the study, added by email. — Reuters



## BRITON'S 1-MAN CAMPAIGN FOR A LITTER-FREE MARSEILLE

**MARSEILLE:** Most people are resigned to a little litter in their lives. Not Eddie Platt, a British expatriate who single-handedly took on the scourge in Marseille, the southern French city where he took up residence in 2010. The 38-year-old launched his quirky campaign last September with a Facebook page titled "1 Dechet par Jour/1 Piece of Rubbish". The idea is simple, if not particularly sexy: participants post selfies on a social network-Facebook, Instagram or Twitter-each time they pick up a piece of litter and put it in the rubbish bin.

Ten tones of rescued rubbish later, the effort has cyber fans around the world from Buenos Aires to New York, and TV and newspapers are hounding Platt for interviews. It was in Platt's hometown of Leeds, northern England, that the idea first came to him. "I went back to Leeds last summer and I realized that my hometown was dirty, that the filth wasn't just in Marseille," he said. "To think that for four years I was saying 'it's cleaner in England!'"

In fact Platt shot his founding litter-binning selfie in Leeds' sprawling Roundhay Park, one of Europe's biggest city parks. The Yorkshireman says he does not self-identify as green but simply as a concerned citizen. "Eddie is a guy with amazing energy. He talks about his idea all the time, and he's really into social networking," said his friend Georges-Edouard Legre. One Sunday Platt, who has only an approximate mastery of French-learned some 350 Marseillais on a climb up the city's tallest hill, topped by the imposing basilica Our Lady of the Guard, for a clean-up operation.

A few weeks later, the litter-pickers descended on the city's Old Port. Platt is hard to miss with his infectious smile, greying beard and backwards baseball cap, not to mention his towering height-he is six foot three (1.90 meters). Combine that with an irreverence worthy of Monty Python and Legre was quickly seduced. "I told him, 'If you succeed in changing the habits of the Marseillais, I will worship you.'" Legre, who

says he is "100 percent Marseillais", specializes in "viral marketing" and set Platt up with his social networking tools. And Romain Jouanaud, who uses the same coworking lounge as Platt, lent his artistic skills to the campaign: "I told him, 'Let me create symbols to get the idea across without words.'"

### 'Picking up litter got sexy'

Platt has had a varied career, working as a restaurant manager in England for "about 10 years, to make some money", then as a sales rep for a high-tech firm, before training to teach English abroad. "I left to teach in Poland and my income went down 90 percent. Money didn't motivate me anymore, I wanted to help people enrich their lives," Platt says. He had business cards printed with the tag line "An English teacher". Five years ago, a friend suggested he teach in Naples, southern Italy. But as he was hitchhiking in the general direction he blew in to Marseille, and it was love at first sight. — AFP



**MARSEILLE:** This file photo shows founder of "1 Piece of Rubbish" project British Edmund 'Eddie' Platt posing in front of an artwork made with plastic waste by Swiss designer Roman Aebersold as part of an exhibition entitled "La mer, destination finale" (The Sea, Final Destination). — AFP



**CHINA:** In this file photo a man lights a cigarette as a cook roasts dogs at a restaurant in Yulin in south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. — AP

## ANIMAL ACTIVISTS TARGET CHINA DOG MEAT FESTIVAL

**BEIJING:** Animal rights activists are seeking to shut down an annual summer dog meat festival in southern China blamed for blackening the country's international reputation as well as fueling extreme cruelty to canines and unhygienic food handling practices. Activists from a coalition of groups said Monday that they will continue press for the festival to be banned as well as legislation outlawing the slaughtering of dogs and cats and the consumption of their meat.

While an estimated 10-20 million dogs are killed for their meat each year in China, the June 20 event in the city of Yulin has come to symbolize the cruelty and lack of hygiene associated with the largely unregulated industry. Yu Hongmei, director of the VShine Animal Protection Association, said China needs to follow the exam-

ple of the vast majority of developed nations that have banned eating dog and cat.

"China needs to progress with the times," Yu said. "Preventing cruelty to animals is the sign of a mature, civilized society." Restaurant owners say eating dog meat is traditional during the summer, while opponents say the festival that began in 2010 has no cultural value and was merely invented to drum up business. Since 2014, the local government has sought to disassociate itself from the event, forbidding its employees from attending and limiting its size by shutting down some dog markets and slaughter houses.

Still, as many as 10,000 dogs, many of them stolen pets still wearing their collars, are slaughtered for the festival held deep inside the poor, largely rural

Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. Some are trucked in hundreds of kilometers (miles) stuffed six or seven to a crate or small metal cage without food or water. Slaughtering takes place in front of the animals, usually with a club to induce the pain and fear that restaurant owners claim makes their adrenaline-rich meat tastier.

"Psychologically and mentally, they have already died many times," said Peter J. Li, Humane Society International's China policy specialist. Dog meat also poses a risk to human health by spreading diseases such as trichinellosis, rabies and cholera, the Humane Society says. Guangxi is already one of China's five worst areas affected by human rabies, and Yulin ranks as one of the top 10 Chinese cities in terms of cases, the organization says.

Activists said rallies held around the country to oppose dog eating, as well as outrage on social media from the growing ranks of dog lovers, are already having an effect. Dog meat restaurants have been forced to take the festival indoors and large-scale open air dog meat consumption is no longer seen. However, a draft animal cruelty law remains mired in China's legislature and prosecution of dog thieves and those violating animal transport laws remains lax, activists complain. Yu Dezhi, secretary general of Animal Protection Power, said he was confident that shifting consumption habits will eventually help build the necessary groundswell against the Yulin festival and dog eating in general. "There is simply no market for dog meat among young people," Yu said. — AP

## LESS-INVASIVE HEART VALVE IMPLANT OUTPERFORMS SURGERY, STUDY SAYS

**CHICAGO:** A minimally invasive procedure to replace the aortic heart valve is superior to open surgery for patients with an intermediate risk of complications, according to a study that could pave the way for wider use of the approach. Patients who received the less-invasive implant had fewer strokes and a lower mortality rate after one year than those whose valve was replaced through open heart surgery, the Sapien 3 study showed. The procedure, called transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR), is currently available only for patients considered unlikely to survive open heart surgery or at high risk for complications.

The new data, presented Sunday at the American College of Cardiology meeting in Chicago, will be used to seek US regulatory approval for Edwards Lifesciences' Sapien 3 valve in patients deemed at intermediate risk for complications with open heart surgery. "It seems likely that TAVR will become the new benchmark for the treatment of severe aortic stenosis in intermediate-risk patients," Dr. Vinod Thourani, professor at Emory University School of Medicine and a lead investigator for the study, said in an interview.

TAVR involves threading the valve into place through blood vessels using a catheter. Medtronic Plc also sells TAVR systems in the United States. The Sapien 3 study found that 4.6

percent of patients who received Edwards' valve had a stroke and 7.4 percent died within a year of their procedure. Among surgery patients, 8.2 percent suffered a stroke and 13 percent died.

Surgery resulted in less valve leakage, or aortic regurgitation, than TAVR, but few people in either group experienced the complication, which affected 1.5 percent of the TAVR patients, Thourani said. The Sapien 3 study compared 1,078 TAVR patients with outcomes for 944 patients who had open heart surgery in a related trial called Partner II. The Partner II study, presented on Saturday, showed Edwards' older-model Sapien XT valve was as effective as surgery in intermediate-risk patients.

Edwards expects US regulators to review data from both studies to approve an expanded indication for the Sapien 3 valve before the end of the year, Chief Executive Michael Mussallem said in an interview. "The only option up until now has been open surgery, which is very effective, but many patients would not opt for that," he said. Approval would more than double the pool of patients eligible for the catheter-based approach, Mussallem said. "We expect the treatment paradigm for intermediate-risk patients to change almost overnight and for the TAVR market to accelerate dramatically," JP Morgan analyst Michael Weinstein said in a note to clients Saturday. — Reuters

## SATELLITES KEY TO MONITORING HARMFUL EMISSIONS

**NEW DELHI:** Satellite technology plays a crucial role in measuring greenhouse gas emissions globally, the heads of several space agencies agreed Sunday as they vowed to work together to develop a coordinated monitoring system. The pledge comes after a landmark climate accord in Paris last year at which world leaders agreed to cap global warming by "well below" two degrees Celsius above pre-Industrial levels. Satellites will play a "major role" in ensuring that ambitious target is met by measuring harmful emissions that contribute to the planet's warming, said Jean-Yves Le Gall, president of France's National Space Studies Centre (CNES), at the meeting in the India capital.

"The idea is to bring together all these ideas about satellite projects from different agencies" to measure carbon and methane emissions in order to eventually achieve "global coordination," he told AFP. Some countries already have satellites measuring emissions, but efforts have not been linked between countries, and as such there is no comprehensive measurement system in place. Japan's GoSat and the US OCO-2

satellites are already at work measuring carbon emissions.

China is developing its own TanSat and France is working on the MicroCarb satellite to survey CO2 emissions. Meanwhile France and Germany are working together to develop a methane monitoring satellite that they have dubbed Merlin. Le Gall said heads of space agencies around the world, including from China, France, India, Japan and the United States, agreed to work together to "achieve maximum cross-collaboration of tools and cross-verification steps" to coordinate and fact-check measurements.

The goal is to be able to track global emissions and also to record emissions per country, CNES said. The meeting was organized by Le Gall and Kiran Kumar, president of the Indian Space Research Organization. It follows a similar conference last year in Mexico at which space agencies said satellite observation technology was a "key element of a global measurement system" and integral to reducing greenhouse gases around the world. — AFP

# CLINIC PAGE



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## GREEN LEAF OPENS ITS DOORS AT AL-SALAM MALL

**G**reen Leaf recently invited the media to celebrate the opening of their new venture for the first time in Kuwait, in Al-Salam Mall in Salmiya, Salem Al-Mubarak Street, where attendees enjoyed eating unique meals in a green stunning atmosphere

with the highest standards of hospitality services. Green Leaf provides the fanciest design concept focuses on fine cuisine in an atmosphere full of entertainment and excellence. The restaurant also offers its visitors unforgettable experience of hospitality, green

colors decoration of botanical nature. Green Leaf outstanding sense is the destination for passionate people to taste unique dishes in an upscale atmosphere. The restaurant adds a special item on the list of beverages and various choices of hot coffee fresh juices,

and iced tea of the 'Teaforte' brand, that meet all tastes. The quality is excellent with a permanent follow-up of all that is new in the market. It is perfect suitable option for rest and relaxation with family or friends.



## KAMCO SPONSORS 8TH ANNUAL CHARTER AWARD CEREMONY

**K**AMCO Investment Company KSC (Public) announced its seventh consecutive gold sponsorship of the 2016 Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) Award Ceremony in Kuwait. The event was held at the Salwa Al-Sabah Hall in Salmiya to honor recent charter holders on their accomplishment. KAMCO has been sponsoring the event for the past seven years, further recognizing and encouraging all local CFA holders and those who are in pursuit of becoming certified. KAMCO continuously supports such events and programs that appreciate and drive those who are focused on developing themselves.

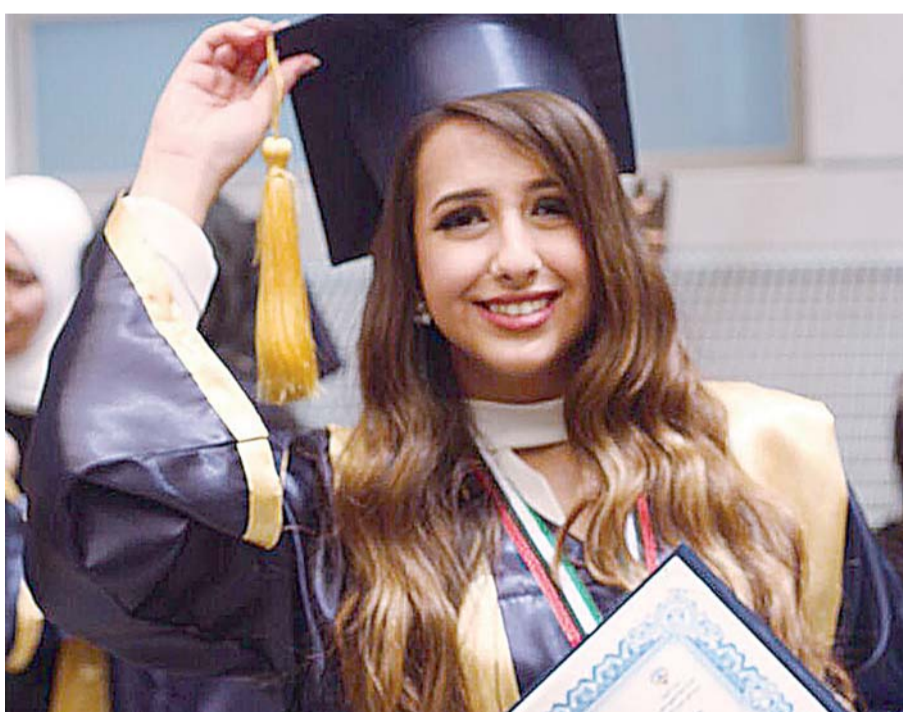
Farouq Al-Oumi, KAMCO's Acting Chief Resources Officer, said, "We believe that innovation thrives on development and as part of our



Farouq Al-Oumi, Acting Chief Resources Officer at KAMCO

corporate social responsibility agenda, we place strong emphasis on highlighting and progressing the role of education in our community. Renowned academic functions such as the annual CFA Award Ceremony focus attention on those who have put in relentless hours of hard work and dedication to achieve a certain level of academic achievement."

He added, "At KAMCO, we believe that progressively developing and enhancing our local and region education system will greatly benefit our society, motivating individuals to pursue their desired career paths. We also continue to provide our employees with adequate training to equip them with the necessary tools to complete their tasks more efficiently and effectively.



Mousa Ashour and his wife Safaa hosted a dinner party to celebrate the graduation of their daughter Farah from the Fajer Al-Sabah School.



It was a rosy and emotional moment on Friday as friends and well-wishers gathered at the house of Engr Joe Eneh for the send-off party of Prof Kehinde who is leaving for good. "May the Almighty God bless, guide and protect your family Amen."





## BRIAN CAPPER SETS KUWAIT ON FIRE

Live action has always been a firm favorite in Kuwait. Recently, Kuwait witnessed exciting Motor Trial Biking shows during the past weekend as Red Bull athlete Brian Capper was in town to perform at Al Kout mall, 360 mall and during the Red Bull Car Park Drift. Brian showed off his skills and tricks in jumping on obstacles with his motorbike,

keeping spectators stunned as he moved on his motorbike more gracefully than he would on a flat surface.

Capper was keen on keeping the audience know more about his discipline through the tiny microphone he connected to the speaker wirelessly during his performance. He also selected few persons from the audience to

balance the motorbike; a necessary skill in trial biking, or by laying down as a human obstacle, which increased the suspense and kept the audience even more attentive to his the show.

"I was extremely excited to meet the Kuwaiti audience during my performances. The shows were amazing and the crowd's interaction was extraordinary," said Brian

Capper. Born in South Africa, Brian's discipline is Motor Trial Biking; he started riding MX at the age of nine, started trial biking at 11, and won his first National title at 18. He then spent a year in America competing in their National Championships, finishing seventh overall.

Towards the end of the shows, motorbike and action enthusiasts who packed into the

area gathered around Capper for selfies, pictures and autographs, expressing positive feedback and a huge desire to spectate similar shows in future. "I never knew about Motor Trial Biking before today - Brian Capper's show is the most entertaining and exciting motor-sport show I have ever seen in my life," reported one of the attendees.



## WORLD ORPHANS DAY CELEBRATED AT THE PROMENADE

The Promenade opened its doors to host over 70 children on Monday 4th of April 2016, as part of commemorating World Orphan Day. The children from disadvantaged backgrounds, sponsored by Bait Al Zakat and The Al Othman Charity Fund, came from various Arab and Islamic countries and

enjoyed a fun filled trip to Kuwait, with an array of activities planned for them during their visit.

One of the activities was a trip to The Promenade Mall, where they took part in ice skating, indoor climbing and use of the trampoline park, all located at The Promenade.

The mall, which is owned by the Al-Othman Charity Fund, is committed to giving back to the community through initiatives such as this one and believes whole heartedly in promoting good will projects as part of the mall's mission.

The mall tenants are also committed to

this same belief and as such, Sheikha Muneera Al-Sabah of Trampo and Play, Saad Al-Mutawa of Al-Ahlea Kids Entertainment and Abdelghani Al-Ghunaim of Which Wich, generously contributed their services and products to ensure that all the children were treated to an enjoyable and memorable day.







- 01:10 Restoration
- 03:05 Road House
- 05:00 The Beautiful Country
- 07:00 Lords Of Dogtown
- 08:40 The Beast Of Hollow Mountain
- 10:00 Saved!
- 11:30 Race For The Yankee Zephyr
- 13:20 The Magnificent Seven
- 15:25 The Beautiful Country
- 17:25 The Apartment
- 19:30 George Washington
- 21:00 The Heavenly Kid



- 00:45 Shark Attack File
- 01:40 From WAGs To Riches
- 02:35 Tanked
- 03:25 Echo And The Elephants Of Amboseli
- 03:50 Echo And The Elephants Of Amboseli
- 04:15 Gator Boys
- 05:02 Treehouse Masters
- 05:49 From WAGs To Riches
- 06:36 Meet The Orangutans
- 07:00 Meet The Orangutans
- 07:25 America's Cutest Pets
- 08:15 From WAGs To Riches
- 09:10 Treehouse Masters
- 10:05 Tanked
- 11:00 America's Cutest Pets
- 11:55 Bondi Vet
- 12:25 Bondi Vet
- 12:50 From WAGs To Riches
- 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 Gator Boys
- 19:15 Tanked
- 20:10 Running Wild
- 21:05 Treehouse Masters
- 22:00 Gator Boys
- 22:55 Gator Boys
- 23:50 River Monsters



- 00:45 Prey
- 01:35 Undercover
- 02:30 Silent Witness
- 03:25 Casualty
- 04:20 Stella
- 05:10 Father Brown
- 06:00 Eastenders
- 06:35 Casualty
- 07:30 Stella
- 08:15 The Paradise
- 09:10 Doctor Who
- 10:05 Casualty
- 11:00 Father Brown
- 11:55 Stella
- 12:45 The Paradise
- 13:45 Doctor Who
- 14:35 Casualty
- 15:30 Stella
- 16:15 The Paradise
- 17:10 Doctor Who
- 18:00 Doctors
- 18:35 Doctors
- 19:05 Father Brown
- 20:00 Ripper Street
- 21:00 Ripper Street
- 22:00 Silent Witness
- 22:55 Father Brown
- 23:40 Doctors



- 00:00 Charlie Rose
- 01:00 First Up With Angie Lau
- 02:00 First Up With Angie Lau
- 03:00 Trending Business
- 04:00 Trending Business
- 05:00 Asia Edge
- 06:00 Bloomberg West
- 07:00 Charlie Rose

- 14:30 Dialogue
- 15:00 News Update
- 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 The Heat
- 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



- 00:00 Inside China
- 00:30 Managing Asia
- 01:00 U.S. Squawk Alley
- 02:00 Asia Squawk Box
- 04:00 Asia Street Signs
- 06:00 Fast Money: Half Time Report
- 07:00 Capital Connection
- 08:00 Squawk Box Europe
- 11:00 Europe Street Signs
- 12:00 Worldwide Exchange
- 13:00 U.S. Squawk Alley
- 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



- 00:00 The Killer Speaks
- 01:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos
- 02:00 Crime Stories
- 03:00 Gangsters: America's Most Evil
- 04:00 The Killer Speaks
- 05:00 Crime Stories
- 06:00 Monster In My Family
- 07:00 Britain's Biggest Heists
- 08:00 Crime Stories
- 09:00 Surveillance Oz
- 09:30 Steven Seagal: Lawman
- 10:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook
- 11:00 After The First 48
- 12:00 The FBI Files
- 13:00 Monster In My Family
- 14:00 Crime Stories
- 15:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook
- 16:00 Britain's Biggest Heists
- 17:00 After The First 48
- 18:00 The FBI Files
- 19:00 Monster In My Family
- 20:00 Crime Stories
- 21:00 The First 48
- 22:00 What The Killer Saw
- 23:00 Killer Kids



- 00:20 Fast N' Loud
- 01:10 Gold Rush
- 02:00 Diamond River Hunters
- 02:50 Alaska: Battle On The Bay
- 03:40 Extreme Collectors
- 04:05 Storage Wars Canada
- 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
- 09:20 Storage Wars Canada
- 09:55 Garage Gold
- 09:45 How Do They Do It?
- 10:10 Chasing Classic Cars
- 10:35 Gold Rush
- 11:25 Diamond River Hunters
- 12:15 Alaska: Battle On The Bay
- 13:05 Extreme Collectors
- 13:30 Storage Wars Canada
- 13:55 Garage Gold

- 12:38 Mythbusters
- 13:23 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
- 14:10 Eco-Tech
- 14:57 Da Vinci's Machines
- 15:44 Space Pioneer
- 16:31 Building The Biggest
- 17:18 Eco-Tech
- 18:05 Mythbusters
- 18:50 Food Factory
- 19:15 Food Factory
- 19:40 Space Pioneer
- 20:25 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
- 21:15 Eco-Tech
- 22:00 Food Factory
- 22:22 Food Factory
- 22:45 Space Pioneer
- 23:35 Mythbusters



- 00:00 Violetta
- 00:45 The Hive
- 00:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 01:40 Hank Zipzer
- 02:05 Binny And The Ghost
- 02:30 Violetta
- 03:15 The Hive
- 03:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 03:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 04:10 Hank Zipzer
- 04:35 Binny And The Ghost
- 05:00 Violetta
- 05:45 The Hive
- 05:50 Mouk
- 06:00 Lolirock
- 06:25 Sofia The First
- 06:50 Gravitly Falls
- 07:15 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
- 07:40 Jessie
- 08:05 Shake It Up
- 08:30 Shake It Up
- 08:55 Hannah Montana
- 09:20 Hannah Montana
- 09:45 Girl Meets World
- 10:10 Girl Meets World
- 10:35 A.N.T. Farm
- 11:00 A.N.T. Farm
- 11:25 Jessie
- 11:50 Jessie
- 12:15 Whisker Haven Tales With The Palace Pets
- 12:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
- 12:45 Fish Hooks
- 13:10 Austin & Ally
- 13:35 Austin & Ally
- 14:00 Liv And Maddie
- 14:25 Cars Toons
- 14:30 Liv And Maddie
- 14:55 Dog With A Blog
- 15:20 Dog With A Blog
- 15:45 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
- 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
- 19:00 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
- 19:30 Violetta
- 20:45 Good Luck Charlie
- 21:10 Good Luck Charlie
- 21:35 H2O
- 21:25 Binny And The Ghost
- 22:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 22:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 23:10 Hank Zipzer
- 23:35 Binny And The Ghost



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

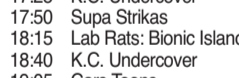


RAISING HELEN ON OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

- 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
- 21:50 Gummi Bears
- 22:20 Lilo And Stitch
- 22:50 Zou
- 23:05 Henry Hugglemonster
- 23:20 Calimerio
- 23:35 Zou
- 23:50 Loopidido



- 00:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 00:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 01:00 Amazing Wedding Cakes
- 02:00 Mystery Diners
- 03:00 Man Fire Food
- 03:30 Man Fire Food
- 04:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 04:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 05:00 Iron Chef America
- 06:00 Chopped
- 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 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 21:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 22:00 Man v Food
- 22:30 Man v Food
- 23:00 Man Finds Food
- 23:30 Man Finds Food



- 06:00 Boyster
- 06:10 Super Matrak
- 06:55 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
- 07:25 K.C. Undercover
- 07:50 Supa Strikas
- 08:15 Annedroids
- 08:40 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
- 09:10 Kirby Buckets
- 09:35 Guardians Of The Galaxy
- 10:00 Rocket Monkeys
- 10:25 Ultimate Spider-Man
- 10:50 Boyster
- 11:20 Boyster
- 11:45 Pair Of Kings
- 12:10 Pair Of Kings
- 12:35 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
- 13:00 Lab Rats
- 13:30 Phineas And Ferb
- 13:55 Phineas And Ferb
- 14:20 Kickin' It
- 14:45 Kickin' It
- 15:10 Guardians Of The Galaxy
- 15:15 Rocket Monkeys
- 15:40 Guardians Of The Galaxy
- 16:00 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
- 16:30 Kirby Buckets
- 16:55 Gamers Guide To Pretty Much Everything
- 17:25 K.C. Undercover
- 17:50 Supa Strikas
- 18:15 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
- 18:40 K.C. Undercover
- 19:05 Cars Toons
- 19:10 Annedroids
- 19:35 Phineas And Ferb
- 20:00 Kirby Buckets
- 20:25 Gamers Guide To Pretty Much Everything
- 20:55 K.C. Undercover
- 21:20 Pickle And Peanut
- 21:45 Lab Rats
- 22:10 Mighty Med
- 22:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am KSA



- 00:00 Sex With Brody
- 00:30 Fashion Bloggers
- 00:55 The Grace Helbig Show
- 01:25 Courtney And Khloe Take The Hamptons
- 02:20 E! News
- 03:15 WAGs
- 04:10 WAGs
- 05:05 WAGs
- 06:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 06:55 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 07:50 Style Star
- 08:20 E! News
- 09:15 Giuliana & Bill
- 10:15 Giuliana & Bill
- 11:10 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
- 11:35 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
- 12:05 E! News
- 13:05 House Of DVF
- 14:00 Fashion Bloggers
- 15:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 16:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 17:00 Giuliana & Bill
- 18:00 Botched
- 19:00 WAGs

- 20:00 Christina Milian Turned Up
- 21:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 22:00 Fashion Police
- 23:00 Live From The Red Carpet
- 00:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 00:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 01:00 Amazing Wedding Cakes
- 02:00 Mystery Diners
- 03:00 Man Fire Food
- 03:30 Man Fire Food
- 04:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 04:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 05:00 Iron Chef America
- 06:00 Chopped
- 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 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 21:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 22:00 Man v Food
- 22:30 Man v Food
- 23:00 Man Finds Food
- 23:30 Man Finds Food

- 00:10 Tales From The Bush Larder
- 00:35 Tales From The Bush Larder
- 01:00 David Rocco's Dolce India
- 01:50 Tales From The Bush Larder
- 02:15 Eat Street
- 02:40 Eat Street
- 03:05 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
- 03:30 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
- 03:55 A Marriage Of Flavours
- 04:20 Baking Good, Baking Bad
- 04:45 Baking Good, Baking Bad
- 05:10 Eat Street
- 05:35 Eat Street
- 06:00 Ariana's Persian Kitchen
- 06:25 Ariana's Persian Kitchen
- 06:50 David Rocco's Dolce India
- 07:15 David Rocco's Dolce India
- 07:40 Tales From The Bush Larder
- 08:05 Eat Street
- 08:30 Eat Street
- 08:55 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
- 09:20 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
- 09:45 A Marriage Of Flavours
- 10:10 Baking Good, Baking Bad
- 10:35 Baking Good, Baking Bad
- 11:00 Eat Street
- 11:25 Eat Street
- 11:50 Ariana's Persian Kitchen
- 12:15 Ariana's Persian Kitchen
- 12:40 Great Escapes
- 13:05 Great Escapes
- 13:35 Mega Food
- 14:30 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
- 14:55 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
- 15:25 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
- 15:50 Chefs Run Wild
- 16:20 Glamour Puds
- 16:45 Glamour Puds
- 17:15 Tom's Istanbul Delight
- 17:40 Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia
- 18:10 Ariana's Persian Kitchen
- 18:35 Ariana's Persian Kitchen
- 19:05 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
- 19:30 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
- 20:00 Chefs Run Wild
- 20:25 Glamour Puds
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- 21:15 Tom's Istanbul Delight
- 21:40 Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia
- 22:05 Ariana's Persian Kitchen
- 22:55 Great Escapes
- 23:20 Great Escapes
- 23:45 Mega Food

- 00:10 Aussie Pickers
- 00:30 Storage Wars: New York
- 01:35 Storage Wars: New York
- 02:00 Ioe Road Truckers
- 02:50 Ax Men
- 03:40 American Restoration
- 04:30 Pawn Stars
- 05:00 The Curse Of Oak Island
- 06:00 Mountain Men
- 06:50 Swamp People
- 07:40 Ax Men
- 08:30 Shipping Wars
- 08:55 American Restoration
- 09:20 American Restoration
- 09:45 Lost In Transmission
- 10:35 Counting Cars
- 11:00 Counting Cars
- 11:25 The Curse Of Oak Island
- 12:15 American Pickers
- 13:05 Storage Wars
- 13:30 Storage Wars
- 13:55 Storage Wars
- 14:20 Storage Wars
- 14:45 Aussie Pickers
- 15:35 Shipping Wars
- 16:00 Mountain Men
- 16:50 Swamp People
- 17:40 Ioe Road Truckers
- 18:30 The Curse Of Oak Island
- 19:20 American Pickers
- 20:10 Pawn Stars
- 20:35 Pawn Stars
- 21:00 Ax Men
- 21:50 Swamp People
- 22:40 Mankind The Story Of All Of Us
- 23:30 Ax Men
- 00:10 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
- 01:05 Emmerdale
- 01:30 Eggheads
- 02:00 Coronation Street
- 02:30 Keep It In The Family
- 03:25 Tracey Ullman's Show
- 03:55 Raised By Wolves
- 04:20 The Doctor Blake Mysteries
- 05:15 Come Dine With Me Couples
- 06:10 Who's Doing The Dishes?
- 07:00 Eggheads
- 07:30 Tracey Ullman's Show

- 01:25 David Rocco's Dolce India
- 01:50 Tales From The Bush Larder
- 02:15 Eat Street
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- 21:40 Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia
- 22:05 Ariana's Persian Kitchen
- 22:55 Great Escapes
- 23:20 Great Escapes
- 23:45 Mega Food



- 00:20 The Pack
- 01:10 Secret Life Of Predators
- 02:00 Hooked
- 02:50 Fatal Attraction
- 03:45 Shane Untamed
- 04:40 Hunter Hunted
- 05:35 Fatal Attraction
- 06:30 Shane Untamed
- 08:20 Killer Shrew
- 09:15 Dangerous Encounters
- 10:10 Wild 24
- 11:00 Yukon Vet
- 12:00 Monster Fish
- 12:55 World's Deadliest
- 13:50 Search For The Giant Octopus
- 14:45 Dr Oakley: Yukon Vet
- 15:40 How Human Are You?
- 16:35 Shadow Hunters
- 17:30 Wild 24
- 18:25 Yukon Vet
- 19:20 Dr Oakley: Yukon Vet
- 20:10 How Human Are You?
- 21:00 Shadow Hunters
- 21:50 Wild 24
- 22:40 Yukon Vet
- 23:30 Monster Fish



- 00:00 Parks And Recreation
- 00:30 Hot In Cleveland
- 01:00 The Tonight Show With Larry Wilmore
- 01:30 Married
- 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 The Grinder
- 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 The Goldbergs
- 14:30 The Grinder
- 15:00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine
- 15:30 Hot In Cleveland
- 16:00 The Tonight Show With Larry Wilmore



- 00:30 PGA Tour Special
- 01:30 PGA Tour Highlights
- 02:30 NHL
- 03:00 Gillette World Sport
- 04:00 Live NHL
- 05:00 Golfing World
- 06:00 AFL Premiership Highlights
- 07:00 Super Rugby
- 08:00 Golfing World
- 09:00 NFL Premiership Highlights
- 10:00 PGA Tour Highlights
- 11:00 Top 14 Highlights
- 12:00 Gillette World Sport
- 13:00 WWE Experience
- 14:30 WWE Afterburn
- 15:00 This Week In WWE
- 16:00 WWE Raw
- 18:00 NHL
- 20:00 WWE Raw
- 23:00 Indy Car Highlights



- 02:30 This Week In WWE
- 03:00 Live WWE Raw
- 06:30 Top 14 Highlights
- 07:00 Darts UK Open
- 10:30 Top 14 Highlights
- 11:00 PGA Tour Highlights
- 12:00 Gillette World Sport
- 13:00 WWE Experience
- 14:30 WWE Afterburn
- 15:00 This Week In WWE
- 16:00 WWE Raw
- 18:00 NHL
- 20:00 WWE Raw
- 23:00 Indy Car Highlights



- 00:00 AFL Premiership Highlights
- 01:00 Top 14 Highlights
- 01:30 The World Sailing Show
- 02:00 Ping Pong World Championship
- 03:00 Wuxi Marathon
- 06:00 Inside Sailing
- 06:30 The World Sailing Show
- 07:00 Super Rugby
- 08:00 Golfing World
- 10:00 Ping Pong World Championship
- 11:00 Inside Sailing
- 11:30 The World Sailing Show
- 12:00 Trans World Sport
- 13:00 Europro Tour
- 14:00 Golfing World
- 15:00 The Weber Cup
- 16:00 Super Rugby
- 18:00 AFL Premiership Highlights
- 19:00 PGA Tour Special
- 20:00 Golfing World
- 21:00 NFL Full Time
- 22:00 World Rugby
- 23:00 Super Rugby



BETRAYED ON OSN MOVIES HD ACTION

- 08:00 Countdown
- 09:00 Countdown
- 09:30 On The Move
- 10:00 On The Move
- 11:30 The Pulse
- 12:00 Bloomberg Surveillance
- 13:00 Bloomberg Surveillance
- 14:00 Bloomberg Go
- 15:00 Bloomberg Go
- 16:00 Bloomberg Go
- 17:00 Bloomberg Markets
- 18:00 Bloomberg Markets
- 19:00 Bloomberg Markets
- 20:00 Bloomberg Markets
- 21:00 Bloomberg Markets
- 22:00 Bloomberg Markets
- 23:00 What'd You Miss?



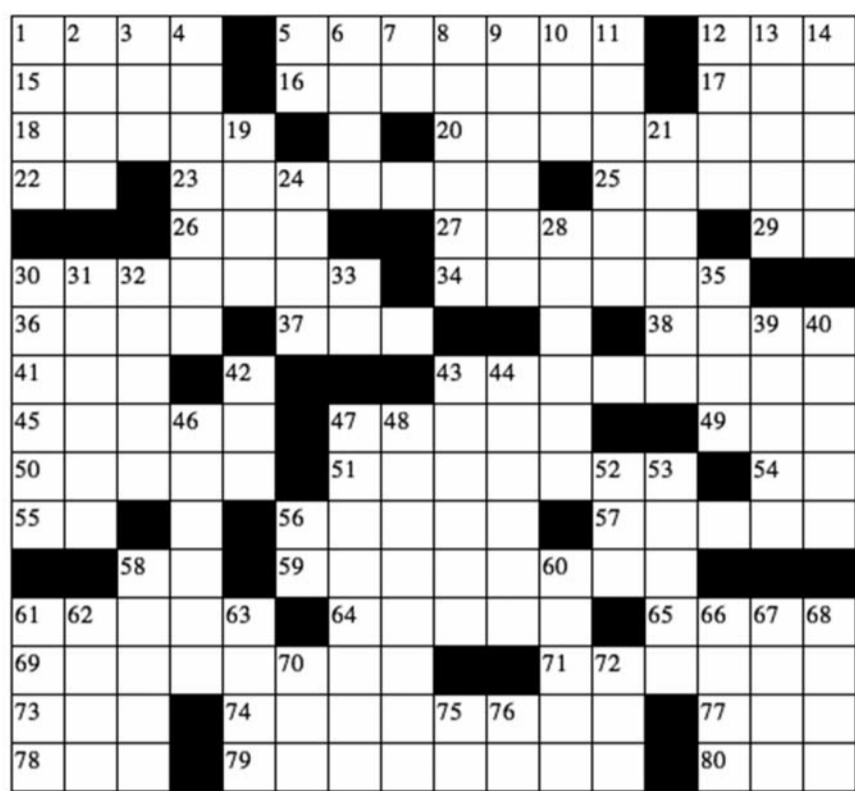
- 00:00 News Update
- 00:30 Dialogue
- 01:00 News Update
- 01:15 China 24
- 02:00 The Heat







CROSSWORD 1218



ACROSS

- 1. Primitive chlorophyll-containing mainly aquatic eukaryotic organisms lacking true stems and roots and leaves.
5. Feeling or caused to feel uneasy and self-conscious.
12. 10 hao equal 1 dong.
15. Any of numerous local fertility and nature deities worshipped by ancient Semitic peoples.
16. Of or relating to the island or republic of Malta or its inhabitants.
17. A white linen liturgical vestment with sleeves.
20. Remove a bar from (a door, for example).
28. A dicot family of the order Urticales including.
22. A brittle silver-white metalloid element that is related to selenium and sulfur.
23. East Indian evergreen tree bearing very acid fruit.
25. A subsidiary proposition that is assumed to be true in order to prove another proposition.
26. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
27. Being derived from.
29. A midwestern state in north central United States in the Great Lakes region.
30. Of or relating to the ancient Aramaic languages.
34. Scarabaeid beetle considered divine by ancient Egyptians.
36. Rock that form the continuous lower layer of the earth's crust.
37. A compartment in front of a motor vehicle where driver sits.
38. (the feminine of raja) A Hindu princess or the wife of a raja.
41. Aircraft landing in bad weather in which the pilot is talked down by ground control using precision approach radar.
45. An honorary arts degree.
49. The 22nd letter of the Greek alphabet.
50. An Indian side dish of yogurt and chopped cucumbers and spices.
51. Graded markings that indicate light or shaded areas in a drawing or painting.
54. An artificial language for international use that rejects rejects all existing words and is based instead on an abstract analysis of ideas.
55. The district occupied entirely by the city of Washington.
57. The part of the small intestine between the jejunum and the cecum.
59. A mountain peak in south central Sri Lanka (7,360 feet high).
61. Of or related to the amnion or characterized by developing an amnion.
64. A list of dishes available at a restaurant.
65. Marked by or showing unaffected simplicity and lack of guile or worldly experience.
69. A musical composition consisting of a series of songs or other musical pieces from various sources.
71. A member of an agricultural people in southeastern India.
73. A Kwa language spoken by the Yoruba people in southwestern Nigeria.
74. A cut of pork ribs with much of the meat trimmed off.
77. (usually followed by 'of') Released from something onerous (especially an obligation or duty).
78. Fish eggs or egg-filled ovary.
79. Any of various long-legged carrion-eating hawks of South and Central America.
80. The compass point midway between east and southeast.

DOWN

- 1. Lie adjacent to another.
2. A narrow way or road.
3. Light informal conversation for social occasions.
4. A state in the southeastern United States on the Gulf of Mexico.
5. Before noon.
6. An island in Indonesia east of Java.
7. A silvery ductile metallic element found primarily in bauxite.
8. English historian noted for his constitutional history of medieval England (1825-1901).
9. Pertaining to or near the sun.
10. Electronic warfare undertaken under direct control of an operational commander to locate sources of radiated electromagnetic energy for the purpose of immediate threat recognition.
11. Someone who purchases and maintains an inventory of goods to be sold.
12. A complex red organic pigment containing iron and other atoms to which oxygen binds.
13. The mission in San Antonio where in 1836 Mexican forces under Santa Anna besieged and massacred American rebels who were fighting to make Texas independent of Mexico.
14. A religious belief of African origin involving witchcraft and sorcery.
19. Port city that is the capital and largest city of Latvia.
21. Consisting of or made of cedar.
24. Concerning those not members of the clergy.
28. An overland journey by hunters (especially in Africa).
31. A narrow zigzag ribbon used as trimming.
32. Italian violin maker in Cremona.
33. A white metallic element that burns with a brilliant light.
35. The Tibeto-Burman language spoken in the Dali region of Yunnan.
39. Indian statesman and leader with Gandhi in the struggle for home rule.
40. A manner of speaking that is natural to native speakers of a language.
42. An agency of the United Nations affiliated with the World Bank.
43. A cloth used as a head covering (and veil and shawl) by Muslim and Hindu women.
44. Relatively small gnawing animals having a single pair of constantly growing incisor teeth specialized for gnawing.
46. (archaic) Strict and severe.
47. (Old Testament) A son of Jacob and a forebear of one of the tribes of Israel.
48. (Greek mythology) Fire-breathing she-monster with a lion's head and a goat's body and a serpent's tail.
53. Any of various organs that synthesize substances needed by the body and release it through ducts or directly into the bloodstream.
56. A very poisonous metallic element that has three allotropic forms.
58. Issue or terminate (in a specified way, state, etc.).
60. A high wave (often dangerous) caused by tidal flow (as by colliding tidal currents or in a narrow estuary).
62. Powerful mackerel shark of the Atlantic and Pacific.
63. (computer science) A kind of computer architecture that has a large number of instructions hard coded into the cpu chip.
66. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
67. Wading birds of warm regions having long slender down-curved bills.
68. A golf shot that curves to the right for a right-handed golfer.
70. An accountant certified by the state.
72. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
75. An international organization of European countries formed after World War II to reduce trade barriers and increase cooperation among its members.
76. An intensely radioactive metallic element that occurs in minute amounts in uranium ores.

Yesterday's Solution

Grid for Yesterday's Solution crossword puzzle with filled-in letters.

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

It may be difficult to get your ideas across to others today; there are skeptics in the group. You will gain trust through facts and you will find that if you can back those facts with references, a sort of trust can be embraced.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Create ways in which your superiors can support your enthusiasm by thinking that company comes first. Eagerness is commendable, but it must be timed for the best impact.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Stay within your budget for now-after the twentieth you will be able to see some relief with financial problems. New ideas and an independent or pioneering mental attitude will take on more importance.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

This is a great day to be with others in an atmosphere of work and play. Your instincts are sharp and may lead you to new insights. There are favorable results when you engage in new projects or work with new people but caution is only wise.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Teaching, learning, communicating and social contacts have a way of outlining new directions in your life and there is much activity and involvement with these kinds of issues. New ideas and an independent or pioneering mental orientation take on more importance in your life.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

New projects may include a business with a family member. This is a good month for career advancement in position and salary. You will learn to improve your earning power. You will be pleased that others trust you with some big responsibilities.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Improved physical fitness can increase your vitality and give you greater self-confidence. As your personal expression carries a more forceful influence, it's a good time to assert your leadership.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You need to settle a work-related dilemma soon. If there is not enough data to solve the problem, do not hesitate to ask questions or conduct research or an investigation. Look for the facts, particularly when or if you are involved with a questionable project today.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

The word today is enthusiastic! Taking care of business is a major theme where your emotional bearings are concerned. You crave for everything to be in place as you like all in order.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

This is a great time to be with others and to work together. Someone from the office may hunt you down today so that you can perform your magic on a problem situation. Your attitude is good when it comes to being able to lead, manage and direct others.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

The plans you make today will go well. Group activities are emphasized. Teaching, learning, communicating and social contacts have a way of outlining new directions in your life. There is much activity and involvement with group issues.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

This is a good day for weeding out the things that do not serve you well. Eliminate projects that are going nowhere. If you want to plan a job change or begin a new business, now is the time. Ask thorough questions and take notes.

WORD SEARCH

Musical Instruments 2

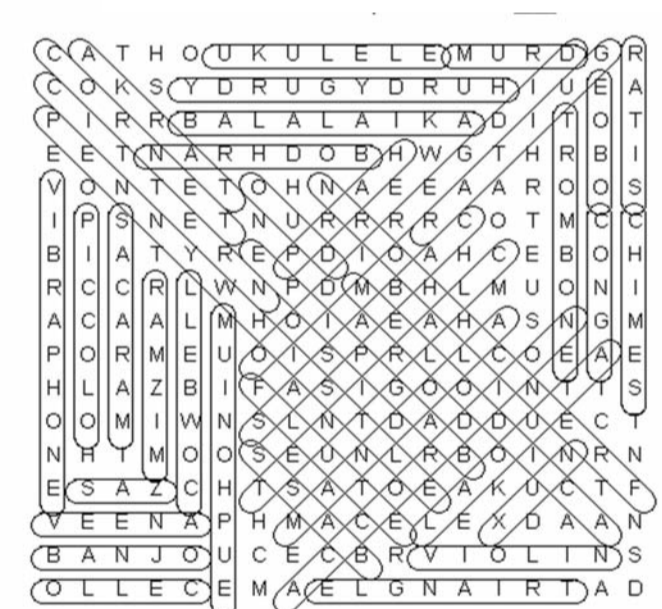
Find and circle all of the musical instruments that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell a secret message - a G. K. Chesterton quotation

Grid for Musical Instruments 2 word search containing hidden instrument names.

- BASSOON FIFE MARIMBAS SHOFAR
BAGPIPE CORNET LAOUTA SITAR
BALALAICA COW BELL MANDOLA TARKA
BANJO DIDGERIDOO MARACAS TRIANGLE
BASS DRUM MELOJICA TROMBONE
BODHRAN EUPHONIUM MIZMAR UKULELE
CABASAS FLUTE OBOE VEENA
CELLO FRENCH HORN OUD VIOLAPHONE
CHIMES GUITAR PENNYWHISTLE VIBRAPHONE
CITRINET HARP PICCOLO XUN
CLARINET

Yesterday Solution

Musical Instruments 1



- ACCORDION CONGA HURDY-GURDY SAZ
BAGPIPE CORNET LAOUTA SITAR
BALALAICA COW BELL MANDOLA TARKA
BANJO DIDGERIDOO MARACAS TRIANGLE
BASS DRUM MELOJICA TROMBONE
BODHRAN EUPHONIUM MIZMAR UKULELE
CABASAS FLUTE OBOE VEENA
CELLO FRENCH HORN OUD VIOLAPHONE
CHIMES GUITAR PENNYWHISTLE VIBRAPHONE
CITRINET HARP PICCOLO XUN
CLARINET

Hidden sentence: THOSE WHO HEAR NOT THE MUSIC THINK THE DANCERS MAD

Daily SuDoku

9x9 grid for Daily SuDoku with some numbers pre-filled.

Yesterday's Solution

9x9 grid for Yesterday's Solution SuDoku with all numbers filled in.



For labor-related inquiries and complaints:  
Call MSAL hotline 128

Hospitals

Sabah Hospital	24812000
Amiri Hospital	22450005
Maternity Hospital	24843100
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700
Chest Hospital	24849400
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010
Adan Hospital	23940620
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9

Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khalidiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadisiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401
Jabriya	25316254
Maidan Hawally	25623444
Bayan	25388462
Mishref	25381200
W Hawally	22630786
Sabah	24810221
Jahra	24770319
New Jahra	24575755
West Jahra	24772608
South Jahra	24775066
North Jahra	24775992
North Jleeb	24311795
Ardhiya	24884079
Firdous	24892674
Omariya	24719048
N Khaitan	24710044
Fintas	23900322



PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

GOVERNORATE	PHARMACY	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ahmadi	Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan	Fahaee Makka St Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd	23915883 23715414 23726558
Jahra	Modern Jahra Madina Munawara	Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1 Jahra-Block 92	24575518 24566622
Capital	Ahlam Khalidiya Coop	Fahad Al-Salem St Khalidiya Coop	22436184 24833967
Farwaniya	New Shifa Ferdous Coop Modern Safwan	Farwaniya Block 40 Ferdous Coop Old Kheitan Block 11	24734000 24881201 24726638
Hawally	Tariq Hana Ikhlas Hawally & Rawdha Ghadeer Kindy Ibn Al-Nafis Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Salmiya-Amman St Hawally-Beirut St Hawally & Rawdha Coop Jabriya-Block 1A Jabriya-Block 3B Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	25726265 25647075 22625999 22564549 25340559 25326554 25721264 25380581 25628241

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



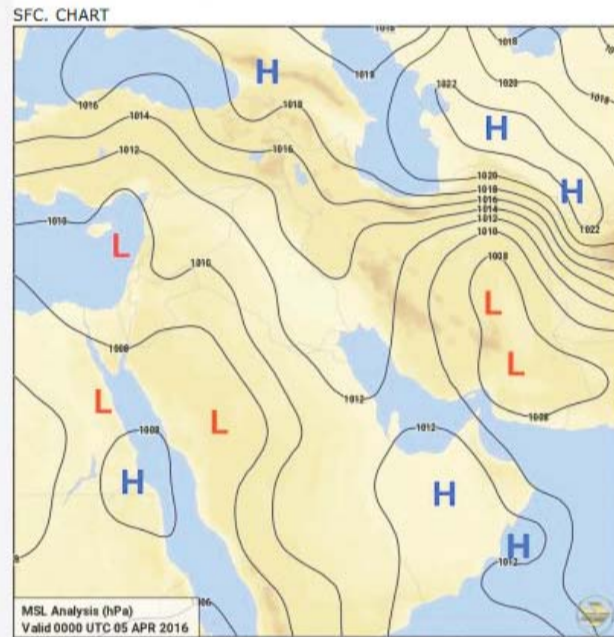
Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630  
Fax: (+965) 24348714  
www.met.gov.kw

Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

Issued 05/04/2016-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

Max Temperature 30 °C

By Day : Sunny with variable wind changing to light to moderate south easterly wind, with speed of 08 - 30 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear  
By Night : Clouds will increase gradually with light to moderate south easterly to southerly wind, with speed of 10 - 30 km/h with a chance for scattered rain



Four-Day Forecast

	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Expected Weather	partly cloudy+ rain	clouds to decrease + Rain	sunny	sunny
Min Temp °C	16	17	18	20
Max Temp °C	30	27	28	29
Wind Direction	south easterly	south easterly changing to light variable	easterly changing to north westerly later on	north westerly
Wind Speed km/h	15 - 40	12 - 35	08 - 28	12 - 32

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

Warnings & Weather Watches

no warnings or weather watches

Kuwait Forecast

Station	MIN °C REC	Max °C EXP
KUWAIT CITY	18	28
KUWAIT AIRPORT	13	30
ABDALLY	13	31
BUBYAN	15	25
JAHRRA	16	31
FAILAKA ISLAND	16	26
SALMIYAH	19	25
AHMADI	21	25
JAL ALIYAH	16	29
QAROH ISLAND	20	25
UMM AL-MARADEM	19	25
NUWAISIB	16	29
WAFRA	14	31
MANAGISH	17	30
SALMY	16	30
MUTRIBA	15	31

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	28
Min Temp (°C)	14
Max Rel Hum (%)	75
Min Rel Hum (%)	15
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	39 SE
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm
Sunrise	05:32
Sunset	18:08

Prayer Times

Fajr	04:12
Sunrise	05:32
Zuhr	11:51
Asr	15:23
Sunset	18:08
Isha	19:27



PRIVATE CLINICS

Ophthalmologists	Plastic Surgeons
Dr. Abidallah Al-Mansoor	25622444
Dr. Samy Al-Rabea	25752222
Dr. Masoma Habeeb	25321171
Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy	25739999
Dr. Mohsen Abel	25757700
Dr. Adnan Hasan Alwayl	25732223
Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly	25732223
Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT)	
Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner	24555050 Ext 510
Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali	25644660
Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel	25646478
Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah	25311996
Dr. Mohammad Al-Daory	25731988
Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary	22620166
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz	25651426
General Practitioners	
Dr. Mohammed Y Majidi	24555050 Ext 123
Dr. Yousef Al-Omar	24719312
Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhaezem	23926920
Dr. Kathem Maarafi	25730465
Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah	25655528
Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi	24577781
Dr. Dina Abidallah Al-Rfae	25333501
Urologists	
Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy	22641534
Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul	22639955
Dr. Khaleel Abidallah Al-Awadi	22616660
Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C)	25313120
Dr. Leons Joseph	66703427

Paediatricians	Endocrinologist
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 Gujare	23713100
Dr. Zacharias Mathew	24334282
Dermatology	
Dr. Mohammed Salam Bern University	23845955
Dentists	
Dr. Anil Thomas	3729596/3729581
Dr. Shamah Al-Matar	22641071/2
Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed	22562226
Dr. Abidallah Al-Amer	22561444
Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan	22619557
Dr. Abdallateef Al-Katrash	22525888
Dr. Abidallah Al-Duweisan	25653755
Dr. Bader Al-Ansari	25620111
Neurologists	
Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri	25633324
Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan	25345875
Gastrologists	
Dr. Sami Aman	22636464
Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly	25322030
Dr. Foad Abdallah Al-Ali	22633135

Family Doctor	Psychiatrists	Gynaecologists & Obstetricians
Dr Divya Damodar	23729596/23729581	
Dr. Esam Al-Ansari	22635047	
Dr. Eisa M. Al-Balhan	22613623/0	
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	
General Surgeons		
Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer	22610044	
Dr. Mohammad Yousef Basher	25327148	
Internists, Chest & Heart		
Dr. Adnan Ebil	22639939	
Dr. Mousa Khadada	22666300	
Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisan	25728004	
Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra	25355515	
Dr. Mobarak Aldoub	24726446	
Dr Nasser Behbehani	25654300/3	

Physiotherapists & VD	Rheumatologists:	Internist, Chest & Heart
Dr. Deyaa Shehab	25722291	
Dr. Mused Faraj Khamees	22666288	
Dr. Adel Al-Awadi	25330060	
Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah	25722290	
DR.Mohammes Akkad	24555050 Ext 210	
Dr. Mohammad Zubaid MB, ChB, FRCP, PACC		
Assistant Professor Of Medicine Head, Division of Cardiology Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital	25339667	
Consultant Cardiologist		
Dr. Farida Al-Habib MD, PH.D, FACC	2611555-2622555	
Inaya German Medical Center		
Te: 2575077		
Fax: 25723123		



# TLC making drama by creator Tyler Perry

**B**usy entertainment mogul Tyler Perry is producing a drama about a woman involved in a political sex scandal, the first scripted series that will air on the TLC network. TLC said yesterday that the eight-episode series, tentatively titled "Too Close to Home," will air this summer. The lead character is a successful woman from Washington forced to return to her modest beginnings after her affair with a married sena-

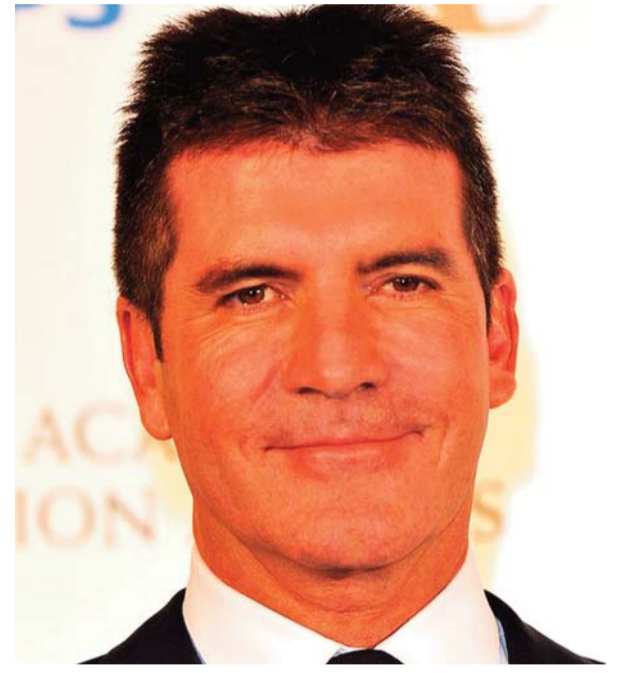
tor becomes public. Perry's successful series on OWN, including "Love Thy Neighbor" and "For Better or Worse," helped turn around the Oprah Winfrey network. Now TLC, at a tough ratings time for cable TV, hopes he can work the same magic.



## Simon Cowell: 'American Idol' suffered when Abdul and me left

**S**imon Cowell thinks 'American Idol' wasn't the "same show" after he and Paula Abdul left. The 56-year-old music mogul was on a judge on the pop star search show from 2002 to 2010 but quit to bring his British show 'The X Factor' to the US. However, he believes the show started to suffer when fellow judge Paula left in 2009 and then got worse after his departure a year later. Referring to the show's downfall as broken body parts, he explained: "Paula was the right leg and I was the left leg. And with both legs gone, it wasn't the same show. "To be honest I think it changed more significantly once Paula left. At least for me, the show was never the same because she and I had such a connection and such a shorthand together." 'American Idol' - hosted by Ryan Seacrest - has seen a num-

ber of famous faces join the panel over the years such as Mariah Carey, Nicki Minaj, Ellen DeGeneres, Aerosmith's Steven Tyler and Keith Urban, but Simon believes none of them had the same "fun" chemistry as Paula and himself. The final ever series of the show with judges Jennifer Lopez, Keith Urban and Harry Connick Jr. concludes on April 7 but Simon admits he doesn't watch it any more. Simon - who has just joined the panel of 'America's Got Talent' - told the New York Daily News newspaper: "I haven't seen it at all, so I wouldn't have a clue as to what it looks like now."



## Hayler gets a tattoo in honor of his wife

**K**ieran Hayler has got a tattoo in honor of his wife. The 29-year-old former stripper - who celebrated his three-year wedding anniversary with the sexy star in January 2016 - has got an inking of his wife needled onto his body by tattoo artist Jay Hutton, who appears on E4 TV show 'Tattoo Fixers'. Kieran was accompanied by Katie's 10-year-old son Junior - her child with ex-husband Peter Andre - for the body art session. Jay took to his Twitter account on Monday to reveal his latest project, posting: "Today was spent doing a tattoo for Kieran of his wife @MissKatiePrice and being entertained by the little man junior (sic)" Katie, 37, was pleased to hear about the new artwork and even asked Jay to work on her. She wrote on Twitter: "Can't wait to see what you have done to my hubby and wNt you to do mine xx (sic)" Katie and Kieran's marriage has survived cheating revelations when the 'Loose Women' star discovered the hunk had bedded two of her close friends. The couple put their troubles behind them after Kieran was treated for sex addiction and they have two children together; Jett, two, and 20-month-old Bunny. Speaking recently, Katie - who also has 13-year-old son Harvey with ex-boyfriend Dwight Yorke and Princess, eight, her other child with Peter - recently revealed she and her husband tell each other they love one another all the time. She said: "Every single day and in a text in the morning and before I go to sleep me and Kieran say 'I love you' to each other and we say it to the kids, all the time, love, love. "I also need the intimacy as well. I need it all because I'm quite needy, all the time. Telling how much you love each other there's nothing better than that."



## Ashanti and Ja Rule reunite at birthday bash

**A**shanti shrieked with delight when Ja Rule surprised guests at her sister's lavish birthday bash on Saturday night. The 35-year-old singer and reality TV star was reunited with her former Murder Inc. label mate at the party she hosted for her younger sister Shia Douglas and was spotted "screaming" as the rapper strode into Jue Lan Club in Chelsea, New York City. An insider told the New York Post newspaper: "Ashanti jumped up and was screaming when Ja Rule walked in." Ashanti and Ja Rule have been close pals since they collaborated on a string of hits together including the track 'Always on Time' that featured on the rapper's 2001 hit LP 'Pain Is Love' and their hit

'Mesmerize' followed in 2002. The two friends partied until 4am with 50 of Shia's friends and family members and everyone sang 'Happy Birthday' to the 27-year-old budding fashion designer, who was also delivered an extravagant cake by restaurant staff. Ashanti held the opulent party for her Shia just days after a man convicted of stalking Ashanti was jailed. Devar Hurd had harassed the brunette beauty since 2003 and was found guilty of stalking by a judge in a Manhattan court in March and was handed a four-year jail sentence.

## Miley Cyrus has been mauled by a cat

**T**he 'Wrecking Ball' hitmaker - who currently has four feline friends, Harlem, Shanti Om Bb, KiKi and LiLo - has been left with painful claw marks across her forehead, horrific bloody scratches along her arms and a gouge out of her head after she came face-to-face with a very angry kitten. Taking to her Instagram account last night, the 23-year-old singer uploaded photos of her wounds. It's unknown whether it was one of her pet kitties who caused the lacerations or if the animal belonged to someone else. However, Miley - who also owns several dogs and a pet pig - unlikely took the squabble to heart as she's known for her love of animals and regularly takes to her social networking sites to promote animals rights, including praising veganism, the use of faux fur and encouraging the end of animal testing. Meanwhile, the soon-to-be 'Voice USA' coach has had a tricky few days as she remembered the two-year anniversary of the death of her beloved pet dog Floyd, who was brutally murdered by a vicious coyote two years ago.



## Beyonce Knowles leisure range inspired by parks

**B**eyonce Knowles says public parks inspired her at leisure range. The 34-year-old singer unveiled her debut Spring/Summer 2016 sportswear collection Ivy Park with Topshop mogul Sir Philip Green on Thursday and has admitted that the collaboration was inspired by the "commonality" of public green spaces. Speaking to Elle magazine about her active wear line, Beyonce - who named the collection after her four-year-old daughter Blue

Ivy, her child with Jay Z - revealed: "It's really the essence: to celebrate every woman and the body she's in while always striving to be better. I called it Ivy Park because a park is our commonality. We can all go there; we're all welcomed. It's anywhere we create for ourselves. "For me, it's the place that my drive comes from. I think we all have that place we go to when we need to fight through something, set our goals and accomplish them." The former Destiny's Child vocalist's brand boasts 200 active wear pieces; from clothing and footwear to accessories, including leggings, crop tops, sweatshirts and jackets, designed to suit her need for an athletic brand to complement her curvaceous physique. Speaking previously about Ivy Park, she said: "When I'm working and rehearsing I live in my work out clothes but I didn't feel there was an athletic brand that spoke to me. "My goal with Ivy Park is to push the boundaries of athletic wear and to support and inspire women who understand that beauty is more than your physical appearance." However, Beyonce has admitted that the authority involved in her 50/50 partnership with 64-year-old Arcadia group boss Green is both exciting and overwhelming. She said: "It's exciting, but having the power to make every final decision and being accountable for them is definitely a burden and a blessing." Ivy Park will be available in high street stores Topshop, and JD Sports, as well as luxury retailers Selfridges and Net-A Porter from April 14, although it is available to browse online, where Beyonce can be seen in the campaign draped along gymnastic hoops and flaunting a curvaceous body in the labels swimming costume.



## Seymour ordered to attend AA meetings

**S**tephanie Seymour has been ordered to attend Alcoholics Anonymous meetings twice a week. The 47-year-old supermodel was arrested by police in Greenwich, Connecticut, for driving under the influence when she was seen at a stop sign at an off-ramp on the Interstate 95 highway putting her Range Rover into reverse and struck a Mercedes behind her, she then drove the wrong way up the road. Seymour appeared at Connecticut Superior Court on Monday to face charges of driving under the influence, unsafe backing and leaving the scene of an accident. After offering a sincere apology for her actions, Judge Auden Grogins told her he would drop the charges but that he was ordering her to complete a state alcohol program and attend AA meetings twice a week. Speaking in front of the judge, Seymour said: "I am incredibly ashamed that I did something that could have come out much worse." Judge Grogins told her: "This could have turned out a lot worse. Someone could have been seriously hurt or killed, including yourself." Prosecutor Steve Weiss said the mother-of-four was "severely intoxicated" and "didn't perform well on any of the roadside sobriety tests" when police stopped her. A date has not yet been set as to when Seymour must begin her state alcohol program and AA meetings.





# Robert Downey Jr: How Iron man started his career by playing a dog

**C**aptain America: Civil War" opens on May 6, marking Robert Downey Jr's sixth appearance as Tony Stark/Iron Man. The character has been good to Downey (who celebrates his 51st birthday on Monday). Last August, Forbes announced that he had earned an estimated \$80 million that year, his third consecutive year as the world's highest-paid actor. Audiences love success stories, but Downey's saga seems too far-fetched, even by Hollywood standards. He went from being a promising young actor to an unemployable outcast. But then he rebounded to become a mega-star, respected by the same peers who once shunned him. It's a tale of redemption and financial rewards, but it's also a tale of artistry. Because even at the lowest ebb, nobody doubted his talent.

At age 5, he made his film debut, billed as Bob Downey in the 1970 "Pound," directed by his father, Robert Downey Sr, who was coming off the success of counterculture fave "Putney Swope." In "Pound," all the actors played dogs in an animal shelter; it was sort of like "Cats," a decade before Andrew Lloyd Webber. In a review on Aug 19, 1970, Variety's Richard Gold called it an "unfunny allegory." He added, "The film's one funny sequence has nothing to do with anything: everybody just twiddles around in ballet costumes to a cheerfully obscene rock tune." The critic didn't like it, but his damnation makes the film sound pretty interesting.

### Truly remarkable

As with most actors, Downey found work wherever he could: He appeared in his father's "Greaser's Palace," John Sayles' 1983 film "Baby It's You," the New York stage musical "American Passion," and the 1985 gangs-in-school melodrama "Tuff Turf," starring James Spader. In that last work, Variety reviewer Ray Loynd said, "Robert Downey is a fresh surprise in a nice sidekick role." That same year, he appeared in John Hughes' "Weird Science" and became a cast regular on "Saturday Night Live." He continued to work, but a big breakthrough came in 1992, when he starred in the title role of "Chaplin."

Richard Attenborough, on Aug 17, 1992, said the actor's performance was "miraculous, one of the most staggering performances I've seen in decades." It's standard procedure for a director to hype the star, but when audiences saw it, many of them agreed. Variety praised Downey's work as "truly remarkable," saying Chaplin's unique abilities as an actor, dancer, mime and athlete would seem impossible to duplicate, "but Downey proves otherwise." Jodie Foster asked Variety, "Could anybody else in the world have given that performance? Robert is someone who is extremely brilliant but who is suffering because he's almost too smart."

### Personal projects

Despite the admiration, Downey, Stephen Rea, Denzel Washington and Clint Eastwood all lost out on the best actor Oscar to Al Pacino for "Scent of a Woman." From 1996-2001, the actor experienced drug arrests, a high-profile firing (from TV series "Ally McBeal"), tabloid rumors and industry rejection because his track record meant a film couldn't get a completion bond. In 2003, Mel Gibson paid the insurance for "The Singing Detective," which started his career rebound; Downey underwent a personal rehab, crediting such factors as his wife Susan, meditation and 12-step programs. (He stayed clean and was pardoned by Governor Jerry Brown in 2015.)

His comeback was cemented in 2008, when he starred in the hugely successful "Iron Man," and earned another Oscar nom that year for "Tropic Thunder." His "Sherlock Holmes" bowed in 2009 and, while continuing to work in the Marvel universe, he starred in more personal projects, like "The Judge" (2014). When receiving the 2011 American Cinematheque award, Downey said: "Sooner or later, if you pull the one-armed bandit enough, you're going to come up with gold bars. And now it just feels, at least for a little while here, that the machine is fixed ... I definitely had plenty of years of self-imposed purgatory, but I'm hot for the next 18



Robert Downey Jr

months or so. I'm coming up on 50 and I want to do more. And the franchise I could stay in love with indefinitely is 'Sherlock Holmes.' For more showbiz history, visit VarietyUltimate.com, which has every issue of Variety from 1906 to the present. — Reuters



## Will Ferrell to star in North Pole expedition movie

**W**ill Ferrell is attached to star in a comedy based on the true story of a successful 1968 expedition to the North Pole with Temple Hill producing for Sony. The project is based on Guy Lawson's article in the New York Times Magazine titled "An Insurance Salesman and a Doctor Walk Into a Bar, and End Up at the North Pole: The Story of an Accidentally Pioneering Expedition." The story follows a ragtag group of six middle-aged men from Minnesota who spontaneously decide over a beer to mount a snowmobile expedition to the North Pole. The team manages to overcome a daunting array of obstacles to make the first undisputed expedition ever to reach the North Pole.

No director or writer is attached. Jonathan Kadin will oversee the film for the studio. The article begins, "The twin-prop plane swung low, tilting its wings and heading north, only to circle back and swoop down over the men again. It was March 7, 1968, and the members of the Plaisted Polar Expedition looked up at the plane in bewilderment. They were trying to travel to the North Pole by snowmobile-in what they believed to be the first expedition to the North Pole carried out on motorized machines, but what in reality may very well have been the first to reach the North Pole at all. Barely an hour into the trek, it wasn't going well.

Having just left base camp, the six men stood atop a 40-foot-high wall of ice at the edge of the Arctic Ocean and looked at what lay ahead: stretching over the horizon, an unending moonscape of ice boulders, crevices and pack ice contorted by vast floes whose constant motion created steep pressure ridges and black stretches of open water known as leads." Ferrell last starred in "Daddy's Home" and "Zoolander 2." Temple Hill produced "The Fault in Our Stars" and the Maze Runner and Twilight franchises. Temple Hill teamed with Ferrell in the 2010 comedy-drama "Everything Must Go." The news was first reported by Deadline Hollywood. — Reuters

# 'Batman v Superman' flies high at top of box office



**B**atman v Superman: Dawn of Justice" leaped to the top of the box office for a second straight week, although with greatly diminished ticket sales, industry figures showed Monday. The blockbuster Warner Brothers movie, which pits two iconic superheroes against one other, earned \$51.3 million in its second weekend, according to estimates from industry tracker Exhibitor Relations. The film had raked in a whopping \$166 million during its debut weekend despite a number of negative reviews. Starring Ben Affleck as Batman and Henry Cavill in the role of Superman, the characters' first big-screen pairing sets up the coming "Justice League" and "Wonder Woman" movies.

The stellar cast also features former Miss Israel Gal Gadot as Wonder Woman, Jesse Eisenberg as the eccentric villain Lex Luthor and Amy Adams as Superman's love interest Lois Lane. Animated Disney film "Zootopia," about an intrepid rabbit police officer who works with a fox to solve a crime in the Zootopia animal kingdom, came in second for a second week, earning \$19.3 million. The com-

edy sequel "My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2," which reunites the main cast from the 2002 sleeper hit of the same name, landed third with \$11.2 million.

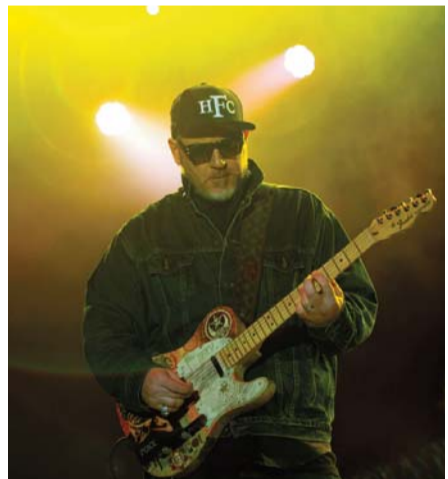
Debuting in fourth place was another sequel, "God's Not Dead 2," which follows a public school teacher who answers a student's question about Jesus and finds herself in hot water with the law. It raked in \$7.6 million. Fifth came "Miracles from Heaven," a drama about a young girl suffering from a rare digestive disorder who finds herself miraculously cured. The movie took in \$7.3 million.

Rounding out the rest of the top 10 were:

- \*"The Divergent Series: Allegiant" (\$5.8 million)
- \*"10 Cloverfield Lane" (\$4.6 million)
- \*"Meet the Blacks" (\$4.1 million)
- \*"Eye in the Sky" (\$4 million)
- \*"Deadpool" (\$3.5 million)—AFP

## Everlast latest artist to tell Trump to stop using song

**T**he rapper Everlast has become the latest musician to voice anger at Republican presidential frontrunner Donald Trump's use of a song, demanding that he stop playing "Jump Around" at rallies.



This file photo shows House Of Pain band's US singer Everlast performing on stage on the second day of the 23rd Eurockeeennes music festival in Belfort, eastern France on July 2, 2011.—AFP

In a series of acerbic social media posts late Monday, Everlast said that his lawyers had informed Trump that he does not have the right to play the 1992 hit by the rapper's for-

mer band House of Pain. "I would love to meet you and smack that comb-over right off your scalp," he wrote on Instagram in one of his less profane statements, describing Trump as "ignorant" and "racist."

Everlast, whose real name is Erik Schrody, also took to Trump's favorite medium, Twitter, to lash out at the candidate's defenders. Since the song's initial success, "Jump Around" has become a staple in US pop culture and is frequently played to excite crowds at sporting events. Trump's rallies have been repeatedly marred by violence, with supporters of the right-wing populist angered by protesters. Everlast is only the latest artist to butt heads with Trump, who has stirred controversy by describing Mexican immigrants as rapists and urging a ban on entry by all foreign Muslims.

Neil Young and R.E.M.—both known for their left-wing politics—earlier voiced outrage when Trump played their respective hits "Rockin' in the Free World" and "It's the End of the World As We Know It (And I Feel Fine)." British superstar Adele has also asked Trump not to use her music, although she made a more polite request, saying that she has not given permission to any candidate. Everlast was one of the early successful white rappers and House of Pain was associated with Irish American culture, with the video for "Jump Around" shot at New York's St Patrick's Day parade. After going solo, Everlast has branched out musically into a blues rock sound and has converted to Islam. — AFP



Film review

## 'The Huntsman: Winter's War'

**S**pare a thought for Snow White: So casually has she been written out of "The Huntsman: Winter's War" that even Queen Ravenna's all-knowing mirror, when called upon to name the fairest of them all, omits her as a contender. Vague excuses are made for her absence from a film that awkwardly positions itself as both prequel and sequel to the Goth-lite derring-do of 2012's "Snow White and the Huntsman," though perhaps Snow skimmed Evan Spiliotopoulos and Craig Mazin's perfunctory script and reasonably decided she couldn't be bothered. In her (and Kristen Stewart's) place, a Katniss Everdeen-styled Jessica Chastain steps into the breach, fighting for good alongside Chris Hemsworth's eponymous hero this time against two wicked-queen combatants in Charlize Theron and Emily Blunt, whose glittery sissy role would have made for an adequate spinoff vehicle on its own.

Even their doubled-up diva-tude, however, can't ignite a rhythmically flat, seemingly committee-helmed franchise outing that never decides on its dramatic center. "There is another story—one you have not yet seen," a po-faced (and excessively employed) narrator informs viewers at the outset of "The Huntsman: Winter's War." He's speaking somewhat optimistically, it turns out, since Spiliotopoulos and Mazin's hastily cobbled-together mythos cribbs liberally from existing fairy-tale lore, with a not-inconsiderable side scoop of Disney's ubiquitous smash "Frozen." What the narrator doesn't tell us is precisely which story he's referring to: At least two are jostling for space here, each one stepping conspicuously around the events of the previous film, though not maintaining complete continuity with it. (The intermediate backstory of Chastain's virtuous warrior Sara, for example, appears to shift at least once in the course of the new pic's screenplay alone.)

### Royal scalp

"The Huntsman's" opening act, chronologically preceding the timeline of "Snow White" by a couple of decades, is dedicated to matters of queenly corruption, reintroducing Theron's vixenish Ravenna as she adds another royal scalp to her growing list of kills, via a black magic-abetted chess match. She assumes power as her pure-hearted younger sister, Freya (Blunt), looks on; professing to have no political or supernatural aspirations, Freya instead dreams of courtly bliss with the young Duke (Colin Morgan) whose

child she is to bear. When her plan is foiled in grisly fashion, however, her witchy powers—chiefly, a touch of frost markedly similar to Queen Elsa's—belatedly emerge. She defects to her own wintry Ice Queendom, fostering her own army and banning human affection from her domain: "Love is nothing more than a fairy tale," she hisses, coolly oblivious to her own generic surroundings.

Among the child soldiers she rears are prodigious huntspeople Eric and Sara, who eventually take the strapping, mutually amorous forms of Hemsworth and Chastain. Their romance prompts an arctic intervention from Freya; Eric is banished, believing Sara dead. It's here that the tale of "Snow White and the Huntsman" slots in its entirety, necessitating an ungainly timeline leap of seven years: War is indistinctly looming, reigning monarch Snow White is indistinctly indisposed, and the vanquished Ravenna's missing mirror is now a vital quarry sought by Snow White's and Freya's palaces alike. Huntsman Eric is enlisted to retrieve it for the former, as faces from the past are resurrected along the way.

### Voluble chemistry

It's a straightforward enough quest, though the doom-laden stakes attached to it aren't most urgently felt. As if anticipating auds' lack of investment in Eric's rather colorless presence, much of his ostensible screen time is given over to the "Lord of the Rings"-aping comic relief of sidekick dwarves Nion (Nick Frost, returning from the previous film) and Gryff (Rob Brydon, providing his patented Welsh-neurotic shtick). It's a dynamic that itself doesn't quite click until Sheridan Smith, as assertive she-dwarf Bromwyn, arrives on the scene. Regrettably dispensable to the larger narrative, Smith (whose firecracker skills are already familiar to British TV auds) nonetheless proves the liveliest element in these dull proceedings. She certainly has more voluble chemistry with Hemsworth than a muted, uncertainly Scots-accented Chastain-formidable in medieval archery chic, but otherwise (not unlike Stewart before her) finding little to grapple with in a character strictly shaped with the Hollywood screenwriter's favored tough-cookie cutter. The silly-stern sportsmanship she brought to last year's "Crimson Peak" would have been most welcome here.—Reuters

## 'Gary Numan: Android in La La Land'

**T**he eponymous pioneering Brit synthpop star moves across the Atlantic and stages a comeback in "Gary Numan: Android in La La Land." This portrait doesn't provide much of a career overview, let alone fill in the blanks for those who wonder just what he's been up to in the 30 years or more since he was last significantly in the public spotlight. But if Steve Read and Rob Alexander's documentary feature sometimes seems too transparently a glorified promo for a recent album/tour, its subject is winningly candid and guilelessly charming—a far cry from his cold, "android"-like original persona, which was at

music a la Kraftwerk, though he says he wasn't aware of them or other predecessors until later. While his label was initially dubious about the shift, the immediately resulting albums ("Replicas," "The Pleasure Principle") and singles ("Are Friends Electric?," "Cars") were international smashes. The elaborate futuristic atmosphere of his live shows, his "robotic" movements and emotionally remote demeanor were, he says, not just artistic decisions but also ways of coping with various mood and behavioral problems related to the Asperger syndrome he wasn't diagnosed with until fairly late.

activities of the last many years—a missed opportunity, since for anyone but dedicated fans, his post-"Cars" history is pretty much a blank.

Instead, the focus here is primarily on his gearing up to make 2013's "Splinter (Songs From a Broken Mind)," an album he sees as crucial to extending his career. In the end, it turns out to be his bestselling and best-reviewed effort in decades. But its creation is fraught with anxiety (not unusual for him, one gleans), particularly since he simultaneously moves with wife Gemma and their three young daughters from England to an imposing residential castle in Los Angeles. Gemma is a bustling, many-hair-colored husband wrangler in the Sharon Osbourne mold, accustomed to minding the store for her grateful, somewhat neurotic spouse.

But the most endearing character here is Numan himself, who these days performs in simple T-shirt and jeans (a big change from days of yore), and seems equally unpretentious in what appears a very sweet temperament. Numan is genuinely surprised and touched when latter-day stars like Trent Reznor cite him as an influence, let alone invite him on stage to access their large fanbases. It's hard to believe this lovable bloke ever had a communication-ending rift with his parents. But then, "Android in La La Land" may well be less than a full-disclosure tell-all, despite its seemingly unfiltered portrait. The film is slickly packaged, with audio aspects naturally first-rate. — Reuters



Film review

least partly taken up as a cover for his Asperger-related performing anxiety. The polished pic will primarily access fans old and new via home-format sales.

Numan (nee Gary Webb) started Tubeway Army as a London teengager in the late 1970s, getting them signed to a major label during punk's first wave. But a chance encounter with a studio synthesizer enraptured him and turned his focus toward electronic

But his stay atop the charts was relatively brief, and the stage spectaculars' escalating costs gradually put him in the red; such business-side difficulties triggered an eventual falling out with his father-manager. (The finances must have gotten worked out, however, since the houses we see Numan and family living in are quite luxurious.) He kept making records and touring, but the film delivers scant insight into his creative



# National Aviation Center (Pegasus Airlines), Spider Holidays escort local travel agents to Turkey



**Bukhamseen Aviation Group, under the umbrella of Bukhamseen Holding Group, is one of the leading companies in the Middle East. Its head office is based in Kuwait with over 112 companies active in more than 12 different fields around the Middle East such as banking, finance, real estate, insurance, engineering, retailing, industry, hotels and hospitality, media, services, education and aviation.**

**B**ukhamseen Aviation Group has expanded its reach to the Kuwait market. The aviation company has contracted a group of international companies and airlines as it widens its horizon in the Middle East region. Speaking on the sidelines of a trip organized by the National Aviation Center Co (a subsidiary of Bukhamseen Aviation Group, the exclusive agent of the Turkish Pegasus Airlines), the General manager Abdul Hameed said that the group is currently

servicing a large number of clients and varied companies in various fields. Bukhamseen Aviation Group comprises of a number of companies including Al-Madina Travel and Cargo companies, the National Aviation Center, Bukhamseen Travels in addition to a section for land services like flight charter, handling, fueling and crew accommodation, and a section for worldwide holidays that provides special offers for newlyweds, cruises, limousine services and Safari journeys.



**MR. EL HOUSSAINY  
GM OF BUKHAMSEEN AVIATION**

### Turkey

With its charming nature and its civilization, Turkey has been able to attract millions of tourists. Turkey's unique location and its fascinating cities make it a favorable destination for tourists, especially the Arabs who share the same religion and history.

### Istanbul Hotels

Al-Haitham Travel Agency's tour leader Balan highlighted on Istanbul and its Islamic architecture which includes over 3200 mosques. She showed the tourists the various touristic sites such as the Dolmabahce Palace - where the last seven Ottoman Sultans lived. The city also has over 70 hotels overlooking the Bosphorus. The Istanbul tour began at the Grand Bazaar - an enchanting pleasant

environment, and went down to Hagia Sophia.

### 175,000 Kuwaiti visitors

Supervisor of the commercial sector of the Association of Turkish Travel Agencies (TURSAB), Bernar Akar said that around 175,000 Kuwaiti tourists visited Turkey last year. She added that Turkish tourism was badly affected by the tensed relations with Russia.

More efforts have been exerted to attract more Arab tourists.

### Spider Holidays

Sameh Al-Batrawi, Spider Holidays board chairman said that the dynamic company has fully dedicated specialists. Established in 2012, Spider Holidays has been providing qualitative services such as accommodations, transfers, car rental, sightseeing packages and

also in partnership with the major stakeholders in the business across the globe. It has a powerful online booking system searching for best available deals and offers at: [www.spider-holidays.com](http://www.spider-holidays.com)

### 2 million GCC tourists

Pegasus sales manager, Mohammed Fouada said that around 60 hotels would be launched in Istanbul in 2017 and 2018 and his company





Travel



**MOHAMMED FOUDA**  
SALES MANAGER OF  
PEGASUS AIRLINES

has already prepared a major promotional campaign to promote tourism to Turkey in general and to Istanbul in particular. "With its combination of various civilizations, charming nature and Arab cuisine that attracts many GCC tourists, Istanbul remains an alluring city for tourists. However, Fouada stressed that Turkey's tourism had been greatly affected by bombings. "Two million GCC tourists visit Turkey annually, while the Russians used to exceed 4.5 million", he underlined. Fouada added that, Pegasus Airlines is one of the fastest growing airlines in Europe - providing Pegasus low-cost flights. Pegasus has 65 aircrafts. Its new destinations include; Moscow, Doha, Frankfurt, Madrid, Dubai and Sarajevo.

**Hagia Sophia**

Hagia Sophia (Ayasofya) is one of the most significant tourist attractions in Istanbul that combines architecture, history and mythology. After its construction, Emperor Justinian shouted inside "Oh Wise Suleiman, I have out-wised you". From the construction date in 537 until 1453, Hagia Sophia served as an Orthodox Cathedral and the seat of the Patriarch of Constantinople. It was converted to a cathedral

under the Roman Empire and later turned into a mosque from 29 May 1453 till 1931 after which it became a museum on 1 February 1935.

**Taksim Square**

Taksim Square is situated in the European part of Istanbul. It is a major tourist and leisure district famed for its restaurants, shops, and hotels.

**Sultan Ahmed Mosque**

The Sultan Ahmed Mosque or Sultan Ahmet Mosque is a historic mosque in Istanbul. The mosque is popularly known as the Blue Mosque. It was built from 1609 to 1616, during the rule of Ahmed I.

**Dolmabahce Palace**

Dolmabahce Palace located in the Besika district of Istanbul, on the European coastline of the Bosphorus strait, served as the main administrative center of the Ottoman Empire in 1856. Dolmabahce Palace was approved by the Empire's 31st Sultan Abdulmajeed I, and built between the years 1843 and 1856.

**Galata Bridge**

The Galata Bridge is a bridge that spans the

Golden Horn in Istanbul. From the end of the 19th century, the bridge has been featured in Turkish Literature, theater, poetry and novels. The Galata Bridge was a symbolic link between the traditional city of Istanbul, site of the imperial palace and principal religious and secular institutions of the empire. Apart from its place in fiction, the romantic appearance of the Galata Bridge made it the subject of many paintings and engravings.

**Himalayan Miracle Salt Rooms**

These rooms have fascinating color and changing techniques. They were built with thousands of years old salts from the Himalayan Mountains. These rooms use the benefits of salts and color therapy to treat upper and lower respiratory conditions such as cold and flu, allergy, asthma, bronchitis, cystic fibrosis, sinus infection, sinusitis, rhinitis, hay fever and emphysema.

**Sabiha Cokcen International Airport**

Sabiha Cokcen was the first Turkish female combat pilot at the age of 23. According to some sources, she was also the world's first female fighter pilot. She was one of eight children adopted by Mustafa Kemal

Ataturk in 1925. He bestowed the title 'Cokcen' on her.

**Green Bursa**

Bursa is Turkey's most important touristic spot. It is a large city in the northwest - lying in the foothills of roughly 2,500m-high Mount Uludag near the Sea of Marmara. The city is known for its historical sites. It is nicknamed "Yesil Bursa" (Green Bursa) because of its parks and trees, as well as its dramatic mountain backdrop. 71% of the city is covered with forests. Uludag contains 104 rare plants including 32 that only exist there. It has nine frozen lakes and also a center for skiing and winter sports during January 15 till April 30 every year.

**The trip organizers included:**

1. Bukhamseen Aviation Group "Pegasus Exclusive Agent in Kuwait". Aviation sector manager, Al-Husseini Abdul Hameed, sales manager, Mohammed Fouada.
2. Spider Holidays. Board chairman, Sameh Al-Batrawi, deputy sales and marketing manager, Habib Al-Zayyat.
3. Heysem Tourism and Travel Co., Istanbul. Board chairman Ayman Muslimani, CEO Heysem Muslimani, deputy board chairman, Afwaq Muslimani, booking manager Othman Ozun, sales and marketing manager, Tugi.

**Hotels visited on the journey:**

1. Raffles Istanbul hotel
2. Ciragan Palace Kempinski Hotel
3. Swissotel the Bosphorus Hotel
4. Hilton Istanbul Hotel
5. The St. Regis Istanbul Hotels
6. Radisson Blue Istanbul Hotel
7. CVK Park Bosphorus Hotel
8. The Four Seasons Hotel
9. Shangri-La Bosphorus Hotel
10. Crowne Plaza Bursa Hotel
11. Sheraton Bursa Hotel
12. Grand Swiss-Belhotel Celik Palas Thermal Spa







Indian Hindu widows throw flower petals and colored powder during Holi celebrations at the Gopinath temple, 180 kilometers (112 miles) south-east of New Delhi, India. A few years ago this joyful celebration was forbidden for Hindu widows. Like hundreds of thousands of observant Hindu women they would have been expected to live out their days in quiet worship, dressed only in white, their very presence being considered inauspicious for all religious festivities. — AP

## In Washington, there's more than politics on the menu



Micro greens are seen in the Little Wild Things City Farm below The Pub & The People restaurant.



Micro greens are seen in the Little Wild Things City Farm below The Pub & The People restaurant.



Victoria Stallings, of Victoria's Other Secret, cuts cake at Union Kitchen in Washington. — AFP photos



Coley Gray stuff dates from Julie's datery at Union Kitchen.

Mary Ackley, who lives in the US capital, had to keep an open mind while pursuing her dream of becoming a farmer. So she went underground. It's in the cellar of a Washington pub that the 35-year-old grows microgreens, which are finding favor with local restaurants and residents. "That's some pretty beautiful basil," the founder of Little Wild Things City Farm said proudly as she pulled out a tray packed with a lush carpet of tiny plants from neatly-stacked shelves set up in the storage space alongside the drinks.

Ackley-who also harvests produce outdoors at a monastery minutes away-is one of a number of Washington start-ups tapping into demand for locally-grown and manufactured food in a city better known for power lunches of flown-in steaks and oysters. "I definitely could not do this without supportive restaurants-that's an important part of it," said the former Peace Corps volunteer who is taking a year of unpaid leave from the US Foreign

warehouse in Washington's northeast Ivy City neighborhood was abuzz with activity.

Among those chopping, peeling, mixing and measuring out ingredients was Adam Kavalier, owner of Undone Chocolate. The 37-year-old scientist, who got into chocolate-making during graduate school in New York, has since found Washington-often referred to as DC-to be a receptive place for his endeavor. "I have a lot of family and friends in the DC area and there was just a lot of opportunity," he said, sifting through cocoa beans as he demonstrated the process of making the chocolate bars using only organic cocoa and sugarcane and some additions such as Himalayan pink salt.

"DC is a thriving place right now-there are a lot of exciting things happening in the food community," Kavalier, whose bars he says are available at a number of grocery stores, specialty shops, restaurants and breweries and sell for \$8 to \$12 online, is upbeat



Dawn Missirlian, of Green Heart Juice Shop, puts the skin off pineapples at Union Kitchen.

Columbia. "For every \$100 spent at a local business, \$68 stay in the community. That drops to \$32 for every \$100 spent at a chain."

### Hunger to make it

But competition is fierce and has picked up over the past few years. "It's a growing food movement and that means more people come in, which means there's more competition," said Jonas Singer, co-founder of Union Kitchen. "I also think people realize that it's real, that they can actually run a successful business and that aspiration creates a hunger and you see more people being ambitious about it." One aspect helping food startups land on their feet in Washington is the purchasing power in the city, Singer suggested. "I do think there is money here and there is a local interest and the combination of the two has allowed people here to be very successful."

### Slow food

But success can come at a cost and takes commitment. "You've got to just go all-in-everything has happened really organically for us and we've seen nice growth over the years but we also are working all the time," said Sarah Gordon of Gordy's Pickle Jar, which has been around since late 2011. "If you're not willing to make huge sacrifices for your small-batch company then it might not be for you." Operating out of a bright space on a quiet street in the city's Petworth neighborhood, the company's products include "Hot Chili Spears," "Thai Basil Jalapenos" and a recently launched canned brine for cocktails.

"Doing everything by hand in small batches, nothing's really quick," said Gordon as her partner and co-founder Sheila Fain worked away in the back production area. "It's definitely a slow food." As for being "Made in DC," the Chicago area native noted it was something to be proud of. "It's not somewhere that you think that people are manufacturing so I think it's always a nice touch point for us." —AFP



Bridget Grier, of Pops by Haley, distributes cake batter at Union Kitchen.

Service to focus full-time on her urban farm.

Around town, others in the capital's food startup scene are toiling to see if they can make a living doing what they love. Some, including Ackley, have turned to Union Kitchen. The self-described food incubator has two locations in the city where members can, for a monthly fee, use a shared production space and equipment while taking advantage of services to help their business grow and get their creations to consumers. On a recent weekday morning, the sun-filled, multi-floor venue in a former

about the future. Currently, he said, the company is producing between 2,000 and 3,000 bars a month but "we're pushing to double that."

"We're growing a successful business," he said. And that can have a multiplier effect for the local economy. "It's about knowing that locally-spent dollars mean just a little bit more than dollars spent elsewhere," said Morgan H. West of Think Local First, a non-profit aimed at supporting and strengthening locally-owned businesses and a sustainable local economy in the District of



Products from Undone Chocolate are seen at Union Kitchen.



People sort chocolate for Undone Chocolate at Union Kitchen.



Micro greens are seen in the Little Wild Things City Farm below The Pub & The People restaurant.