

FREE

# Kuwait Times Friday Times



Min 20°  
Max 32°

www.kuwaittimes.net

NO: 16845- Friday, April 15, 2016



ISTANBUL: (From left) Qatar's Emir Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Brunei's sultan Hassanal Bolkiah, Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev and Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev pose for a family photo after the 13th Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Summit at Istanbul Congress Center (ICC) on April 14, 2016. — AFP

## AMIR CALLS FOR UNITY, TOLERANCE

### 13TH OIC SUMMIT

ISTANBUL: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday addressed the 13th summit session of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Summit, affirming that the battle against

terrorism will be a long one but would be pursued with unwavering resolve. "Our battle against terrorism is a hard and lone one, however it will be pursued with resolve," His Highness stated at the opening of the OIC Summit, affirming Kuwait stand alongside the international community in the combat against the global menace.

"Our rejection of extremism and violence is emphatic; a priority that tops other priorities," His Highness emphasized in his speech at the 13th Islamic summit, held in the ancient Turkish city, Istanbul. He called for defending Islam against multiple attacks and tarnishing campaigns, noting that a lot of terrorist acts have been committed in the name of the heavenly religion. "Discords have been triggered at pretext of defending Islam, acts of annihilation have demolished our societies, killed our sons and the innocent on the face of the earth," Sheikh Sabah said in his defense of the religion that has been used by terrorists as a camouflage for their horrific acts that wreaked havoc in peaceful communities and caused wide-scale damage and destruction.

His Highness urged other Islamic leaders attending the top-level conference to join hands to correct the misconceptions and clear up "the image of our tolerant sharia, so that we may present to the

Continued on Page 7



ISTANBUL: His Highness the Amir meets Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan during the 13th Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Summit at Istanbul Congress Center (ICC) yesterday.

STARTING FROM **750 FILS**

**1.000 KD** **1.500 KD**

Great Amazing Prices

تم الافتتاح NOW OPEN

تم الافتتاح NOW OPEN

تم الافتتاح NOW OPEN

**ALNASSER New Branch Opening 14-4-2016 Time 6 PM**

Abraq Khaitan - Block 8  
Next to Mnahi Alosaimi Clinic

APPARELS FOOTWEAR SPORTS EQUIPMENT & MUCH MORE

النصر ALNASSER SINCE 1984

18 500 50

alناصرME



## Scribber's Notebook

## WANTED: LIFE SKILLS

By Jamie Etheridge

etheridge@kuwaittimes.net

In the last few years we've noticed a growing trend of adult education-type courses and workshops being offered in Kuwait. The idea of adult education (also known as continuing education) isn't a new one here and there are plenty of institutes and continuing ed programs that have been around for decades. What is new that the slate of offered courses has broadened significantly and that regular members of society - not only established universities and private institutes - are doing the teaching.

Young local entrepreneurs have created specialized programs aimed specifically at encouraging the transfer of knowledge and the development of professional skills. Organizations like Nuqat, for instance, offer a range of courses for entrepreneurs, designers, creatives, photographers and others interested in professional development. Community groups like the Secret Garden offer workshops on acting, cooking, gardening and other pursuits. Local entrepreneurs like Fakhri Arts and LB o Jzazz provide workshops and classes in beadmaking, crochet, knitting, calligraphy and more.

The desire to learn seems to have blossomed in Kuwait. While some of this might be attributable to habba (a trend), there are a growing number of people from all walks of life here who want to know more, do more and to explore new ideas and new ways of doing things. Almost all these new workshops and courses are not academic in nature but instead focus on very important life skills. Want to learn to sew? There's a program for you. Want to learn to poach an egg, yep, get your chef hat on. Children can learn to code and adults can take classes in piano, figure sculpting or textile design. If you are interested in learning how to make beaded necklaces or the basic principles of interior design, someone somewhere in Kuwait is now offering a workshop or course on it.

To those not paying attention this may seem like no big deal. But to a dedicated lifelong learner like myself this is a revolution in social and community activity. I think it also addresses an often unexplored and under recognized truth about the educational system in Kuwait. Very little of what kids learn could actually be classified as life skills. Most go from KG to 12th grade and then graduate knowing very little about how to do basic every day things like cook a meal or grow an herb garden or sew on a button.

Add to this the ubiquitous presence of maids and nannies. Kids don't learn about school how to do to much beyond reading books and taking tests. And they often learn very little at home. Even fewer will take up internships during their high school or college years and as a consequence a growing number of adults in Kuwait enter adulthood with very few life skills.

That's where these workshops and classes come in. They may have arisen in part due to the pervasive copy cat syndrome but also in part due to very real demand. Whether it's to learn a new professional technique, a weekend hobby or a basic life skill, these programs are adding a depth and breadth to Kuwait society's collective body of knowledge and skills and that is an awesome thing to witness.

## Photo of the day



**KUWAIT: The Green Island is an artificial island, located off the coast of Kuwait in Salmiya. It offers encircling promenade, parks, playgrounds and regularly hosts concerts and other family attractions. — KUNA/ Sami Al Khelif**

## Local Spotlight

## ENDING POVERTY

By Muna Al-Fuzai

muna@kuwaittimes.net



**P**overty is not a shame, but a shame for international organizations that see such an ugly phenomenon and do nothing to help those who fall into this abyss with no way out. I been traveling a lot recently and this topic has been bugging me for a while now, no matter where I go. Poverty is the new epidemic now and we are not doing enough to stop it.

It is clear that the gap between rich and poor has widened over the past 20 years. While I see stupid and shallow people earning millions on social media by showing their butts or making silly gestures, I see many falling into poverty due to losing their jobs, inflation or erroneous policies by corrupt governments. I keep wondering if we have paved the way for a few clowns to make millions, but are standing still towards those who end up on the streets and die of hunger.

"The world today has become an island surrounded by seas of poor people." These were the words of former South African president Thabo Mbeki describing poverty at a Johannesburg conference a year ago. It is an accurate description of a worrying phenomenon.

October 17 is the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. It was approved by the United Nations, but without any real actions to end this

dilemma. The population of Planet Earth is 7 billion people including 4.3 billion in developing countries, of which 3 billion live below the poverty line.

There are many studies on the causes of poverty in developing countries. Some of these explicitly indicate that economic sanctions, invasions and occupations of states have exacerbated the problem of poverty and transformed nations that were originally rich to a state of extreme poverty. This is consistent with what happened in Iraq, Iran and Syria, and in spite of the wealth of these countries, they are in very difficult situations.

The lack of political commitment towards the fight against poverty will lead to it spreading. It is also a reason for terrorism, killings and threats. Poverty is always associated with ignorance. It becomes easier for terrorist organizations to infiltrate and provoke angry sentiments. The problem of poverty has a close link with terrorism and international organizations must make more efforts to prevent more people from falling into poverty and turning into criminals because of their needs.

Sometimes people want to help, but inflation makes it nearly impossible to cover their own needs, let alone of the whole world. Another reason is that many don't trust who should be getting their money to help the poor of a nation. In Kuwait, since the beginning of the Syrian crisis, many Kuwaitis have been sending money, but how they can be absolutely sure the needy will get their money and not terrorists? We need new thinking on how to help those who suffer from the injustice of poverty.





# 'THE OBSESSIVE ART OF ORIGAMI'

By Faten Omar

For Sumaya Al-Enzi, origami is her passion and her life. Origami is the art of folding papers, which is often associated with Japanese culture. Sumaya, a Chinese origami teacher, has magical hands that transform a flat sheet of square paper into amazing flowers, dresses, shapes and more through various folding and sculpting techniques. Kuwait Times spoke to Enzi, who has been practicing origami for 10 years, to discover her skills in creating and teaching to make such beautiful shapes. Some excerpts:

**Kuwait Times: How was your first encounter with origami?**

**Enzi:** I learned to make my first origami model when my daughter was two years old. I tried to teach her something useful, so I bought a book for children with origami sheets and instructions, and by teaching her, I taught myself and got obsessed with it.

After I started, I could not stop, and my house got full of origami artworks, so my husband asked me to start pursuing it as a career. Soon, I began teaching at weekly folding sessions. A lot of people found it difficult to fold and I was one of them, so I started to follow some professionals on YouTube and created more models.

**KT: Do you remember the first time you folded an origami figure?**

**Enzi:** I started with small and simple

origami folding instructions from the children's book. But I knew that I could improve because I got more ideas every time I folded a sheet - some ideas were simple, some grand. My initial motivation was to help children who enjoy origami to fold more.

**KT: What inspires you?**

**Enzi:** Every single sheet inspires me to fold a new model, even when I go to restaurants, the bank or to finish paperwork, I end up creating an origami model from tissue or paper. There's so much goodness around that it's hard for me not to get inspired. My fingers automatically fold things, and pictures of folded stuff often make my fingers itch and make me want to fold that model too. This may lead to researching a designer, or lead me to a video, or buying a book to discover another aspect of origami.

**KT: Was there a particular moment when you realized that origami was something you wanted to commit to?**

**Enzi:** Yes, when I started to teach and hold workshops and let my daughter also teach youngsters how to make an origami model.

**KT: Besides origami, what other interests do you have?**

**Enzi:** I studied nail art in Japan and was working in a salon, but not anymore.



Sumaya Al-Enzi with two of her students during recent workshop



Continued on Page 4





Continued from Page 3

**KT: How has your academic work influenced your creative origami design work?**

**Enzi:** Drawing on nails is a hard thing to do - it needs patience and focus. In origami, sometimes it takes a long time to make a single piece and you must be focused.

**KT: Your recent pieces are made with a single piece of paper. How did these designs evolve?**

**Enzi:** Making a model from a single piece of paper is the hardest, because one large paper can be turned into an amazingly small flower with many details.

**KT: What future plans do you have for**

**your work? Are there any particular projects that you're looking forward to?**

**Enzi:** I will teach origami to children in hospitals soon, as origami can be beneficial to their mental health. There is a part of your brain that does not work, and origami is the only thing that makes that part work and develop.

Origami challenges the mind, building on innate talents and abilities through a variety of mentally challenging tasks, strengthening the brain. Origami is one avenue that provides both mental and physical stimuli with exercise and helps develop hand-eye coordination, fine motor skills and mental concentration. Origami is used in various therapeutic settings, including art therapy and in stroke and injury rehabilitation.







# KUWAIT BEAUTIFUL & GREEN STUDENTS ART COMPETITION

## HELLO ARTISTS...

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

*Good luck to you, our young artists.*

- Competition is open to ages from (6 - 8) (9 - 11) (12 - 14) and (15 - 17) & Special needs.
- The competition is open for all schools in Kuwait (Government and Private)
- **The competition will start on March 10th and will continue till April 21, 2016.**
- 10 winners from each category will receive valuable prizes.
- All participants will receive a certificate of appreciation.
- All schools participating in the

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

**March 10 till April 21, 2016**

Organized By

**Kuwait Times**

Sponsored By

JW MARRIOTT  
KUWAIT CITY



الباتل  
CASIO.

### Participation Form

If you are interested to participate fill the form and send it to Kuwait Times.

From: .....

We would like to confirm our participation in the above mentioned activity with the total number of participating student's so the corresponding number of drawing sheets can be delivered to our school.

School: .....

Tel: ..... Fax: .....

Address: .....

Total number of interested student's are

6 - 8 years  9 - 11 years  12 - 14 years  15 - 17 years  Special need

Name: ..... Signature : .....

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





Picture of AWL Endometriosis Awareness event held in March.

## THE REVIVAL OF THE AMERICAN WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF KUWAIT

By Athoob Al-Shuaibi

The biggest challenge comes in the face of expatriates is the the social integration and the feeling of being an active part of society. This is usual. The fundamental differences in traditions and religion would be a stumbling block. But nevertheless, we find that some people succeed in penetrating all communities and have the ability to earn the trust of others through volunteer work.

Four American ladies, all came with their spouses who are in an official work mission to Kuwait, have decided to be play an active community role and to become some of the best representatives of their home country. Lynda Van Greenstone, Heather Kaczmarek, Nadiyah Mayyahi and Tara Rogers, the new board of the American Women's League in Kuwait.

"I have been the president of the league for eight months. As an executive board together we have bonded and we have with all of our strength been able to put together some great events. I hope that we are making some positive changes for the American women living here in Kuwait. Those who are expats, those who are married to Kuwaitis and other diplomats, and other Kuwaiti women," said Lynda Van Greenstone, AWL president.

Founded more than 50 years ago, the American Women's League provides social, culture, educational and philanthropic activities for American women living in Kuwait. Although the League is administered by Americans, membership is not exclusive to Americans, as Nadiyah Mayyahi, AWL secretary, explained. "Our membership here is not only for Americans. It's 70 percent American and 30 percent associate members from all over the world. If you do attend one of our events, you'll see a kind of United Nations of ladies," she said. Nadiya, affirmed by the board members, is the most organized person they know and she's the glue that keeps the group together. "I was actually born and raised in Kuwait and coming back to Kuwait to me is like a full circle moment. I got involved with AWL volunteering and was pleased with all the awareness being raised in Kuwait," she said.

The AWL aims to help bring American women in Kuwait - and spouses or parents of American citizens - together here.

"I'm used this lifestyle because I'm a military brat. I also lived in Qatar previously over four years, so I'm used to moving and used to this region. I know that women can be very lonely, so I wanted them to get involved. The league needed a new crew and we were asked to take their place," Heather Kaczmarek, AWL vice president said.

Tara Rogers, AWL Treasurer, believes that being at the AWL gives American women who come to Kuwait with their husbands a chance to meet each other and socialize and work together to make a difference and raise awareness for good causes. "We are all passionate about empowering other women," Tara said.

The AWL upcoming event will be on May 7th, It's going to be a Mother's Day brunch which will be at the Jumeirah Hotel. However, the league will take time off during Ramadan.



Board leadership of the American Women's League in Kuwait. From left: Heather Kaczmarek, Lynda Van Greenstone, Nadiyah Mayyahi and Tara Rogers. - Photos courtesy American Women's League of Kuwait.



AWL Breast Cancer Awareness campaign.





ISTANBUL: Leaders and representatives of the Islamic countries gather for the 13th Organization of Islamic Cooperation, OIC Summit in Istanbul yesterday. — AP

## AMIR CALLS FOR UNITY...

Continued from Page 1

world the bright face of sharia that is based on tolerance, acceptance and respect of human rights." "We, my brothers, are responsible for shouldering the legitimate, humane and moralistic responsibility as stipulated by our sacred religion, our conscience and belonging to this tolerant sharia," he stated.

His Highness began his address by noting that the 13th Islamic summit is held in shadow of delicate and dangerous political and security circumstances, as well as "deterioration of our conditions at various levels - hoping that deliberations at the summit would lead to mapping out a new strategy. A strategy that unifies our ranks, cements our states against challenges," His Highness said.

He warned of conspiracies aimed at fomenting hateful sectarianism. "We urge all to boost patriotism, shun any practice laced with sectarianism and to dedicate the soul of societies for unity," His Highness the Amir said adding that Kuwait supports the stability of Iraq. "Kuwait had provided a lot of humanitarian aid - the latest is the two million dollars to Iraq and has agreed to delay payment - the last installment of (war) compensation, considering the circumstances experienced by our Iraqi brothers," he said. He expressed hope that the Iraqis would pursue (with success) the political process and reforms.

On Syria, he expressed hope that the reconciliation efforts would be crowned with success. "We urge the rival parties not to miss this opportunity. We urge them to place their homeland's interests above all priorities and halt the bloodshed." Regarding Yemen, His Highness hoped the recently declared cease-fire would pave way for the upcoming peace talks, due in Kuwait on April 18th. On Libya, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad welcomed the step by the national reconciliation government as it starts its work in line with Al-Sukhairat accord, signed in December 2015.

Turning to the Middle East question, he noted that Israel's intransigence is hampering international efforts and wasting "the chances to reach a final settlement" to the conflict. He called on the Security Council to mount pressure on Israel to accept relevant UN resolutions and the Arab peace initiative, regretting noticeable dwindling interest in the peace process, thus "aggravating the deteriorating conditions."

On Iran, Amir affirmed that Kuwait had welcomed any effort aimed at sparing the region from any form of instability, noting it had welcomed the agreement between Tehran and the G5 states (on the nuclear issue). He urged Iran to cooperate - to help in defusing regional tension; establishing normal relations based on international laws and covenants; respect states' sovereignty and non-intervention in states' domestic affairs. —KUNA

## TURKISH PRESIDENT URGES MUSLIMS TO OVERCOME SPLITS, FIGHT TERROR

ISTANBUL: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan yesterday urged dozens of heads of state and government gathered for an Islamic summit in Istanbul to end sectarian divisions in the Muslim world and fight terror together. Turkey is seeking to showcase its influence among the world's estimated 1.7 billion Muslims, particularly in lands once controlled by the Ottoman Empire, at the two-day summit of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) which it will chair for the next two years.

But the meeting bringing together over 30 leaders has been shadowed by sectarian-tinged conflicts in Syria and Yemen that have pitted Shiite Muslims-led by regional power Iran-against Sunni Muslim powers like Saudi Arabia. "I believe the greatest challenge we need to surmount is sectarianism. My religion is not that of Sunnis, of Shiites. My religion is Islam," Erdogan said in his opening speech.

"We should be uniting. Out of the conflicts, the tyranny, only the Muslims suffer," he said, adding the summit meeting could be a "turning point" for the whole Islamic world. Erdogan lashed out at Islamic State (IS) jihadists who seized swathes of Syria and Boko Haram Islamist extremists in Nigeria as two "terrorist organizations that are serving the same evil purpose." He said that the OIC had accepted a Turkish proposal to set up a multinational police coordination centre for Islamic states to fight militants, to be based in Istanbul. "We need to establish an organization to further strengthen cooperation in the fight against terror," he said.

### 'Creating friction'

There is a security lockdown around the summit venue in Istanbul, the former capital of the Ottoman Empire from where the Sultans for centuries ruled Muslims from the Balkans to Arabia. One the eve of the summit, Erdogan welcomed his guests with a tour of the Bosphorus aboard the luxury presidential yacht the MV Savarona which Turkey acquired in the 1930s for the use of its first post-Ottoman president Mustafa Kemal Ataturk. Key guests greeted by Erdogan for the first session included Saudi King Salman and Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, whose

countries are locked on opposing sides in the Syria and Yemen conflicts.

But Turkey's own policies in the Middle East have been controversial, with several Muslim states objecting to the Islamic-rooted government's backing of rebels in Syria. In a sign of Turkey's growing relationship with its fellow Sunni Muslim power, King Salman of Saudi stood at Erdogan's side in the traditional pre-summit "family" photograph. While the summit marks one of the most significant gatherings of heads of state for years in Istanbul, some high profile leaders like Jordan's King Abdullah and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi are notable by their absence.

Turkey's relations with Cairo have still not recovered from the 2013 ousting of Islamist president Mohamed Morsi, a close ally of Ankara, while ties with Amman are being tested by differences over Syria. Erdogan had earlier lashed out at "Islamophobia" in Western states but also acknowledged the Muslim community was hit by sectarianism "that is creating ever greater friction". In an op-ed for CNN ahead of the summit, he acknowledged that many young Muslims were vulnerable to the messages from Islamic State (IS) jihadists and Al-Qaeda "and this is an issue that Muslim countries cannot and must not remain indifferent to."

### 'Red carpet for Salman'

The run-up to the summit saw a landmark visit by King Salman to the capital Ankara which marked the dramatic improvement in ties between Turkey and Saudi since he came to the throne in 2015. Erdogan went to Ankara's Esenboga airport to personally welcome the Saudi monarch on the tarmac and then gave him Turkey's highest honor for a foreign leader. Saudi Arabia and Turkey both believe the ousting of President Bashar Al-Assad is the key to solving the Syrian conflict and back rebel groups fighting his regime. Analysts have warned however that Turkey needs to tread carefully in its alliance with Saudi Arabia, which is also overwhelmingly Sunni Muslim, so it is not seen as a sectarian union aimed at Shiite Iran. — AFP



## KUWAIT PLAYS PROMINENT ROLE IN SETTLING DISPUTES

**KUWAIT:** Kuwaiti diplomacy has exerted (for many years) mediation efforts aimed to defuse tensions and resolve differences among Arab and regional countries. The go-between efforts have been main peaceful factors for settling disputes, in which the third party plays a central role. His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah had been a prominent politician who played positively a neutral role in settling disputes among Arabs over the last five decades, due to experience gained when he served as foreign minister.

Kuwait played a key role in settling disputes among Arab countries like the Egyptian-Yemeni and the Egyptian-Saudi ones during the era of late president Jamal Abdunnasser through hosting sum-

mits and conferences for this purpose. Kuwait exerted mediation efforts between South Yemen and North Yemen in 1972 aimed to stop skirmishes that erupted between the two sides on borders. These efforts led to a peace agreement after a visit paid by His Highness the Amir, when he was serving as foreign minister at that time. When war broke out between North Yemen and South Yemen on March 28 and 29, 1979, on borders, Kuwait hosted a conference on March 30, 1979 which brought together presidents of the two sides who reached an agreement that ended the conflict.

In 1970, Kuwait contributed to defusing disputes between Jordan and Palestine. His Highness

the Amir also played a great role when he was Foreign Minister in 1989 and presided over a committee which managed to make reconciliation between Lebanese people. This led to the Taif agreement which ended the civil war in Lebanon. Kuwait is slated to host inter-Yemeni peace talks on April 18th-under the UN aegis with aim of reaching a viable settlement to the conflict in line with the UN Security Council Resolution 2216, as well as other relevant resolutions. The UN had preceded the talks with a cease-fire declaration. The truce went into effect as of April 10th. High hopes are pinned upon the forthcoming conciliation talks that would aim to end the Yemenis plight due to the infighting. — KUNA



## KUWAIT-US NAVAL EXERCISES FOCUS ON DEFENSIVE OPERATIONS, TRAINING



By Faten Omar

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait and US military forces held joint maritime training exercises in Kuwait yesterday at the Mohammed Al-Ahmed Naval Base. The exercises are part of the International Mine Countermeasures Exercise (IMCMEX) and focused on defensive operations. "Through planning for this exercise the Kuwaiti Naval Forces will have knowledge of dealing with any naval threats that may pose a threat to marine transportation (lines and communication), and learn about the latest systems and special technology of mine operations that are used by the participating navies in the world," explained Major General Khaled Al-Kandari, Commander of the Kuwaiti Naval Forces.

"Through the exercise, participants will train to execute a wide spectrum of defensive operations designed to protect international commerce and trade consisting of mine countermeasures, maritime security operations, and maritime infrastructure protection. This exercise is also a great opportunity for us to build proficiency and test the latest technology available for ensuring the global maritime commons stay open and secure," said Vice Adm Kevin Donegan, commander, US Naval Forces Central Command.

"This region provides a strong training opportunity for nations worldwide as three of the six major maritime chokepoints in the world are here: the Suez Canal, the Strait of Bab Al Mandeb and the Strait of Hormuz. Nearly 20 percent of the world's oil transits



**KUWAIT:** Commander of the Kuwaiti Naval Forces Major General Khaled Al-Kandari and Commander of US Naval Forces Central Command Vice Adm Kevin Donegan pose for a group photo with other officers during the joint maritime training exercises in Kuwait yesterday at the Mohammed Al-Ahmed Naval Base. — Photos by Joseph Shagra

through the Strait of Hormuz every day. Imagine the impact on the global economy if suddenly that oil stops flowing because of restricted sea lanes. This region is clearly important to the whole world," Donegan noted.

IMCMEX is focused on maritime security

from the port of origin to the port of arrival and will include scenarios that range from mine countermeasures, infrastructure protection and maritime security operations in support of civilian shipping. The exercises are conducted through several stages running from April 4 to April 26, 2016.



## Crime

Report

CANNIBAL CALL MAY  
BE MALICIOUS HOAX

**KUWAIT:** Ministry of Interior detectives are investigating a suspicious call received from a woman claiming that her sponsors are cannibals. Operations received a 112 call from a woman claiming to be a maid from Ethiopia. She told operations that she lives in Salwa and that her sponsors are cannibals and that she saw a head in the refrigerator. Police were sent to the address the woman gave but no one answered the door. Suspecting the call to be malicious, the director general for Hawally Security Major General Shihab Al-Shammari has referred the issue for further investigation.

## Livestock pen raids in Wafra

Weapon detectives carried out a campaign in Wafra, raiding an area of livestock pens. A total of four shotguns, boxes of ammunitions, four monkeys and cars used for reckless practices were discovered and confiscated. Arrested individuals will be sent to concerned authorities.

## Salmiya police station call

A State Security officer made a call warning that the Salmiya police station would be attacked. The man called the Interior Ministry operations hotline. Reasons that prompted the policeman to make such call are yet to be known. Orders were given to take the necessary precautions.

## Cat in coop air duct

A strange sound, coming from the air conditioning duct at a Salwa area cooperative drew the attention of policemen, who responded to the call. The place was evacuated and authorities traced the sound only to discover that a cat has entered the duct and could not escape. Workers at the coop thought it may be a thief.

## Traffic offense, insult

A driver not only committed a traffic violation, but also insulted the traffic police officer who asked him for his driver's license. The officer lodged a complaint at Fintas police station. Legal procedures are being taken towards the suspect.

## Sheikh's car robbed

A ruling family member told police a thief stole KD 1500 from his car while in Funaitees area. The sheikh told police that while in Funaitees, a thief broke into the car and got the money. Detectives are investigating.

## Reckless driving in Kheitan

Policemen arrested an ex-convict after he was seen driving recklessly in Kheitan area and endangering the lives of other motorists. Police found what is thought to be drugs on him. A security source said a patrol saw the suspect driving recklessly, so they stopped and arrested him. He was sent to the Drugs Control General Department.

KPC SEEKS TO RESOLVE  
OIL WORKERS' DISPUTE

KUWAIT BOURSE - SMALL CHIPS DOMINATED PAST WEEK

**KUWAIT:** KPC and its subsidiaries earnestly seek resolution to its differences with Kuwait's oil workers' union to avert any adverse effects on the national economy, spokesman for the Oil Sector Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled Al-Sabah said yesterday. He said in a press statement that KPC has responded favorably to an invitation by the Deputy Director of the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) Abdullah Al-Mutawtah to attend a meeting today to discuss with union representatives means of ending the dispute between them.

He further said that the oil workers' union did not show up for the meeting. Meanwhile, Kuwait Oil Tanker Co assured the public that liquefied natural gas (LNG) cylinders used for cooking are plentifully available and there is no fear of disruption in its availability. The assurance comes in view of the potential strike that has been called for by the oil workers' union for next Sunday after deadlock in the union's negotiations with the government regarding a number of grievances.

## Kuwait bourse

Meanwhile, trades over the past week started amid an upbeat

atmosphere, masterminded by major groups namely Al-Kharafi, Al-Bahar and Al-Madina, thus lifting up the main indices. The five sessions were distinguished with emergence of a large number of "small and slack chips," below 50 fils, which played major role in terms of volume and number of transactions, while operating blue-chips, namely those under the KSX-15 index umbrella, were generally stable. Traders were reluctant, particularly in the week first sessions, however their mood changed when Boubyan Bank revealed satisfactory results for the year first quarter, revealing KD nine million worth of earnings.

Most of the operations involved chips valued at 37.5 fils or 50 fils. In the last session, activity was marked with profit bagging, while most of the transactions targeted shares of Baitak, the National Bank of Kuwait, National Investments and Agility. The KSE ended trading on mixed boards Thursday. The price index was down 5.68 points to 5,300.51 points, while the weighted index rose by 0.62 points to stand at 365.07 points, as well as the KSX 15 index up by 1.26 points, to read 836.14 points. Value of trade was KD 18.3 million while the volume was KD 233 million done through 4,852 deals. — Agencies



**KUWAIT:** Heavy rains and hailstones lashed Kuwait yesterday. Emergency teams were deployed in Kuwait's governorates to deal with any accident resulting from the stormy weather. Photos show people struggling to make their way on foot as the rain inundated Kuwait. — Photos by Joseph Shagra

DIPLOMATIC DISPUTE BREWS;  
KUWAIT AND PHILIPPINES  
AIRLINES ROW RAGES

**KUWAIT:** An ongoing dispute between Kuwait and Philippines Airlines (PAL) over fifth freedom flights may reach diplomatic level with the airline announcing that it has called on the government in Manila to help resolve the issue. "We respectfully request for the support and assistance of the Department of Foreign Affairs in taking the appropriate measures and initiatives that would help PAL secure the needed Kuwaiti authorization for our Dubai-Kuwait fifth freedom rights, including diplomatic protests and special representations with the government of the State of Kuwait, as may be warranted," PAL president and chief operating officer Jaime Bautista said in a letter to Foreign Affairs Secretary Jose Rene Almendras reported by the Philippine news agency, The Standard.

The dispute comes only three months after PAL resumed flying the Kuwait-Manila route (via Dubai). The PAL launched a four times per week service in January despite a failure to resolve the fifth freedom rights issue. Fifth freedom rights essentially allow the airline to pick up passengers and cargo from the layover destination (in this case Dubai) to bring onward to the final destination. Essentially this would allow Philippines Airlines to provide transit flights from Kuwait to Dubai and vice versa.



# International

FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 2016

**New Aleppo assault casts cloud over Syria talks**

1



**Germany agrees 'historic' refugee integration package**

12



**Clinton, Sanders face off in New York debate**

16



**JEDDAH:** Road traffic came to a virtual standstill on many of the roads in Saudi Arabia as floodwaters inundated roads following heavy rains. — SPA

## HEAVY RAINS, FLOODING KILL 18 IN SAUDI

915 RESCUED FROM VEHICLES, FLOODWATERS INUNDATE USE ROADS

**DUBAI:** Rains and flooding have killed 18 people throughout Saudi Arabia and 915 had to be rescued from inside their vehicles, the General Directorate of Saudi Civil Defense said yesterday. Floodwaters inundated roadways in Riyadh, holy Makkah and the mountainous south of the mostly desert kingdom, the directorate said in a statement.

Videos posted on social media showed cars submerged in water in the southwestern city of Abha. Heavy rains have lashed Saudi Arabia for several days and the education ministry closed schools in and around the capital.

At least one person has died in Rimah, northeast of Riyadh, and 72 stranded motorists were rescued in the region, Saudi Civil Defense announced on Wednesday as heavy showers continue to lash on Saudi Arabia and the Gulf. About 10 cars were sub-

merged under about two meters of water in a motorway underpass in the Laban district on the capital's western outskirts.

The Saudi Press Agency said the rains also struck the city of Buraidah, some 320 km northwest of Riyadh, as well as the surrounding Qasim province. Rain in Buraidah, the capital of Qasim province, inundated five houses. Their tenants were provided accommodation in furnished apartments. Some trees were uprooted and signboards collapsed. Several major streets were closed to traffic. About 15 vehicles were stranded in pools of water. Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Education announced that classes in general education schools were suspended on Wednesday in Riyadh, and the governorates of Rumah, Thadiq, Huraimla, Al-Diriyah, Al-Uyaynah, Dhurma and Al-Muzahimiyah due

to the weather conditions.

The security authorities closed Al-Hada mountain road on Tuesday night as a precautionary measure due to thick fog and lack of visibility. There was light rainfall in the area. There were no rock slides. Taif city had light rainfall on Tuesday. Heavy rain lashed al-Khurmah governorate and its vicinity. There was moderate rain on Tuesday along the western coast of northern Jeddah, in Dhahban, Thuwwal, Saabar, Al-Qudhaimah up to parts of Rabigh governorate. Students were allowed to go home before the end of the school day.

### Rains lash UAE

Meanwhile, heavy rains lashed parts of the United Arab Emirates on Wednesday, bringing airports, roads and schools to a standstill for most of the morning. Dramatic videos posted

on social media networks from the desert country showed strong winds and flooding battering parts of the the capital Abu Dhabi and Dubai, as authorities announced airport delays, schools closed, and traffic piled up as commuters began their drive home. Departure flights at Dubai's two international airports were slightly delayed due to bad weather conditions but operations were largely unaffected, the Dubai Airports operator said on Wednesday.

At the arrivals terminal of Dubai International airport, a passenger flying in from Karachi, Pakistan, told Al Arabiya English over the phone about her Emirates Airlines plane circling the air for nearly an hour and half when its pilot could not receive clearance for landing due to the severe weather conditions. — Agencies



## IS GROUP'S 'CAUSE IS LOST': OBAMA

**WASHINGTON:** The Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria is on the defensive and "their cause is lost," US President Barack Obama said Wednesday after meeting with CIA chiefs and other security officials.

Obama paid a rare visit to CIA headquarters in Virginia to discuss progress of Operation Inherent Resolve, the 20-month-old US-led campaign against IS jihadists in Iraq and Syria. "ISIL is on the defensive, and we are on the offensive," Obama said, using an IS acronym. "We have momentum, and we intend to keep that momentum." Obama pointed to recent US air strikes that killed three senior IS leaders and a report this week showing the group's ranks are at their lowest level since 2014.

"In the days and weeks ahead we intend to take out more (leaders.) Every day, ISIL leaders wake up and understand it could be their last," Obama said. "Their ranks of fighters are estimated to be at the lowest levels in two years and more and more are realizing that their cause is lost," he added.

Obama stressed the importance of ending the five-year civil war in Syria as key to facilitating a lasting defeat of the IS group. "So we continue to work for a diplomatic end to this awful conflict," he said.

Earlier Wednesday, Baghdad-based spokesman Colonel Steve Warren said the US-led coalition campaign had successfully entered the second "phase" of operations.

The coalition is working through three main steps as it wages its 20-month-old fight against the IS group, Warren said. "Our enemy has been weakened and we now are working to fracture him. Phase one of the military campaign is complete," Warren told Pentagon reporters, noting that this initial step was to "degrade" the IS group by stopping it from making additional territorial gains.

"We are now in phase two, which is to dismantle this enemy," he added. Warren said the final phase of the campaign is to ensure the IS group is dealt a lasting defeat, primarily by enabling local forces to prevent a resurgence of jihadist influence. Though the IS group maintains a firm grip on vast areas of the two countries, the jihadists have suffered some serious setbacks including the loss of Ramadi in Iraq.

"While ISIL can still put together some complex attacks, they have not been able to take hold of any key terrain for almost a year now," Warren said. — AFP



**DAMASCUS:** A Syrian boy watches over his family's sheep near the frontline of fighting between rebel fighters and Syrian regime forces in Jisreen, in the rebel-held region of Eastern Ghouta, on the outskirts of the capital Damascus yesterday. — AFP

## NEW ALEPPO ASSAULT CASTS CLOUD OVER SYRIA TALKS

**BEIRUT/GENEVA:** Syria's army backed by Russian warplanes launched an assault north of Aleppo yesterday, threatening to block a vital rebel route into the city in fighting that has cast new clouds over Geneva peace talks.

Syria's recent upsurge in fighting, particularly around the northern city of Aleppo, has proven the most acute challenge yet to a cessation of hostilities deal agreed in February and soured an already bleak mood as opposing sides gather in Geneva. Outlining its bargaining position, the opposition High Negotiating Council (HNC) told Reuters it would be willing to share equally in a transitional council with the government, but repeated its rejection of a role for President Bashar al-Assad.

The Syrian government, buoyed by Russian and Iranian military support, has ruled out any discussion of the presidency. Moscow and Tehran have also rejected what they see as Western efforts to predetermine Assad's future. The warring sides have sought to portray the fighting as the fault of the other, pushing towards breaking point a ceasefire that was designed to improve the political climate ahead of the Geneva talks.

In addition to the Aleppo assault, heavy government air strikes were reported north of Homs, where a doctor described the most intense government bombardment since the cessation of hostilities agreement took effect. In Aleppo, government forces and their allies were focused on the area around Handarat Camp, overlooking an important access point held by rebels into the city, which is split into zones held by the government and opposition. "The escalation started at night. The area is of great importance. If the regime advances, this will tighten the grip on Aleppo," said Abdullah Othman, head of the politburo of the Levant Front rebel group.

### "VERY FIERCE" RUSSIAN BOMBING

Speaking to Reuters, he described the battle as "to-and-fro" and said: "the bombing is Russian, and very fierce". His account was echoed by the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a British-based group that monitors the war. Syrian state TV reported that the army had seized control of the northern part of Handarat camp after fierce battles with armed groups. A number of militants had been killed, it said.

Handarat camp to the north of Aleppo is important because it is perched on a hilltop above a main road leading to opposition-held districts of the city. The government and its allies have launched several major offensives in the Aleppo area, cutting the rebels' shortest supply line to Turkey in February. Yet rebels still control territory around the city, including its western approaches. Fighting near Aleppo has been escalating for two weeks,

mostly to the south of the city where government forces backed by Lebanon's Hezbollah and other militias have been waging fierce battles with rebels including Nusra Front fighters. The Al-Qaeda-linked Nusra Front and Islamic State groups are not included in the cessation of hostilities agreement. Speaking in Moscow, Russian President Vladimir Putin accused the rebels of breaching the truce to reconquer lost ground. "The opposition is trying to recover what they lost," he said.

Putin, who last month decided to withdraw some of the Russian forces deployed to Syria, said Moscow had left Damascus in a position to launch major offensives.

The air strikes in Homs hit five towns and villages, killing one person and wounding a number of others in Talbiseh, said Doctor Mohamad Al-Shamsi, speaking from the area. "Warplanes were flying at low altitudes for nearly an hour. A number of raids were launched on Talbiseh and Al-Houla," he said.

Rebels north of Aleppo are also facing a separate attack by the Islamic State group, which is trying to retake territory at the Turkish frontier lost in recent days to other insurgent groups backed by Turkey.

### GOVT IDEAS ON ASSAD

The Geneva talks aim to end a war that has killed more than 250,000 people, created the world's worst refugee crisis, and allowed for the rise of the Islamic State group. UN special envoy Staffan de Mistura has said he wants the resumed talks to focus on a political transition, one of the most contentious issues, with the opposition and its allies insisting Assad must be removed at the start of the process. HNC spokesman Salim Al-Muslat said in an interview there were "many people on the other side who we can really deal with". "We will have no veto, as long as they don't send us criminals, as long as they don't send us people involved in the killing of Syrians," he said.

The opposition wants the transition to be run by a governing authority that has full executive powers. Damascus has, however, signalled that the most it is willing to offer is a "unity government" with opposition participation, and a new constitution. Assad's supporters, including Iran, say he should be able to run in a future presidential election.

Putin said: "It is necessary to accept - for all to agree and sit down at the negotiating table - to accept the constitution and on the basis of the constitution to hold elections. That is the way to get out of the crisis." Muslat said there was room for negotiation on how to handle Assad's departure: "For a solution, to really help Syria to get relief, then let them suggest what they want for Assad and we discuss it." — Reuters

## PHILIPPINES REJECTS CLAIMS OF IS GROUP INROADS

**MANILA:** The Philippines yesterday dismissed as "propaganda" a claim by the Islamic State group that its fighters had slaughtered nearly 100 soldiers and established a base in the mainly Muslim south where local militants are battling government forces.

The US-based SITE Intelligence Group reported Wednesday IS said its "mujahideen blew up seven troop transports and killed nearly 100 enemy forces". Earlier this week the Philippine military said it had killed 25 Islamist Abu Sayyaf guerrillas as it presses an offensive on the southern island of Basilan despite the loss of 18 soldiers.

But Philippine defence secretary Voltaire Gazmin denied Thursday IS had joined forces with Abu Sayyaf. "Our information is that there is no formal ISIS organization here in the Philippines," he said, using an alternative acronym for the group. Military spokesman Brigadier General Restituto Padilla rejected the IS claim it had killed scores of soldiers. "This is nothing but propaganda which we would encourage everyone not to pay attention to," he told AFP, and downplayed public pledges of allegiance to IS by Abu Sayyaf and other Muslim rebel groups in the south.

Padilla said clashes with Abu Sayyaf, a homegrown extremist group known for kidnappings and bombings, were on-going in Basilan. The death toll of soldiers remained at 18 but the number of Abu Sayyaf killed had risen to 31, Padilla said, adding that no military trucks had been destroyed. Among those killed were a Moroccan bomb expert called Mohammad Khattab, who the military said had been sent to build ties between local Muslim rebel groups and an international jihadist network. — AFP



## IRAQ MPs VOTE TO SACK SPEAKER, DEEPENING POLITICAL TURMOIL

**BAGHDAD:** Iraqi lawmakers voted yesterday to remove the parliament speaker and his deputies from office, increasing political turmoil as the country battles jihadists and struggles with a financial crisis. The chaos at parliament is a significant setback for Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi, overshadowing his efforts to replace the current cabinet and preventing nominees from being brought to a vote.

The turmoil has escalated over three successive sessions this week: the first ended in a sit-in, the second with a fistfight among lawmakers, and the third with the vote to remove parliament speaker Salim Al-Juburi. Juburi, one of the country's leading Sunni Arab politicians, issued a statement saying that the session, which he did not attend, was unconstitutional and that the required quorum was not reached.

The session held "in the absence of the presidency of parliament is unconstitutional and lacked the necessary quorum," the statement said. But Niyazi Oghlu, the official responsible for taking roll at parliament, put the number of lawmakers present at 173,

while two lawmakers also said more than 170 attended. The main Sunni bloc condemned the effort to remove Juburi.

"These calls will lead to the end of the concept of political partnership and the principle of consensus on which the political process was based," it said in a statement read out by MP Ahmed Al-Misari. Abadi has called for the party-affiliated cabinet to be replaced by a government of technocrats, but has faced significant resistance from the powerful parties that rely on control of ministries for patronage and funds.

An "emergency" session on Wednesday ended with lawmakers shouting, shoving and throwing punches in the parliament hall, leading Juburi to call a recess. The speaker's office said earlier in the day that Abadi was to give a revised list of nominees to parliament on Thursday, but the move to sack Juburi stole the spotlight instead.

### Cabinet dispute

Abadi presented a first list of cabinet nominees at the end of March, but the politi-

cal blocs put forward their own candidates, and most of the premier's original list was replaced on a second presented to MPs on Tuesday. Some MPs demanded the opportunity to vote on Abadi's original list—from which at least two candidates had already withdrawn—but the session was adjourned Tuesday without a vote. Dozens of lawmakers then began a sit-in and spent the night at parliament.

Iraqi ministries have for years been shared out between powerful political parties that run them as their personal fiefdoms, relying on them for patronage and funds. But even if the current cabinet line-up is replaced with independent, technocratic ministers—a change that faces major obstacles—that would only be the beginning of the process.

Ministries are packed with lower-level employees appointed on the basis of party and sectarian affiliation, and replacing them would face serious resistance. Technocratic ministers would also lack the political cover afforded by party affiliation, and could face threats by armed groups opposed to

changes they proposed. Abadi called in February for "fundamental" change to the cabinet so that it includes "professional and technocratic figures and academics".

That kicked off the latest chapter in a months-long saga of Abadi proposing various reforms that parties and politicians with interests in the existing system have sought to delay or undermine.

Sadr later took up the demand for a technocratic government, organising a two-week sit-in that put Abadi under pressure to act, but also supported the course of action he wanted to take. Sadr relented after Abadi presented his first list of nominees at the end of March, but has yet to react to the most recent developments in efforts to replace the cabinet. The political crisis surrounding efforts to change the cabinet comes as Iraqi forces battle to regain more ground from the Islamic State group, which seized swathes of the country in 2014. Iraq has also been hit hard by the plummeting price of oil, revenues from account for the vast majority of government funds. — AFP



**RAMALLAH:** Workers and bulldozers work at a construction site yesterday in the Israeli settlement of Givat Zeev near the West Bank city of Ramallah. — AFP

## ISRAEL SAID TO APPROVE MORE THAN 200 NEW SETTLER HOMES

**JERUSALEM:** Israel has approved plans for more than 200 new settler homes in the occupied West Bank, adding to a sharp increase in settlement projects so far this year, Israeli campaigners said yesterday.

Israel's government disputed the claim, saying nearly all approvals involved "upgrading existing structures" and not new construction, without providing a more detailed breakdown. Settlements are considered illegal under international law and are seen as major stumbling blocks to peace efforts since they are built on land the Palestinians see as part of their future state.

Hagit Ofran, a spokeswoman for settlement watchdog Peace Now, said the government had given the green light for at least 229 new homes, which are at various stages in the technical process. The new units were also reported by Israeli newspapers.

The projects must pass through five administrative stages before winning final approval from Defence Minister Moshe Yaalon. An Israeli government statement said Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Yaalon had "not approved new construction." "Almost all of the permits are for upgrading existing structures," it said. "The small proportion of them pertaining to new construction are for the community of Ganei Modiin, which abuts the fence and which will be part of Israel in any future agreement." Peace Now said this week that the number of West Bank settlements Israel plans to build more than tripled in the first quarter of 2016 compared to the same period last year.

Between January and March, projects for 674 housing units passed at least one of the steps in the planning approval process, up from 194 in the first quarter of 2015, it said.

The new plans would bring the total to at least 903. "This policy is killing the two-state solution," Ofran told AFP. The United States and the European Union, among others, have strongly criticised Israeli settlement construction. — AFP

## GERMANY AGREES 'HISTORIC' REFUGEE INTEGRATION PACKAGE

PLANS ALSO INCLUDE SWEEPING ANTI-TERROR LEGISLATION

**BERLIN:** German Chancellor Angela Merkel's ruling coalition agreed yesterday on sweeping measures to spur the integration of migrants and refugees in a "historic" first for a country that long resisted embracing immigration. The deal, hammered out in seven hours of late-night talks between Merkel's conservative Christian Union bloc and the Social Democrats (SPD), also included plans for new anti-terror legislation.

The integration bill would take a carrot-and-stick approach, providing subsidised courses to help newcomers find their way in German life but, in some cases, denying residence permits to those who fail to take up the offer. Germany took in more than a million asylum seekers in 2015 and Merkel has faced virulent criticism from sceptics, particularly from within her conservative camp, who argue that Europe's top economy is ill-equipped to cope with the influx.

She told reporters the measures would foster the settlement of those who stay in the country in the long run. "We know, after hundreds of thousands of refugees arrived in our country, that we are facing a two-pronged challenge: on the one hand controlling the flow of refugees... and of course on the other hand not just registering them but integrating them," Merkel said.

Vice Chancellor Sigmar Gabriel of the SPD called the agreement a "historic step" towards acknowledging the "modernization and opening of our society" and said he hoped it would lead to a broader immigration bill long resisted by conservatives.

"For the first time in the history of the republic, Germany will have its own integration law," he said, criticising decades of neglect of the issue.

"The integration of people from very different cultures does not happen on



**BERLIN:** (L-R) Bavarian state premier and leader of the conservative Christian Social Union (CSU) Horst Seehofer, German Vice Chancellor, Economy and Energy Minister Sigmar Gabriel, German Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, German Labor and Social Minister Andrea Nahles, German Justice Minister Heiko Maas arrive for a press conference yesterday at the Chancellery in Berlin. — AFP

its own, as we were forced to learn based on our experience."

### 'We can do it'

Beginning in the 1960s, Germany invited Turks and other "guest workers" to fuel its economic miracle but it failed to provide millions of immigrants and their descendants a place in their new society or a path to citizenship. Berlin has looked to immigration as a viable solution to the country's demographic time-bomb—the native population is expected to shrink dramatically in the coming decades, posing serious problems for Europe's top economy.

The government's show of unity Thursday was intended to end months

of infighting and breathe life into Merkel's "We can do it" mantra during the refugee crisis, which she has repeatedly said can also represent an opportunity for Germany.

Meanwhile the closure of the so-called Balkan route taken by many migrants has led to a sharp decline in new arrivals in recent weeks, alleviating some of the political pressure on Merkel.

Under the new pact seen by AFP, federal funds would be used to create 100,000 jobs for asylum seekers receiving benefits. Those facing imminent deportation would be excluded but asylum seekers taking part in job training would be shielded from expulsion for the length of the program. — AFP



## POPE FRANCIS' WORDS ON EUROPE'S MIGRANT CRISIS

VATICAN CITY: Pope Francis has repeatedly spoken out about the refugee crisis that has overwhelmed and divided Europe, urging Europeans to welcome and not reject people who are fleeing war and poverty. Here are some of his main quotes, ahead of his upcoming trip to the Greek island of Lesbos, on the frontline of Europe's migrant crisis:

### Indifference

On July 8, 2013, during his first trip outside Rome since being elected, to the tiny Italian island of Lampedusa, he says: "The culture of well-being makes us think about ourselves, renders us insensitive to the cries of others. Lampedusa is a major landing point for asylum-seekers entering the European Union, with many fleeing impoverished and war-torn countries of Africa, the Middle East and Southeast Asia.

On September 24, 2013 he says that "migrants and refugees are not pawns on the chessboard of humanity." On October 4, 2013, after 300 African asylum-seekers are feared dead off Lampedusa, Pope Francis calls for "a day of tears" for a "savage world" that ignored the plight of refugees.

In April, 2015 after 700 migrants are feared drowned in the deadliest migrant shipwreck yet in the Mediterranean he urges Europe's leaders to "act decisively and quickly to stop these tragedies from recurring."

Urging the faithful in St Peter's square to pray for the victims, the pope adds: "(They are) hungry, persecuted, injured, exploited, victims of war. They are seeking a better life, they are seeking happiness."

### Papal welcome

"Dear migrants and refugees, each of you carries a story, a culture and precious values," Francis says in January, 2016, when welcoming 5,000 migrant worshippers at a special mass at St Peter's in Rome.

"Alas, many of you have experienced misery, oppression and fear" he says. "O Cross of Christ, today we see you in the Mediterranean and Aegean Seas which have become insatiable cemeteries, reflections of our indifferent and anaesthetised conscience," he says at Good Friday prayers on March 25, 2016. Two days later, on Easter Sunday, he says: "The Easter message of the risen Christ... invites us not to forget those men and women seeking a better future, an ever more numerous throng of migrants and refugees... fleeing from war, hunger, poverty and social injustice... All too often, these brothers and sisters of ours meet along the way with death or, in any event, rejection by those who could offer them welcome and assistance."

### Traffickers

The pope has repeatedly spoken out about human trafficking, railing January 2014 against "the merchants of human meat who want to enslave migrants". In September 2013: he calls for disused Catholic convents to be used to house asylum-seekers instead of being converted into luxury hotels, speaking during a visit to a refugee centre. "The Church does not need to turn empty convents into hotels to earn money. Empty convents are not ours, they are for the flesh of Christ, for refugees," the pope tells refugees and staff. — AFP



ISTANBUL: Pope Francis (left) arrives with Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I to attend an ecumenical prayer at the Patriarchal Church of St. George in Istanbul. — AP file photo

## POPE HEADS BACK TO MIGRANT CRISIS FRONTLINE LESBOS ISLE

GREEK ISLAND STRUGGLING TO COPE WITH INFLUX OF ASYLUM SEEKERS

VATICAN CITY: Pope Francis returns to the frontline of Europe's migrant crisis tomorrow when he visits Lesbos, the Greek island struggling to cope with the mass influx of asylum seekers arriving by boat from Turkey.

Francis, who has made the plight of people fleeing poverty and conflict one of the central themes of his papacy, is flying to the island on the invitation of Orthodox patriarch Bartholomew I.

His brief stay will include a meeting with asylum seekers, many of whom have arrived on Europe's southeastern shore as a result of the devastating war in Syria. The trip to Lesbos follows an equally symbolic journey by the Argentinian pontiff to the Italian island of Lampedusa in 2013.

There, in the aftermath of several deadly sinkings of people smugglers' boats packed with migrants, he made one of the most famous speeches of his term in office, railing against the "globalisation of indifference" which has allowed thousands to perish at sea

in their pursuit of a better life for themselves and their families.

It is a theme he has returned to repeatedly, notably by urging every Catholic parish in Europe to find accommodation for at least one migrant family. The Vatican is currently hosting two families seeking asylum in Italy. The decision to visit Lesbos came shortly after the European Union began implementing a controversial program to return most of the newcomers arriving on the Greek islands to Turkey. Over a million people crossed clandestinely from Turkey to Greece in 2015 and some 150,000 have made that trip since the start of this year. Around half them land on Lesbos first, the majority women and children.

The main camp for migrants on the island is now categorised as a closed centre, meaning that people staying there are effectively detained. Despite the difficult conditions there is excitement among the migrants about the prospect of a papal visit, according to staff of Catholic charity Caritas, which works

with them. "They're making bouquets of flowers and they want to meet him," said Tonia Patrikiadou, who is in charge of a Caritas-run hotel that caters for the most vulnerable refugees on the island, notably pregnant women. "The pope's visit is a symbol of hope and solidarity for the refugees. It's a sign that the world has not forgotten them and help is a possibility," she said.

Caritas has been working closely with Apostoli, the charitable arm of the Greek Orthodox Church and Francis will be accompanied in Lesbos by Bartholomew, the archbishop of Athens who also enjoys the title of Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople.

During his weekly audience at St Peter's on Wednesday, Francis urged Catholics worldwide to pray for the success of his awareness-raising trip. His intention, he said, was "to show closeness and solidarity with the refugees as well as the citizens of Lesbos and to all the Greek people who have been so generous in their welcome." — AFP

## EUROPEAN ENVOYS VISIT LIBYA FOR FIRST TIME SINCE 2014

TRIPOLI: A group of European ambassadors flew into Libya's capital yesterday for the first time since 2014 to support the unity government's struggle to end years of chaos exploited by jihadists.

French ambassador Antoine Sivan, Peter Millet of Britain and Spain's Jose Antonio Bordallo held talks with the Government of National Accord (GNA) at the Tripoli naval base where it has set up operations.

The French government said the visits were a show of solidarity with GNA chief Fayez al-Sarraj and that Paris "stands alongside the national unity government in Tripoli". "The unity government must exercise its authority over all (Libya's) administrations and financial institutions," said foreign ministry spokesman Romain Nadal, adding it could count of French support "in the struggle against

the terrorist threat". It is the first such mission since European Union member states closed their embassies in 2014 because of unrest. France and Italy have said they are studying plans to reopen their embassies in Tripoli.

"Meeting GNA members to reaffirm strong UK commitment to support their efforts to restore peace," Britain's Millet said on Twitter. World powers see the unity government as vital to tackling a raging jihadist insurgency and rampant people smuggling in the North African state.

Unity government head Sarraj arrived in Tripoli by sea with a naval escort two weeks ago and has since won the support of key institutions that control Libya's wealth. Italy's Foreign Minister Paolo Gentiloni also visited Libya on Tuesday and said that embassies would be

reopened in the capital in "the near future". Libya has been plagued by instability since the 2011 NATO-backed uprising that ousted longtime ruler Muammar Gaddafi, with the Islamic State jihadist group taking advantage of the chaos to seize territory.

### 'Violation of sovereignty'

European nations in particular have been alarmed by the expansion of IS in Libya, just 300 kilometres (185 miles) away from Italy across the Mediterranean. The oil-rich country has had two rival administrations since mid-2014 when a militia alliance overran Tripoli, setting up its own authority and forcing the recognised parliament to flee to the remote east. Sarraj has not yet received the endorsement of the country's internationally recognised parliament, and the

head of a rival Tripoli-based administration, Khalifa Ghweil, has refused to recognise his authority. But the new administration has won the backing of the Libyan Investment Authority, the National Oil Corporation and the Central Bank.

However, Ghweil, in an interview with an Italian newspaper published yesterday condemned Gentiloni's visit. "It's unacceptable. It's the people of Libya who rule through the Tripoli parliament which gave us the mandate to govern," he told La Stampa daily. Ghweil said such visits were a violation of Libyan sovereignty. "We will make a complaint to the UN because it would be a violation of Libya's sovereignty and we are ready to oppose it with all our means," he said. The recognized legislature, for its part, is expected to meet on Monday for a vote of confidence in the unity government. — AFP





**BRUSSELS:** A policeman stand guards the Brussels courthouse yesterday. Mohammed Abrini, suspected bomber Osama Krayem and two other suspects have been heard yesterday at the Brussels courthouse. — AFP

## BELGIAN COURT JAILS JIHADIST RECRUITER FOR 15 YEARS

### ABRINI, 6 OTHERS HELD FOR ANOTHER MONTH

**BRUSSELS:** A Belgium appeals court yesterday sentenced top jihadist recruiter Khalid Zerkani to 15 years in prison after convicting him of enlisting key suspects in the Brussels and Paris attacks. Zerkani is "the biggest recruiter of jihadists Belgium has ever known," Federal Prosecutor Bernard Michel said during a court hearing in February. Zerkani was originally jailed in July 2015 to 12 years behind bars, before the Islamic State attacks in Paris and Brussels that killed 162 people.

Meanwhile, a Belgian judge yesterday ordered Mohamed Abrini and six other suspects arrested in connection with the attacks in Paris and Brussels kept behind bars for another month, prosecutors said.

Abrini, 31, has admitted being the "man in the hat" seen leaving Brussels Airport the morning of March 22, when two suicide bombers detonated explosives-laden suitcases there, killing 16.

Sixteen other people died that same morning when another bomber blew himself up on a Brussels subway train.

Osama Krayem, 23, a Swedish national suspected of being the accomplice of the subway bomber, was also kept in custody for another month, Belgian prosecutors said. Krayem's defense attorney told reporters his client has been talking to Belgian investigators. "He said he assumed responsibility," Vincent Lurquin said. "We'll see what responsibility he will assume, but he has assumed in any event some responsibility, and that's why he's talking and being questioned."

Belgian investigators are especially eager to learn what happened to a backpack Krayem was wearing the morning of the Brussels attacks that resembled one carried by subway bomber Khalid El Bakraoui.

"There's a bag, he has said what he knew about it," Lurquin said of his

client. "He didn't avoid the problem. He answered." Lurquin said that he couldn't make public any details about the investigation.

The others ordered held in custody by the judge included four more suspects charged in the Brussels attacks, and one man accused of helping key Paris attacks suspect Salah Abdeslam escape from France to Belgium. Abrini, who was arrested in Belgium last week, also had close ties to the attackers who killed 130 victims on Nov. 13 in Paris, and is believed to have traveled to Syria and to have met with suspected Muslim extremists in England.

France's BFM television reported Abrini has claimed to investigators he "wouldn't hurt a fly." Belgian and French authorities have detained dozens of suspects in their investigations of the attacks, which were claimed by Islamic State group extremists. — Agencies

## EGYPTIAN, FILIPINO KIDNAPPED BY PIRATES OFF NIGERIA

**LAGOS:** Pirates attacked a cargo vessel off the coast of Nigeria and kidnapped two crew members, a maritime expert confirmed yesterday, in the latest high-seas strike in the Gulf of Guinea. The CMA CGM *Turquoise*, managed by Dioryx Maritime Corp. in Greece, was stormed late on Monday as it travelled between Nigeria's commercial hub Lagos and Douala in Cameroon.

It was the second attack in one day: early Monday pirates kidnapped six crew members of a Turkish cargo ship, the *M/T Puli*, according to the Nigerian Navy.

"This attack-like most others off the Niger Delta-was carried out at night and carried an element of surprise," Dirk

Steffen, from the Denmark-based Risk Intelligence firm, told AFP, referring to the later attack.

"The crew mustered in the citadel after the attackers had boarded the ship, but two crew members-the Filipino 2nd officer and the Egyptian electrician did not make it there in time and were seized by the attackers", he said in an email.

The Liberian-flagged vessel, chartered by French shipping company CMA CGM, was attacked at 8:56 pm (19:56 GMT), 28 nautical miles from the coastline of the oil-rich Niger delta region.

Steffen, the director of maritime security at Risk Intelligence, said the target

was unusual and indicated the pirates were aiming at kidnapping rather than hijacking tankers for their fuel cargo.

The Gulf of Guinea is increasingly becoming a piracy hotspot and Risk Intelligence has recorded 32 offshore attacks for Nigeria alone this year. Steffen linked the increase to the winding down of an amnesty scheme to former Niger Delta militants, who demanded a fairer share of oil revenue through kidnapping and sabotage in the 2000s.

It also reflected a trend of a decrease in abductions and offshore piracy in the region around elections. Nigeria held presidential and parliamentary polls last year. — AFP

## UK AIRPORT SNIFFER DOGS GOOD AT FINDING SAUSAGES, BUT NOT DRUGS

**LONDON:** A team of sniffer dogs set up at a British airport at a cost of 1.25 million pounds (\$1.7 million) have proved adept at discovering small amounts of cheese and sausages but not so good at finding smuggled drugs, a report said yesterday. An inspection of border security at Manchester Airport in northern England found that during a seven-month period, the six dogs had failed to find any illegal class A drugs, those considered the most dangerous such as heroin or cocaine.

"The deterrent effect of the detection dogs was difficult to measure, but seizures alone represented a low return on investment, given 1.25 million spent on new kennels and the costs of operating the unit," said the report by the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration. Each dog has its own speciality in detecting goods such as drugs, tobacco, cash and meat being illegally brought into the airport by the 22 million passengers who use it annually.

However the report found that although the sniffers had helped customs seize 46 kg of cigarettes and 181 kg of meat, they had uncovered no class A drugs between November 2014 and June 2015 even though this was a "very high" priority. It said one dog trained to find smuggled animal products had made "multiple accurate detections, but most were of small amounts of cheese or sausages, wrongly brought back by returning British holidaymakers and posing minimal risk to UK public health". Managers are now examining how better to deploy the dogs, the report said. — Reuters

## STREET KIDS STRUGGLE FOR SURVIVAL IN KENYA

**NAIROBI:** Ragged, hungry and rejected by society, thousands of street children abandoned by nearly all live in the Kenyan capital Nairobi. There is no official figure on the number of homeless children in Kenya, a sign of the lack of interest by Kenyan authorities of the problem.

One estimate, by the Consortium of Street Children (CSC), an international charity, suggests the number of street children could be as high as between 250,000 and 300,000 throughout Kenya, including 60,000 in Nairobi alone.

In the district of Mlango Kubwa in central Nairobi, a former landfill is a refuge for street children, who call it "the base". Here they sleep on the hard floor, close to the rubbish dumps where they scavenge for scraps to make some profit, but at least the place is safe from outside eyes. A few hours after dawn, some children are still lying on the ground, the plastic bottles from which they sniff glue beside them. Other spaces are empty, with those youngsters having headed off to work, begging on the streets.

"When people see some of these kids, they do not take them as human beings," said Moha, himself a former street child, who escaped the tough life, and ekes out a living now dancing alongside bands. "When people see them sniffing glue and dirty, they beat them or insult them." Some children are pushed onto the street following the death of parents-sometimes due to HIV/AIDS-or after running away from violence at home. Others live on the street simply because their families are too poor to look after them.

### 'Act of despair'

"It is quite difficult to describe the situation... you find if they sleep outside someone's shop, in the morning, instead of the owner waking them up gently, they kick them or even pour water on them," Moha said. Many leave their rural areas - where traditional community ties have loosened - for cities, where they have more chance of surviving by begging, finding odd jobs, scavenging rubbish sites, or prostitution.

Abandoned by the state, several charities offer help. Alfajiri is one of them, a project set up by Australian artist Lenore Boyd, who offers drawing lessons.

"It's just to invite the kids, to get them to create. It's not to teach them, it's not to impose anything on them," Boyd said. "It's to say: 'Tell your story'. They're very focused and they do lovely work... they tell the stories in their heart and they just enjoy themselves."

When Boyd walks the streets of the slum, children throw themselves at her, finding friendship and love they otherwise lack. "Everybody needs to think about the way they've been treated, and why they're living on the streets, and suffering on the streets," Boyd said. "These kids are traumatised, they are kids who had huge suffering, they're abandoned... going to the streets is an act of despair." — AFP



## RISKING ALL TO REACH EUROPE: ONE MIGRANT'S STORY

**KHARTOUM:** Selam hoped that escaping from Eritrea into Sudan would be the first step towards a better life for her unborn child, away from military service and dire economic prospects.

But after traffickers seized her in Sudan, the dream quickly became a nightmare. Selam—not her real name—was beaten, raped and shot in captivity.

Despite her ordeal, two years later she set out again, joining thousands of migrants from Eritrea, Ethiopia and Somalia willing to risk anything to reach Europe. "I suffered every kind of abuse a woman can face," the 32-year-old said, speaking in the Khartoum office of the UN refugee agency (UNHCR).

Nearly 30,000 Eritreans and Ethiopians crossed the Mediterranean from North Africa to Italy last year, as did smaller numbers of Somalis and Sudanese. Almost all travelled via Sudan, the UN says.

"Everyone comes, whether there are risks or not," Selam said, her three-year-old son clutching her side. Crossing Sudan's porous eastern borders, most migrants go to Khartoum where they pay



This file photo of March 17, 2016 shows Hollywood star and UN refugee agency envoy Angelina Jolie listening to an aid worker during a visit to the Moria refugee camp on the Greek island of Lesbos. — AFP

smugglers to take them thousands of kilometres (miles) to the Libyan coast to chance a perilous sea crossing.

Last year the journey cost some 3,800 migrants their lives. Selam never reached

Libya, and her experiences traumatized her deeply. In April 2012, she was entering her seventh year as a conscript-military service can last indefinitely in Eritrea—when she found she was three months

pregnant. She made up her mind to flee to Sudan immediately and decide where she could then go to raise her child. On leave that month, she took the bus to the border and walked unchallenged into eastern Sudan.

### Raped, beaten and shot

As she traipsed through arid scrub outside the city of Kassala, two pick-ups armed with machine guns appeared and pulled up besides her. She was forced to get in. The men in the trucks—Selam says they were Arab tribesmen from eastern Sudan—were people traffickers.

She was taken first to a safe house and then to Egypt's Sinai, an arduous two-week drive in searing desert heat. "On the way there was a lot of abuse. We were badly treated," she said. Far worse was to come, as she and 22 other Eritreans were sold to a Bedouin gang.

For seven months, her captors raped and beat her, keeping her in squalid conditions as they called Selam's family and members of the diaspora in Europe to demand \$30,000 for her release. — AFP

## US FORECASTER SEES RISING CHANCE OF LA NINA IN H2 2016

**NEW YORK:** A US government weather forecaster yesterday forecast an increasing chance of the La Nina weather phenomenon taking place in the second half of the year as El Nino was seen weakening further. The Climate Prediction Center (CPC), an agency of the National Weather Service, in its monthly forecast said the El Nino weather phenomenon is likely to neutralize late in the Northern Hemisphere spring or early summer 2016. Last month, CPC said it saw a 50 percent chance La Nina could develop by the Northern Hemisphere fall on the heels of the El Nino conditions likely to dissipate in the coming months.

"The official forecast is consistent with the model forecasts, also supported by a historical tendency for La Nina to follow strong El Nino events," CPC said in the report. Typically less damaging than El Nino, La Nina is characterized by unusually cold ocean temperatures in the equatorial Pacific Ocean and tends to occur unpredictably every two to seven years. Severe occurrences have been linked to floods and droughts. The ongoing El Nino, a warming of sea-surface temperatures in the Pacific, has been linked to serious crop damage, forest fires and flash floods. — Reuters

## NIGERIA CAUTIOUS OVER 'PROOF OF LIFE' VIDEO OF CHIBOK GIRLS

**LAGOS:** Nigeria's government yesterday said it was studying a "proof of life" video showing 15 of the more than 200 schoolgirls abducted by Boko Haram, as parents and their supporters marked the second anniversary of the kidnapping. The footage, shown on CNN, is the first time any of the missing girls have been seen since a previous Boko Haram video in May 2014, when about 100 were seen in Islamic dress reciting the Koran. A total of 276 girls were abducted from the Government Girls Secondary School in Chibok, northeast Nigeria, on April 14, 2014. Fifty-seven escaped in the immediate aftermath. Three mothers and a classmate of the 219 schoolgirls still missing confirmed the identities of the girls in the images broadcast on Wednesday night. A senior government source told AFP it had received the video, which shows the girls in black hijabs, stating their names, that they were abducted from Chibok and saying they were "all well".

The video was said to have been shot on December 25 last year. But the source said they were keen to avoid the problems encountered by the previous administration, which prematurely announced talks with Boko Haram elements and even a ceasefire. "Our intelligence and security authorities... received a similar video in July last year and when they followed the lead it led to a cul-de-sac," he revealed. Contact could not be made and it was impossible to determine the identities of the purported Boko Haram members who sent it or if the move had the blessing of the group's leadership, he added. — AFP

# UKRAINIAN PRESIDENT'S ALLY ELECTED NEW PM

## GOVT HOPES VOTE TO END MONTH-LONG CRISIS

**MOSCOW:** The speaker of the Ukrainian parliament was elected the country's new prime minister yesterday in a vote that the government hopes will end a months-long political crisis but which reformers say gives Ukraine's oligarchs a free hand in running the country.

In recent months, political tensions have risen in Ukraine and some respected reformers have resigned, citing disenchantment with the government's cronyism and entrenched corruption.

The Supreme Rada on Thursday voted 257-50 in favor of Volodymyr Groysman, a compromise choice nominated by President Petro Poroshenko after his apparent first choice, US-born Finance Minister Natalie Jaresko, was rejected by the governing coalition.

"The new prime minister and the cabinet will help to bring the government out of a months-long lethargy," Kiev-based analyst Vadim Karasyov said. Jaresko had been lauded as a West-friendly reformist untainted by Ukraine's rampant cronyism and corruption. She helped to negotiate a deal to restructure Ukraine's \$15 billion debt and has been negotiating a bailout with the International Monetary Fund, but lost her post later Thursday when Groysman announced his new Cabinet.

Ukraine's outgoing prime minister, Arseniy Yatsenyuk, resigned this week after weeks of pressure for him to step down. Yatsenyuk's cabinet survived a no-confidence vote in February, but two parties left the governing coalition to protest the failure to oust the prime minister, who was under fire over the worsening economy and the slow pace of reforms.

Groysman, however, kept several ministers from Yatsenyuk's government who have faced accusations of corruption and cronyism, including Interior Minister Arsen



KIEV: Newly-appointed Prime Minister of Ukraine Volodymyr Groysman (left) speaks to Stepan Kubiv, newly appointed First Vice Prime Minister and Economy Minister, during a parliamentary session in Kiev yesterday. — AFP

Avakov. In Groysman's acceptance speech, which was greeted by shouts and a murmur of discontent, the new prime minister said Ukraine faces three major challenges: corruption, poor governance and a populism that he described as "a no less threat than the enemy in the east."

Fighting between Russia-backed separatists and government troops in eastern Ukraine has claimed more than 9,100 lives since April 2014, and a political settlement remains a dim prospect.

Oleh Lyashko, leader of the right-wing Radical Party that left the coalition earlier this year, dismissed Thursday's vote as an oligarchs' coup to secure their vested interests.

Yulia Tymoshenko, a former prime minister

and a leading figure behind Ukraine's 2005 democratic revolution, announced that her party will oppose the new government.

After a crushing defeat in the 2014 presidential vote, Tymoshenko largely disappeared from public view before being elected into parliament later that year. The latest opinion polls show Tymoshenko as the nation's second-favorite politician, gaining ground on Poroshenko.

In Germany, Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier lauded Groysman's appointment as a "chance to end the phase of political uncertainty in Kiev." He urged the government to speed up the pace of reform, saying that Ukraine "has no time to lose." — AP



## CLINTON, SANDERS FACE OFF IN NEW YORK DEBATE

**NEW YORK:** Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders face off yesterday in a closely watched US presidential debate ahead of the key New York primary in the increasingly acrimonious Democratic race for the White House.

The former secretary of state holds a double-digit lead over the Vermont senator in polls and needs a big win in next Tuesday's primary after losing seven of the last eight contests to her leftist rival.

The Brooklyn-born, self-described Democratic socialist is similarly dreaming of a shock win in Clinton's adopted home state to keep alive his dream of wresting the nomination from the Democratic frontrunner. It makes for a dramatic showdown in a state in which both claim close ties. New York is the state that elected Clinton twice to the US Senate, and Sanders was born and brought up in Brooklyn.

"I think it will be lively," Clinton predicted of the debate—their first since March 9 and scheduled at Sanders' insistence, looking to close his trailing gap behind the former first lady.

Addressing a huge rally in New York's Washington Square Wednesday, Sanders attacked Clinton for her ties to Wall Street, her support for trade deals that have cost US jobs and for the 2003 Iraq invasion.

"This is going to be tough primary for us but when I look at the thousands of



**NEW YORK:** Democratic presidential candidate former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton greets supporters during a Bronx Organizing Event in the Bronx borough of New York City. — AFP

people who are here... I think that if we have a large voter turnout on Tuesday we're going to win this state," he said. The 68-year-old Clinton and 74-year-old Sanders have traded increasingly heated blows in recent days.

Sanders, whose call for a revolution has

ignited a passionate youth following, was forced to backtrack after questioning Clinton's qualifications for the nation's top office. Clinton has lashed out at Sanders over gun control and immigration reform, and accused him of dodging questions on the campaign trail.

### Closed primary

Yesterday's debate was being moderated by CNN and kicks off at 9:00 pm (0100 GMT today) at the Duggal Greenhouse, a fashionable venue that has hosted events for the likes of Alexander Wang and Lady Gaga.

Clinton has a commanding advantage over Sanders with 1,790 delegates to his 1,113. A total of 2,383 delegates are needed to secure the party's nomination for the presidency in the party's convention this summer. There are 291 Democratic delegates up for grabs in New York, where minorities and wealthy Democrats are likely to favor Clinton, although Sanders appears to have cut into her lead in more economically disadvantaged communities, white males and young voters.

A Siena Research Institute poll released Wednesday said Sanders narrowed Clinton's lead to 52-42 percent from 55-34 percent on March 7 among registered Democrats. "The younger voters are feeling the 'Bern' but the question is, will they come out and vote in large numbers, as older voters historically do?" said Siena College pollster Steven Greenberg.

The rules of the New York primary are also likely to favor Clinton. Only those previously registered with the Democrat or Republican party can vote, and only for a candidate running on that party's ticket. — AFP

## RUSSIAN JETS IN 'AGGRESSIVE' PASSES OF US WARSHIP

### MOSCOW DEFENDS MANEUVER AS SAFE

**WASHINGTON:** A Russian military jet came within 30 feet of a US destroyer in international waters in the Baltic Sea, US officials say, but Russia yesterday defended the maneuver as safe.

Russian aircraft repeatedly buzzed the USS Donald Cook this week, including an incident Tuesday in which a Russian Su-24 flew 30 feet (nine meters) above the ship in a "simulated attack profile," the US military's European Command said. "We have deep concerns about the unsafe and unprofessional Russian flight maneuvers," EUCOM said in a statement.

"These actions have the potential to unnecessarily escalate tensions between countries and could result in a miscalculation." Ties between Russia and the West have plunged to their lowest point since the Cold War over Moscow's annexation of the Crimean peninsula from Ukraine in 2014 and its support for separatist rebels in the east of the country.

Russia countered saying it was stunned by Washington's reaction to the fly-by incident.

Su-24 planes were conducting test flights in the area and "having observed the ship, turned away in observance of all safety measures," Russian defense ministry spokesman Igor Konashenkov said in a statement posted on the ministry's Facebook page. "Frankly speaking, we don't understand such a sore reaction from our US colleagues," the statement added.

EUCOM released video showing

warplanes zooming so close past the Cook that one sailor can be heard saying: "He is below the bridge wing," meaning the plane was flying lower than the highest point of the ship. A senior US defense official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said:

"This is more aggressive than anything we've seen in some time." White House spokesman Josh Earnest called the overflights "entirely inconsistent with the professional norms of militaries operating in proximity to each other in international waters and international airspace."

### Altitude of 100 feet

The maneuvers began Monday while the destroyer was located about 70 nautical miles from Kaliningrad, a Russian exclave, in international waters. Two Russian Su-24s flew 20 times past the USS Cook at a distance of less than 1,000 yards (meters) and at an altitude of about 100 feet, the official said. Then on Tuesday, a Russian Ka-27 Helix anti-submarine helicopter flew seven times around the destroyer, taking photographs as it passed.

Shortly after, two Su-24s roared toward the ship, making 11 close-range and low-altitude passes, including one that was "so low it created wake in the water," the official said.

The plane was "wings clean," meaning it was not visibly armed, he added.

US sailors tried multiple times to hail the Russian craft on international

frequencies but got no response. "The Russian aircraft flew in a simulated attack profile and failed to respond to repeated safety advisories in both English and Russian," EUCOM said.

"USS Donald Cook's commanding officer deemed several of these maneuvers as unsafe and unprofessional."

Still, Russia defended the action. "With the US Navy destroyer in operational proximity of the Russian navy's Baltic fleet base, the principle of its free sea navigation does not negate the principle of free air navigation of Russian planes," the Russian defence ministry statement said.

A Polish helicopter had been conducting drills on the destroyer and was refueling during one of the overflights. "As a safety precaution, flight operations were suspended until the Su-24s departed the area," EUCOM said.

The Pentagon periodically decries the risky tactics displayed by Russian pilots. "There have been repeated incidents over the last year where the Russian military, including Russian military aircraft, have come close enough to each other or have come close enough to other air and sea traffic to raise serious safety concerns," Earnest said. Exactly two years ago—on April 12, 2014—a Russian Su-24 made numerous close-range, low-altitude passes near the USS Donald Cook while it was in the Black Sea, in an incident the Pentagon at the time called a "provocative act." — AFP



**TUCSON:** Ann Rodgers recalls being lost in the eastern Arizona mountains for nine days before being rescued, while speaking at the Arizona Department of Public Safety hangar in Tucson International Airport on Wednesday. — AP

## WOMAN LOST IN FOREST FOR 9 DAYS CREDITS SURVIVAL COURSE

**TUCSON, Arizona:** Ann Rodgers ate plants and a turtle and made a "help" sign large enough that a helicopter was able to find her after nine days in the Arizona wilderness.

The 72-year-old Tucson woman, who was found in the White Mountains in eastern Arizona, says studying survival methods and taking a survival course saved her life. But an expert said Wednesday that she broke the most important rule for being found: Stay with your car. Rodgers' car was found days before her rescue, while she walked through the forest. She also hadn't told her family she was headed to visit them and was never reported missing.

Cody Lundin, a survival instructor in Arizona who co-hosted Discovery Channel's "Dual Survival" series, says one of the first rules those courses teach is to never leave a car because it's more visible than a person. Another is to let people know where you're headed and when. "Clearly she did whatever she had to do to stay alive. But she didn't need to do what she did."

This ordeal didn't need to last for nine days," Lundin said. Rodgers went missing on March 31 on her way to visit her grandchildren in Phoenix, which is a straight shot from Tucson on Interstate 10. She struggled to explain how she became lost but said she took two wrong turns and ended up on a dirt road in eastern Arizona. Her hybrid car ran out of gas and electric power and she didn't have a signal for her cellphone. — AP





**NEW DELHI:** In this photograph taken on February 26, 2016, Indian editor of the 'Balaknama' newspaper Chandani (R), 18, speaks during an editorial meeting in the paper's newsroom in New Delhi. — AFP

## DELHI'S STREET KIDS ON THE BEAT WITH HARD-HITTING NEWSPAPER BALAKNAMA ECHOES THE VOICE OF THE CHILDREN

**NEW DELHI:** As one of New Delhi's thousands of street children, Jyoti Kumari knows more than most about the goings on in the Indian capital's desperate and sometimes brutal underbelly.

Now the 16-year-old, who has never stepped foot in a regular classroom, is putting her knowledge into print, reporting for a tabloid run by street kids and tackling tough issues facing the city's homeless.

At a meeting around a table strewn with drafts of stories and diaries, Kumari and other children as young as 13 are busy planning their next edition. "We have 70 reporters now," a beaming Kumari said of her colleagues at Balaknama newspaper, meaning voice of the children in Hindi.

"We collect all the reports, verify them and then one of us types it out. After finalising which news will go on which page, we send it for printing." The newspaper draws its stories from the mass of families and others living under flyovers and on footpaths, and delves into issues of child marriage, sex and drug abuse and police brutality. Kumari hopes it is quietly making a difference.

"Like when the drunkard neighborhood uncle mended his ways once his misbehaviour with his wife and children made it to the paper," said Kumari, giggling at the memory.

One of their biggest stories exposed how policemen used street children to carry bodies from railways tracks after a

deadly accident or a suicide, forcing authorities to halt the practice.

### Picking rubbish

Growing up with an alcoholic and sick father, Kumari and her five siblings spent long hours picking through rubbish to find recyclables, and sometimes begging, to scrape together enough money for food. A chance visit in 2010 by a voluntary teacher from a nonprofit called Chetna to her family's shack on a busy roadside in south Delhi gave her hope.

"I was very impressed when she told me the value of education and the opportunities for even desperately poor children like me," said Kumari who moves, along with teams of others, to a homeless shelter at night to sleep. Chetna, which works with Delhi's estimated 10,000 street children, enrolled her in a distance learning program run at the NGO and showed her Balaknama which the charity oversees on its premises.

She was enrolled in a journalism workshop and within weeks was heading out on reporting assignments and conducting interviews, in between her new schooling.

"We can change the way people think about us by voicing our feelings and concerns in our paper," said Shanno, the newspaper's consulting editor who uses one name. She quit her factory job of sewing hooks on trousers to work with Chetna and is now pursuing a degree in social work.

### 'Issues that matter'

The newspaper, which started in 2002 as an eight-page quarterly, has slowly increased its readership to about 10,000 copies and is now published monthly. But Sanjay Gupta, director of Chetna (Childhood Enhancement through Training and Action), said finding funds to keep the paper going is a major challenge.

"We are selling the newspapers for two rupees (about three cents) as of now. Still not many people are buying it," Gupta told AFP, arranging old editions on a rickety shelf in the newsroom.

"It is about mindsets, people need to understand that our paper is a very serious attempt by these children to get themselves heard. This is really a perfect tool for their empowerment.

"Our dream is to see our paper in the main stands five years down the line." Balaknama readers are mostly homeless children and their parents, and since most of them can't read or write, reporters like Kumari read out the news to them. "They listen with a lot of interest. They feel very happy and proud about our work," she said. Kumari, who receives money from Chetna to pay for her expenses in the job, wants to finish her schooling and then keep working with non-profit organisations, helping those on the street without a voice.

"We know that none of the big newspapers will bother to write about issues that matter to us," she said. "Just to be able to have an opportunity to express ourselves is a huge thing for us." — AFP

## AFGHAN MINERAL WEALTH BEING LOOTED BY STRONGMEN: EXPERTS

**KABUL:** The brilliant blue stone lapis lazuli, prized for millennia, is almost uniquely found in Afghanistan, a key part of the extensive mineral wealth that is seen as the best hope for funding development of one of the world's poorest nations.

Instead, lapis has become a source of income for the Taliban, smugglers and local warlords, emblematic of the central government's struggle to gain control over the resources and rein in corruption. Afghanistan is missing out in millions of dollars in revenues from lapis as illegal miners extract thousands of tons from the mines in northeastern Badakhshan province, according to experts and officials. A local police commander named Abdul Malik has control over a major mine, charges illegal miners to use it and pays the Taliban to allow him to operate, according to an internal memo to Afghan President Ashraf Ghani from his top adviser on mines, seen by The Associated Press, and a top official.

Smugglers bribe local officials to turn a blind eye as they transport the gems to Kabul and to neighboring Pakistan for sale, they said.

Stephen Carter, Afghanistan campaign leader at international advocacy group Global Witness, said the country's mining sector "funds armed groups and is a major source of instability and corruption, not just in Badakhshan but across the whole country."

Describing lapis lazuli as a microcosm of the mining sector, he said that without fundamental safeguards, especially to increase transparency and security in mining areas, "there is a real risk Afghanistan could face a chronic, resource-driven conflict."

Javid Mujadidi, a Badakhshan lawmaker, estimates that 70 percent of the proceeds from the lapis lazuli "goes to the Taliban, who have a presence at the mine," located in the province's Kuran-wa-Munjan district in the mountains near the border with Pakistan. The extortion has helped fund the insurgency's spread from the southern heartland to the previously peaceful northern provinces.

Afghanistan has reserves of coal, copper, iron ore, zinc, mercury, rare earths, gems such as rubies and emeralds, gold and silver, and much more. True values are difficult to assess, but Afghanistan's mineral and petrochemical deposits have been valued at up to \$3 trillion.

But little of that wealth is mined legally. Homegrown expertise in exploration, extraction and processing is poor. Inadequate infrastructure and lack of security keep international miners out, and recent ventures with foreign companies in iron ore, copper and gold have collapsed.

Afghanistan has a virtual monopoly on lapis, which has been mined in Badakhshan for thousands of years. Egypt's pharaohs treasured lapis jewelry. Renaissance artists ground it to powder for ultramarine pigment. Today it is used for jewelry and ornaments.

Legal mining peaked in 2014 at near 5,500 tons. Rough lapis lazuli ranges in value from \$4 to \$2,000 a kilogram (2.2 pounds), depending on quality. Illegal mining was rampant and, in an effort to stop it, Afghanistan's National Security Council banned all lapis lazuli mining in early 2015.

But the mines themselves were not secured to prevent illegal exploitation, so Malik was able to take control with apparent impunity, said the official. Malik pays the Taliban in the area about \$440,000 a month in protection money, the official said. He spoke on condition of anonymity fearing reprisals from those involved in the illegal trade. — AP



**KABUL:** Afghan businessmen check lapis lazuli in the city of Kabul, Afghanistan. The brilliant blue stone lapis lazuli, prized for millennia, is almost uniquely found in Afghanistan. — AP



## POWERFUL EARTHQUAKE HITS SOUTH JAPAN, HOUSES CRASH

**TOKYO:** A powerful earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 6.4 struck southern Japan yesterday evening, collapsing walls and a number of houses. There are no immediate reports of casualties. Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told a news conference that damage was being assessed. A number of houses have collapsed, but there was no abnormality at nearby nuclear facilities, Suga said.

"There was a ka-boom and the whole house violently shook sideways," Takahiko Morita, a resident in Mashiki, a town at the epicenter, told a telephone interview with NHK TV. "Furniture and bookshelves fell down, books were all over the floor." Morita said there is no power outage in his neighborhood but water supply was cut off. Some houses and walls collapsed, he said. Keisukei Urata, an official at nearby Uki city, said he was driving home when the quake struck at 9:26 p.m.

He also said he saw some walls around houses collapsing. Parts of the ceiling at Uki City Hall also col-

lapsed, windows were broken and cabinets fell to the ground, he said.

Kasumi Nakamura, an official in the village of Nishihara near the epicenter, said that the rattling started modestly and grew violent, lasting about 30 seconds. "Papers, files, flower vases and everything fell on the floor," he told NHK. He said there were aftershocks.

One aftershock measuring 5.7 struck about 40 minutes later, according to Japan's Meteorological Agency. The US Geological Survey put the quake's preliminary magnitude at 6.2 and said it was 23 kilometers (14 miles) deep. It said there's a low likelihood of casualties but some damage is possible.

Footage on NHK showed a signboard hanging from the ceiling at its local bureau violently shaking. File cabinets rattled, books, files and papers rained down to the floor, and one employee appeared to have fallen off a chair, while others slid underneath their desks to protect their heads. — AP



**KUMAMOTO:** People gather outside a hotel after an earthquake in Kumamoto, southern Japan yesterday. A powerful earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 6.4 has struck southern Japan. — AP



**MANILA:** US Defense Secretary Ash Carter (left) gestures as he talks with his Philippine counterpart Voltaire Gazmin during their joint press conference at the Malacanang presidential palace in Manila yesterday. — AP

## US, PHILIPPINES LAUNCH JOINT SOUTH CHINA SEA PATROLS

### WASHINGTON SAYS CHINA MILITARIZING REGION

**MANILA:** The US said yesterday it has launched joint South China Sea naval patrols with the Philippines, escalating its presence as it accused Beijing of "militarizing" a region which is locked in territorial disputes. In a show of strength, US Defense Secretary Ashton Carter also announced that 275 troops and five A-10 ground attack aircraft currently in the country for annual war games will remain in the country temporarily.

China warned deployments must not damage "regional stability", but Carter said Washington's efforts to strengthen its military role in the region was not done "in order to provoke".

The Pentagon chief said the US was responding to regional anxiety over China's muscular actions in the South China Sea, including building artificial islands over disputed reefs. "Countries across the Asia-Pacific are voicing concern with China's land reclamation, which stands out in size and scope, as well as its militarisation in the South China Sea," Carter said.

The joint naval patrols, which began last month, "contribute to the safety and security of the region's waters," he said after meeting with Philippines President

Benigno Aquino. Manila has been improving its defence ties with the United States to help boost its ability to defend its territory.

China's foreign ministry reacted coolly to the US deployment. A statement read: "The military activities of the relevant countries should not be targeted at a third country, and moreover should not support the efforts of some countries to provoke China on issues of sovereignty and security, adding to regional contradictions and damaging regional stability."

China claims most of the South China Sea, even waters and rocks close to the coasts of several neighbors that overlap with their claims.

Beijing has reclaimed several reefs claimed by Manila and built structures on them that the Philippines says are designed for military use—a charge China denies. Earlier this month Chinese state media reported China has switched on a lighthouse atop a reconstructed reef in the Spratly chain, which also contains technology to monitor passing ships.

#### 'Shoulder to shoulder'

Carter announced that 275 American

troops, among about 5,000 military personnel taking part in the annual Balikatan (shoulder to shoulder) war games, are to stay behind after the exercises end today.

Five A-10C Thunderbolt ground attack planes and four other aircraft will also remain until the end of the month. Some 200 of the US personnel are to train Filipino soldiers, as well as "conduct flight operations in the area, including in the South China Sea", Carter said.

These activities will "lay the foundation for joint air patrols to complement ongoing maritime patrols," he added. The remainder of the US personnel will be stationed at a Manila military base on an unspecified "rotational" basis to form a "command and control" unit to support increased activities between the two allies, Carter said.

The deployments are part of a deal under which Manila has allowed American forces to rotate through five Philippine bases—some of them close to the South China Sea. Philippine Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin welcomed the US announcement, adding he hoped the increased presence will "deter uncalled-for action by the Chinese". — AFP

## S KOREAN PRESIDENT'S PARTY SUFFERS ELECTION SETBACK

**SEOUL:** South Korean voters handed President Park Geun-hye a stunning political setback by denying her conservative party a majority in the next National Assembly, poll results showed yesterday.

The outcome, which came as a surprise to many, will likely threaten Park's plans to push ahead with controversial economic reforms, including plans to make it easier for companies to lay off workers, and blow open next year's presidential race. The emergence of a new center-left party also ensures further changes to South Korea's political landscape, which had long been shaped by two-party dynamics.

Prior to Wednesday's parliamentary election, pollsters had predicted that the ruling Saenuri Party would crush a divided opposition and raise its expectations to take the presidency in 2017, after Park's single term expires.

But with 99.9 percent of the votes counted as of yesterday morning, Saenuri wasn't even the party with the largest number of seats, let alone a majority in the 300-seat assembly.

Saenuri managed to win 122 seats, one less than the main opposition Minjoo Party, which trounced its rival in the capital Seoul and the neighboring metropolitan area, where the two largest parties competed most fiercely. The People's Party, a new party created mostly by those who left Minjoo, including its former co-chairman and potential presidential candidate Ahn Cheol-soo, won 38 seats after dominating Minjoo in its traditional strongholds in the southwest Jeolla regions.

Saenuri could possibly overtake Minjoo as the largest party in the next assembly if it manages to lure back some of its former lawmakers who left and ran successfully as independents. They left Saenuri after being denied nominations amid a rift between the party's dominant faction loyal to Park and reformists, which analysts say damaged the party's appeal to voters.

The National Election Commission was expected to announce the official results soon. There has been disappointment among South Koreans over a sluggish economy, with official figures showing household debt reaching new highs and the unemployment rate for people under 30 reaching levels not seen since the late 1990s, when millions lost their jobs during a crippling financial crisis.

The outcome of the vote indicates that the opposition parties have successfully absorbed conservative voters who have become disappointed with Park. Months before the vote, Minjoo brought in as chairman scholar-turned-politician Kim Chong In, who had advised Park on economic policies during the 2012 presidential campaign. Ahn, the founder of one of South Korea's largest computer software companies, has portrayed himself as a politician whose strength is with economic issues. The weak showing by Saenuri also shows that voters weren't swayed by national security issues as much as they were before, although surveys taken prior to Wednesday's vote showed strong support for Park's hard-line approach to North Korea following its recent nuclear test and long-range rocket launch.

Hostility between the rival Koreans in election years has often been seen as helping the conservatives by allowing them to highlight their hard-line approach against the North. Liberals have traditionally backed rapprochement policies with the North. — AP



Friday Times

FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 2016

# Lifestyle

[www.kuwaittimes.net](http://www.kuwaittimes.net)



Photo present a mixed media on canvas, 100cm x 70cm , 2015 painting titled eLadyi by Lebanese artist Semaan Khawam.





The Ramones image is on display during a press preview.



Johnny Ramones and Marky Ramones jackets and jeans are on display during a press preview.



The Ramones items are on display during a press preview at the Queens Museum.

# First Ramones exhibition takes punk to Queens roots

Before The Ramones became international icons, the band's first press release in 1975 introduced the punk rockers to the world as working-class men from Queens. Youngsters from the New York borough's neighborhood of Forest Hills "either become musicians, degenerates or dentists. The Ramones are a little of each," it informed. The Ramones of course went on to become musicians. But a first-ever museum exhibition on the band also shows other sides of the musicians surrounded by the debauchery of the rock world, but who managed to keep a surprising amount of the straight-laced work ethic they learned in Queens.

The tongue-in-cheek press release starts off the exhibition, which opened Sunday at the Queens Museum and heads in September to the Grammy Museum in Los Angeles. The Ramones, whose original members are all dead, pioneered punk rock with its rough, distorted and intensely direct energy that came in spite of or because of the absence of formal musical training. The exhibition brings together memorabilia ranging from the Mosrite guitars that Johnny and Dee Dee Ramone would play low-slung to action photos of the band who kept the self-discipline to play 2,263 concerts over 22 years.

Also on display are the rockers' clothes. The Ramones' uniform of leather jackets and ripped jeans—along with T-shirts bearing the band's logo designed by Arturo Vega—has emerged as an international punk fashion symbol. Linda Ramone, the widow of guitarist Johnny who now works to preserve the band's legacy, said that his attire had a more basic reason—he was initially a construction

worker. "You have that whole crowd going back and saying that The Ramones are really cool-looking," she told AFP. "It wasn't a fashion statement; that's just how they looked," she said. "The ripped jeans started because their jeans would wear out and they would rip."

## Historic London concert

One section of the exhibition explores a historic concert—The Ramones' international debut at The Roundhouse in London on July 4, 1976. The Ramones—playing, incidentally, on the bicentennial of the US Declaration of Independence—were the opening act but had a massive impact, with bands such as The Clash and Sex Pistols later citing the show as an inspiration as they witnessed the do-it-yourself vigor of punk. Yet the punk scene that would soon shake Britain came with a political edge, with the Sex Pistols sneering at the royal family and The Clash taking the mantle of global liberation movements.

"They were up in rage against the queen. The president of the United States didn't know who The Ramones were," Linda Ramone said. "I don't think they were really worried that The Ramones were going to take over," she said. While US punk later turned political, The Ramones were best known for lines such as "I Wanna Be Sedated"—a response to boredom on the road—and "Hey! Ho! Let's Go!" from "Blitzkrieg Bop." Linda Ramone said the band felt they would alienate listeners by discussing politics.

Johnny, who Linda said was a careful saver, surprised many fans when he later came out as a Republican. Singer Joey Ramone, who had an often tense relationship with Johnny, was a liberal

Democrat. The Ramones all took the surname, initially a reference to a pseudonym under which Paul McCartney would check into hotels, but they were not related.

## Global fan base

The Ramones' influence was felt not just in Britain. The exhibition shows pictures from CBGB—the legendary club on Manhattan's then-seedy Bowery where the band made its name—as well as posters from shows around the world. Linda Ramone recalled that The Ramones for some time enjoyed a wider audience in Europe and said that, more than 20 years after their final album, the band's following may be strongest in Latin America.

Japan was also a major fan base. One highlight of the exhibition is a specially designed piece by punk-inspired Japanese pop artist Yoshitomo Nara of Ramona, the wide-eyed girl who appears in much of his work, with the motto "Hey! Ho! Let's Go!" Marc Miller, who curated the exhibition, said that The Ramones were "a collection of contradictions."

"On one hand, they are great complainers; on the other hand, they have these chants of uplifting phrases," he said. "On one hand, they are a bunch of out-of-control punks; on the other hand, it was really an art enterprise." Linda Ramone said that while the rockers had to leave Queens to make their name, they would be pleased by the exhibition. "They're not here, but they're looking down and they're saying it's pretty cool to have something open in Queens," she said. — AFP



Linda Ramone, the widow of guitarist Johnny Ramone, poses for a picture during an interview in New York City. — AFP photos



Review

## Sturgill Simpson defies categorization with 'Sailor'

Sturgill Simpson defies categorization, and exceeds expectations, with "A Sailor's Guide to Earth," an exploration of life's journey inspired by the birth of his first child. Simpson funks up his country twang with a rousing horn section while keeping a rocking and rollicking edge underneath his probing lyrics. Heck, he even throws in bagpipes, a cello and violin and yet another killer cover - this time of Nirvana's "In Bloom." Simpson, like all great interpreters, makes the Kurt Cobain song sound like his own, and it oddly fits in perfectly with the mood and theme of "A Sailor's Guide."

The record's final tune, "Call to Arms," is just what it sounds like. Simpson decries what he's hearing on TV and radio, and with the horns and guitars growling behind him, urgently declares, "The bull—'s got to go!" Rock, country, Americana. Whatever. "A Sailor's Guide to Earth" is a thrill. This compact 39 minutes of pure joy has got the kind of energy that just makes you instinctively lean forward just to try and keep up.—AP



# 'Franglais' rap speaks to new Montreal generation

Philippe Langlois and his friends drove nearly three hours from Quebec City to Montreal for two nights of back-to-back rap concerts-performed in a strange new idiom that only few can understand. A new beat is emerging in Montreal clubs, a metropolis where most young people these days are bilingual: "franglais" rap, sung in French with words and expressions borrowed from English. On a night in April when AFP hit the town with Langlois, three groups were slated to perform in a packed downtown venue: Rednext Level, Brown and the group Loud Lary Ajust, which wowed critics with its first album "Blue Volvo," back in 2014.

"The energy was powerful," Langlois said after the show, a kind of "punk rock put to rap beats." Influenced by a half century of official bilingualism in Canada, a string of bands rapping in "franglais" have emerged in the last five years, with such names as the Dead Obies, Alaclair Ensemble and Koriass. Tickets for their gigs tend to sell out fast. Greg Beaudin of the Dead Obies says throwing two languages into the mix—each with its own distinct phonetic range—opens up real musical possibilities. "It's exciting to rhyme an English word with a French word, it adds a whole new level of creativity," said Beaudin, better known by the nom de scene Snail Kid. It gives musicians a lot to play with—and there are "no rules," he says.

## A new sound

The result is an intriguing musical hybrid—with lyrics that flow back and forth between both languages. Take the Dead Obies song "Where They @": "Vas-y claim Montreal but we still runnin' that / Ouh, meilleure chance la prochaine fois/ Sittin' on top pitch des roches su'e mouettes." That translates roughly as: "Go on, say you're from Montreal, we're still in charge/ Better luck next time/ Sat up top throwing stones at the seagulls." Pretty impenetrable to the outsider—but the genre has struck a chord with what demographers call Canada's first truly bilingual generation. For centuries, Canada's English and French speakers sparred for polit-



Canadian rapper for Brown and the other rap band Dead Obies, Greg Beaudin, nicknamed Snail Kid performs live in Montreal. — AFP photos

ical, economic and cultural dominance until the 1960s when a compromise was reached:

## Official bilingualism

The proportion of Canadians fluent in both French and English climbed from 12 percent in 1961 to 17.5 percent in 2011, according to census data. In Quebec, the rate is the highest in the country with 43 percent of residents claiming to be proficient in both languages. This is most noticeable in Montreal, a city of nearly four million people. "People who live in urban areas will naturally develop a mix of both languages," says Ogden Ridjanovic, a member of the rap group Alaclair Ensemble.

## Breaking out

Simon Cliche, a member of Loud Lary Ajust, says the style also owes a lot to US musical influences. "We grew up listening to



Canadian rapper for Rednext Level and rap band Alaclair Ensemble, Ogden Ridjanovic nicknamed Robert Nelson performs live.

English music, and American rappers," he said. He admits it has proven difficult to export Quebec's relatively unique brand of rap. "We're limited to a niche group of people who speak very good English and French," Cliche said.

Touring outside of Canada requires "a lot of work and determination," said Steve Jolin, who manages Koriass, one of the few Quebec rappers whose albums have sold well at home and abroad. "Foreign markets have proven hard to crack," agreed Beaudin. But there is hope yet. The Dead Obies played seven shows in France in 2014 and were "well received," says their producer, Emilie Davaine. — AFP



## Black Keys regret inducting Steve Miller in Hall of Fame

Garage rockers The Black Keys have voiced regret over inducting Steve Miller into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, calling the experimental bluesman thoroughly unpleasant. Miller, one of five acts honored by the Hall of Fame on Friday, jolted the New York ceremony by lashing out at the institution, calling it a boys' club that unethically tries to cash in on artists. In the tradition of the three-decade-old Hall of Fame, fellow artists, often younger stars inspired by the inductees, introduce them with praise at the ceremony.

But in a highly unusual admission, Black Keys frontman Dan Auerbach said that he and bandmate Pat Carney regret their speech for Miller. "We were so disappointed that as soon as we got offstage, we left while he was playing," Auerbach told Rolling Stone in an interview published Wednesday. Auerbach said that Miller did not know who The Black Keys were and, in his sole attempt at conversation, told them of his problems with the Hall of Fame.

"He said, 'The whole process was unpleas-

ant.' And for Pat and I, honestly, the most unpleasant part was being around him," he said. "It was just a real eye-opener for us. Because as we get older, I hope that when I'm in my twilight years, I can look back and be grateful to the people who have appreciated me and to be able to give back," he said. Auerbach voiced particular regret that Miller's comments overshadowed the "message of positivity" by critically acclaimed hip-hop artist Kendrick Lamar as he inducted gangsta rap pioneers N.W.A., who Lamar said offered hope to residents of their rough hometown of Compton, California.

Miller, best known for his 1973 hit "The Joker," emerged from the dynamic cultural mix of 1960s San Francisco as he brought blues, jazz and Americana roots music together into a psychedelic mix. Miller, in remarks to reporters after his induction, said the Hall of Fame tried to "steal" the rights to footage and had hard-pressed his band members to pay \$10,000 a ticket to attend. — AFP

## Katy Perry wins round in bid to buy convent

Pop superstar Katy Perry on Wednesday won a round in a prolonged legal saga to move into a scenic former convent in Los Angeles. With more than 86 million followers, Perry is the world's most popular person on Twitter but she has struggled to win over a crucial market of two-a pair of elderly nuns who oppose selling the complex to the singer for \$14.5 million.

The nuns, who voiced distaste for the "I Kissed a Girl" singer, had signed a deal to sell the convent to a restaurant owner, Dana Hollister. But Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Stephanie Bowick in a brief hearing on Wednesday invalidated the deed. Her move came in response to the pleas not just of Perry but of the archdiocese, which said that the two sisters, Rita Callahan and Catherine Rose Holzman, did not have authority to complete the sale.

The archdiocese said that Perry had offered the \$14.5 million in cash, while Hollister had only paid \$100,000 of a promised \$15.5 million — \$10 million for the former convent and \$5.5 million to buy out a property on the complex. The convent, known as the California Institute of the Sisters of the Most Holy and Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary, once had more than 100 nuns. The sisters no longer live on the property but Callahan and Holzman argued that they had sole authority under the institute's bylaws. Perry, who grew up as a born-again Christian but is known for her support of gay rights and sultry songs such as "Teenage Dream," has visited the nuns and sung for them in a fruitless bid at persuasion. — AFP



Recording artist Katy Perry attends the launch of the Parker Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy, an unprecedented collaboration between the country's leading immunologists and cancer centers. — AP





This set of upholstered vanity stools with turned Brazilian hardwood legs was designed by Tenreiro in 1954 for a private residence.



Set of three-legged milking stools in Brazilian hardwood, 1954, designed by Sergio Rodrigues for Oca.



Various lounge chairs produced by the Brazilian furniture company Forma in the 1950s and '60s.



Settee in jacaranda with sculpted armrests, 1958, Joaquim Tenreiro.



Three-legged chair in five types of hardwood, 1947, Joaquim Tenreiro.



This undated photo provided by The Monacelli Press shows Sergio Rodrigues, standing left in black suit, with Le Corbusier, sitting left, and others.

## Brazil's midcentury modern furniture gets a new look

**B**razil's modernist architecture may be better known, but the country's distinctive midcentury modern furniture is getting new international attention. Sensuous curves, tropical woods, woven leathers, and traditional techniques like caning and netting were all part of a style that developed from the 1940s to the 1970s called Brazil Modern. "When it all comes together, it's like the music of Gilberto Gil," said Juliet Kinchin, curator of modern design in the department of architecture and design at the Museum of Modern Art in New York, which recently acquired four chairs by Brazilian furniture designer Lina Bo Bardi.

Piece by piece, midcentury modern works from Latin America are gaining visibility in museums and galleries across the United States. "Brazil is one of the last - if not the last - great discoveries of 20th century design," says collector Zesty Meyers, who wrote the introduction to "Brazil Modern" (Monacelli Press), a mammoth new survey by design curator and writer Aric Chen.

Brazilian author and design professor Maria Cecilia Loschiavo dos Santa interviewed many of the stars of Brazilian furniture design in person, wrote a book on furniture of the era, and co-curated "Moderno: Design for Living in Brazil, Mexico and Venezuela, 1940-1978," an exhibit at the Americas Society in New York last year. "Interest (in the style) has been building for 10 years or so in the U.S., but now people are really talking about it," she said, interviewed by phone at her home in Brazil.

### The book

A recent turning point, she said, was the convergence of last year's "Moderno" show with an exhibit on Latin American urban design at the Museum of Modern Art. Packed with over 400 photos and sketches, the book "Brazil Modern" brings the era to life with a detailed history of Brazil during the post-war decades of breakneck economic growth. It introduces titans of Brazilian design like Italian immigrant Bo Bardi (one of the few women designers of the era), Oscar Niemeyer, Joaquim Tenreiro and Sergio Rodrigues.

The same immigrant wave that brought post-Bauhaus designers and architects to the United States, ushering in elements like floor-to-ceiling windows, family rooms and open-flow houses, likewise brought post-Bauhaus architects and designers to Brazil. "People think of Brazil as this faraway land," Meyers said. "But the waves of immigration were almost the same as the ones that came here."

In Brazil, this generation of designers

became part of a national melting pot just as the country was emerging from colonialism and developing a national spirit known as "brasili-dade," or Brazilianness, Meyers said. The Brazilian design quest was for "authentic modernism," combining lustrous indigenous materials and traditional local craftsmanship with European references and Bauhaus geometries to form an aesthetic all its own.

The idea got a boost from two early visits by the Swiss-French midcentury modern architect Le Corbusier. And a groundbreaking 1940 MoMA exhibit on "Organic Design in Home Furnishings" featured a Latin American section. But because the pieces were not made in large

to it. The wood itself becomes part of the decoration of the furniture," said Sarah Coffin, curator and head of product design and decorative arts at the Cooper-Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum in New York. That museum acquired a chair and stool by Tenreiro in 2004, soon after midcentury modern furniture from Brazil started to appear on the market. Born and raised in Portugal, Tenreiro settled in Brazil in 1928, honing his craft and coming into his own as a furniture designer by the 1940s, when he declared lightness "a principal to which I felt modern Brazilian furniture should adhere .. Lightness which has nothing to do with weight per se, but with grace and functionality in space."



This undated photo provided by The Monacelli Press shows a group of the Lina Bo Bardi Bowl Chair, photographed from above which was originally designed in 1951. — AP photos

numbers and were generally made to order for private homes, not corporate settings, they weren't readily available or visible outside Brazil. Today, they seem to have gained new relevance.

### Traditions of Brazil

"One of the qualities of Brazilian design that really appeals to the contemporary audience is its embrace of the modern, while remaining deeply rooted in a profound relationship with natural landscapes, resources and the traditions of Brazil," Kinchin said. An eye-popping 1947 chair by Joaquim Tenreiro is crafted from four very different types of Brazilian hardwood, and features a bonded laminated frame and three elegantly tapered wooden legs.

"Tenreiro's work has a real lightness and feel

Lina Bo Bardi, also featured in the book, is most famous perhaps for her 1951 Bowl Chair. Featured on the 1951 cover of "Interiors" magazine in the US, it was an upholstered half-sphere nesting in a circular metal frame with four legs, and came in a rainbow of colors. Bo Bardi and her husband, architect and designer PM Bardi, arrived in Rio in 1946 from Italy, where she had worked with designer Gio Ponti. "Arrival in Rio de Janeiro, by ship, in October. Dazzle," she wrote then. "I felt myself in an unimaginable country, where everything was possible." — AP





A picture shows a room of the Chaplin's World museum in Corsier-sur-Vevey, western Switzerland. — AFP photos



Charlie Chaplin's hat and stick displayed in a showcase at the Chaplin's World museum in Corsier-sur-Vevey, western Switzerland.

# Lights, camera, action! **Charlie Chaplin** museum springs to life

Imagine moving along the cogs within giant machinery like Charlie Chaplin in "Modern Times", or tumbling inside a cabin teetering on the edge of a cliff as he did in "Gold Rush". That will be possible when an ambitious, immersive museum showcasing the life and works of the groundbreaking filmmaker opens in Switzerland on Sunday. Chaplin's World, 15 years in the planning, will premiere in the picturesque village of Corsier-sur-Vevey on Lake Geneva one day after what would have been the British screen legend's 127th birthday.

"He wanted people to remember him. That's why he did the films and he did it in such a perfectionist way," Chaplin's 62-year-old son Eugene told AFP, adding: "I think he would be pleased." The museum is set on the vast estate of Manoir de Ban, about 26 kilometers (16 miles) from Lausanne, where Chaplin spent the last 25 years of his life until his death in 1977 at age 88.

He had moved to Switzerland after being barred from the United States in the 1950s over suspicions that he had communist sympathies, at the height of paranoia about Soviet infiltration. On the Swiss Riviera overlooking the lake with a view of the Alps in the distance, the large manor where Chaplin lived with his wife Oona and their eight children forms half of the museum, retracing the filmmaker's private life.

### 'Like Downton Abbey'

Chaplin's 70-year-old son Michael recalled what it was like living in the mansion, with around a dozen servants. "It was like Downton Abbey, on a reduced level. For a child it was wonderful," he told AFP, recalling all the great hiding places. A separate

building has been built nearby as a large mock-up of a Hollywood studio dedicated to Chaplin's on-screen work which began around 1914. Visitors can also catch a glimpse of the artist's humble beginnings in London and his spectacular rise to become one of the biggest, most influential movie legends in Hollywood history.

With clips from his iconic films flickering from a multitude of screens, visitors can walk down "Easy Street", visit the barber shop from "The Great Dictator" and the restaurant where he ate his shoe in "The Immigrant". "What really touched me is how they managed to make his films come alive again by inserting clips into decors," Michael Chaplin said, recalling how his father "was always in movement, and that part of the museum is in total movement, which is beautiful."

Chaplin's World is also dotted with more than 30 wax figures created by the Grevin wax museum in Paris. The lifelike figures portray Chaplin as different characters, his wife Oona, actors and actresses from his films, friends and people who mattered to him like Albert Einstein, as well as artists inspired by his work like Michael Jackson and Woody Allen. "We worked very hard to make a museum that would be as true as possible," curator Yves Durand said ahead of the opening. "We are there to tell a story about a real life that was Charlie Chaplin's life, and about a fictional life that was his work," he said.

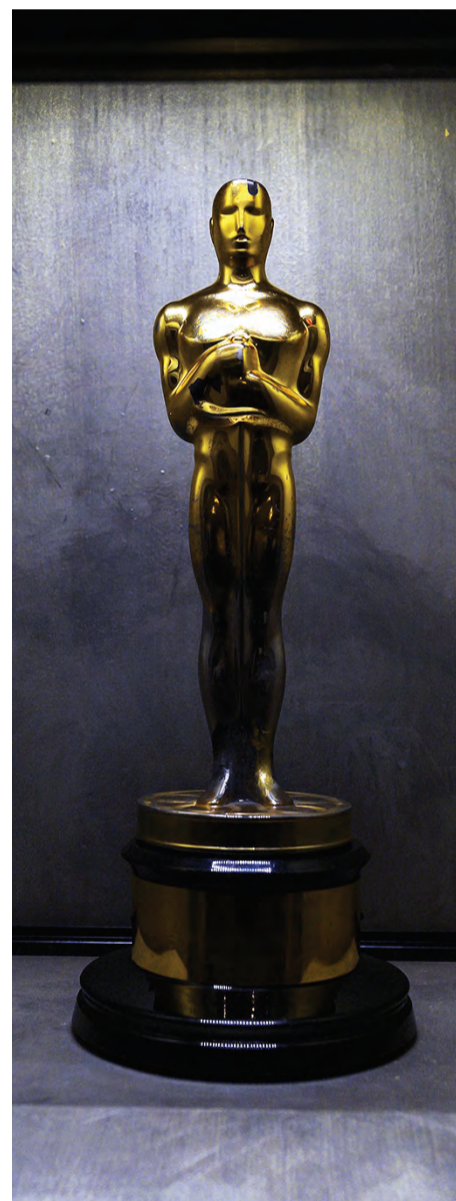
### Bowler hat and cane

In a narrow room resembling a Swiss bank vault, one can find some of the iconic objects associated with Chaplin's work, including his bowler hat and cane of his Little Tramp persona, and the ripped

trousers and patched shoes he wore in "The Kid". "This is the first time I've seen the costume, or the cane or the hat or the shoes," Michael Chaplin said as he helped unpack the items before the museum opening. "I've never actually really seen an original one before, so it's quite moving to see that," he said. In one glass showcase there is the certificate signed by Queen Elizabeth II when Chaplin was knighted in 1975.

And in another is the Oscar he won for the score of his film "Limelight". However, he didn't win the Oscar until 1973, since the film was barred for release in the United States when it first came out in 1952. The museum project has faced numerous stumbling blocks over more than 15 years of drawn-out negotiations. It took seven years to get a building permit, and before that organizers had to wait five years to settle a lawsuit brought by a neighbor worried about the implications of the project.

Eugene Chaplin admitted the transformation of Manoir de Ban, where he was born in 1953 and lived until 2008, was difficult and said he had stayed away while the work was being done. "I didn't want to see the bulldozers digging into the grass. It's a lot of memories," he said. But he was thrilled with the final result. "This is the perfect place to show my father's films, to remember his work, and his life, in a place where he was so happy," he said. — AFP



An Oscar trophy in a showcase at the Chaplin's World museum in Corsier-sur-Vevey, western Switzerland.

## Monumental Basquiat could fetch \$40m at May auction

A monumental 1982 self-portrait of artist Jean-Michel Basquiat (zhahn mee-SHEHL' BAH'-skee-ah) as a fiery demonic figure is coming to auction where it could bring \$40 million. Christie's says "Untitled, 1982" has appeared in every major Basquiat retrospective. The work features splashes of explosive colors. It will be offered May 10 at Christie's post-war and contemporary art sale.

Basquiat painted it at age 22 in Modena, Italy, while at the prime of his career. Brett Gorvy is head of post-war and contemporary art at Christie's. He says he's confident the work will fetch one of the highest prices for the artist at auction. The auction record for a Basquiat is \$48.8 million for his "Dustheads," achieved at Christie's in 2013. Basquiat died of a drug overdose in 1988 at age 27. — AP



This undated photo provided by Christie's shows Jean-Michel Basquiat's self-portrait "Untitled, 1982" that has appeared in every major Basquiat retrospective. — AP





# Chocolate and chicken? Yes, with this amazing savory, not sweet, mole sauce!

By JM Hirsch

**D**on't be fooled into thinking mole (pronounced mole-EH) is just a Mexican chocolate sauce. To start with, though it is rich and decadent, it is savory, not sweet. In fact, depending on how it is made, it can pack significant heat. Most varieties involve some sort of ground nuts or seeds, which give these sauces a stick-to-your-ribs thickness that begs to be paired with hearty meats. There are many ways to make mole. This version uses raw

almonds, which are sauteed with onion, garlic, a few spices, a few chili peppers, some orange juice and tomato paste.

The result is balanced and rich, and it won't overwhelm. You will, however, want some warm flour tortillas to sop up the excess. It's that good. It's worth going out of your way to get Mexican chocolate for this recipe. It's less sweet than most chocolates, and it has a pleasantly grainy texture that - like the almonds - adds body to the finished sauce. If you can't find it, opt for a semi-sweet dark chocolate.

## Chicken mole

Start to finish: 30 minutes

### Ingredient

1 tbsp olive oil  
 1 large yellow onion, diced  
 1/2 cup raw, unsalted almonds  
 4 cloves garlic, whole  
 1 tsp cumin seeds  
 1 tsp coriander seeds  
 2 to 4 Thai red chilies (depending on desired heat)  
 1/2 cup orange juice  
 1 1/2 cups low-sodium chicken broth or stock  
 6 oz can tomato paste  
 1 tsp dried oregano  
 2.7-oz disk Mexican chocolate (such as Taza)  
 1 tbsp vegetable or canola oil  
 2 lbs boneless, skinless chicken thighs  
 kosher salt



cooked brown rice, to serve

### Preparation

1. In a large skillet over medium-high, heat the oil. Add the onion and saute for 3 minutes. Add the almonds, garlic, cumin, coriander and chilies, then cook, stirring often, for 6 minutes. Add the orange juice and chicken broth,

then stir to deglaze the pan. Bring to a simmer, then stir in the tomato paste and oregano. Transfer the mixture to a blender, then add the chocolate. Blend until smooth, then set aside.

2. Return the skillet to medium-high and heat the vegetable oil. Season the chicken with salt, then add it to the skillet and cook for 3 minutes per side. Return the

sauce to the skillet, stirring gently to cover the chicken. Return to a simmer, then reduce heat to maintain. Cover and cook for 5 minutes, or until the chicken reaches 165° F. Serve the chicken over rice, spooning mole sauce over the top. — AP



# Do the impossible: Make a vegan Caesar worth celebrating

15 FRIDAY  
APRIL 2016

By Melissa D'Arabian

I've heard that many restaurant chefs despise making Caesar salads, but I don't understand why. Who wouldn't love making lemony-cheesy-black-pepper-salad dreams come true? So my resourceful little self has always had a solid Caesar salad game going at home. My original recipe was rooted in the classic for years: raw egg yolk, umami-laden anchovies, nutty Parmesan cheese, tart lemon juice. I then top that basic Caesar salad with almost any protein to turn it into a truly satisfying meal. Steak, shrimp or chicken work well, but

so do turkey meatballs, roasted pork tenderloin and - my secret weapon - just about every kind of canned fish available.

Over time, I've adapted and adjusted my beloved Caesar salad recipe to account for changes in my family. When I was pregnant, I avoided raw eggs. My daughter's gluten intolerance kicked the sourdough croutons to the curb. And my vegetarian niece and nephew had me searching for a worthy umami substitute for anchovies.

Recently, I faced my greatest challenge: a completely vegan Caesar salad for some dinner guests. No Parmesan cheese? I thought it would be impossible. But you guys, here is the

impossible: A totally tasty vegan Caesar salad. This salad gets its rich umami flavor from a cool combination of miso paste and nutritional yeast (not to be confused with brewer's yeast). The croutons are back in for this recipe, but I just leave them out for my gluten-free daughter. To turn this salad into a fully vegan meal, top with nuts, seeds, lentils, white beans or tofu. And a note to my carnivore friends: Don't let the word vegan scare you off this recipe. It's also great topped with a few ounces of meat.

## Vegan Caesar Salad



Start to finish: 20 minutes  
Servings: 6

### Ingredient

1/3 cup raw unsalted cashews  
Boiling water  
1/4 cup toasted walnuts  
1/4 cup nutritional yeast flakes  
1/4 teaspoon granulated garlic  
1/4 cup lemon juice  
2 to 4 cloves garlic, minced

2 teaspoons Dijon mustard  
1/4 cup olive oil  
2 tablespoons white miso paste  
1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper  
3 tablespoons cool water  
3 hearts romaine lettuce, roughly chopped  
2 cups bread cubes, brushed with olive oil and toasted

### Preparation

In a small bowl, combine the cashews and enough boiling water to cover them. Let sit for several minutes. Meanwhile, in a blender, combine the walnuts, nutritional yeast and granulated

garlic. Pulse until the mixture has the texture of sand. Pour into a small bowl and set aside. Drain the cashews and transfer them to the blender.

Add the lemon juice, fresh garlic, mustard, olive oil, miso, pepper and cool water. Blend until the mixture is mostly smooth. Taste and adjust seasonings. In a large bowl, toss the lettuce with the dressing, then top with the bread cubes and the ground walnut mixture.

Nutrition information per serving: 220 calories; 140 calories from fat (64 percent of total calories); 16 g fat (2 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 0 mg cholesterol; 330 mg sodium; 16 g carbohydrate; 4 g fiber; 3 g sugar; 7 g protein. — AP





A general view of the world's largest bulb garden of Keukenhof in Lisse. — AFP photos



Photo shows hyacinths at the world's largest bulb garden of Keukenhof in Lisse.



Photo shows tulips at the world's largest bulb garden.

## Dutch bulb garden depicts Golden Age in flowers

Millions of bulbs have blossomed in a riot of color from Delft blues to reds and porcelain whites, drawing huge crowds to an annual Dutch springtime rite at the renowned Keukenhof gardens. The world's largest bulb garden, which boasts some seven million flowers, has depicted in flowers this year's theme of the Netherlands Golden Age. Lasting from 1584-1702, this was a time of unparalleled prosperity for the small nation during which everything from "trade, art and science" flourished, said guide Patricia Jelgehuis. Thousands of tulips—the country's most iconic flower—sway gently among grape hyacinths and crocuses of every shade and hue to create the garden's colorful living tableaux.

The highlight this year is a bulb mosaic of the Golden Age, depicting a traditional Delft blue-and-white tile showing Dutch trade across the seas and Amsterdam's grand, towering canal side homes. Other exhibits at the gardens in the western town of Lisse

highlight copies of the works of famous Dutch Masters, like Rembrandt and Vermeer.

And in case the humble tulip is not enough for the 800,000 people expected to visit before the park closes again on May 16, this year's show also includes a pairing of exotic orchids with high-end fashion. Visitors can admire dresses, shoes and hats in a bold entwining of material and flowers. There's even a creamy white wedding dress by Dutch haute couture designer Ronald Kolk, proudly displaying a cascade of orchids as part of the voluminous skirt.

Adding to the decadent display are hats by Philip Treacy, milliner to such clients as the British royal family and stars like Madonna. It's the 67th annual springtime display at the Keukenhof gardens, created in 1857 and modelled on English gardens of the period, containing some 20 floral displays. The bulbs are planted by

hand every year by about 40 dedicated gardeners, and are set out in three layers so there is always something in bloom even if the other flowers have not yet fully opened.

"We work to ensure that the park is as beautiful as possible for visitors but that it is also in bloom for as long as possible," gardener Luud ter Laak told AFP. "That's why we plant the bulbs in three layers. First the tulips that bloom later, then the earlier tulips and then the crocuses." The bulb trade in the Netherlands began in the 17th century after they were discovered in central Asia. So precious were bulbs once in the country that they were literally worth their weight in gold. — AFP



This undated handout shows an Aerial view of Tarraleah village in Tasmania.



This undated handout photo from real estate company, Knight Frank Tasmania and received yesterday, shows an Aerial view of Tarraleah village in Tasmania. — AFP photos

## Australian village, including cows, on sale for \$10 million

A small, picturesque Australian village has been listed for sale, attracting interest from China and Singapore, with its new buyer set to own dozens of homes, a lake full of fish and 35 Highland cattle. Property agents said they hoped the 145-hectare (358.3-acre) Tarraleah village in the heart of Tasmania state would fetch up to Aus\$13 million (US\$10 million). "I've never sold a town before," property agent John Blacklow, who has been selling hotels for more than three decades, told AFP.

Since the village was placed on the market late last week, it has attracted prospective buyers—individuals as well as companies—from Australia and also China, Hong Kong and Singapore, Blacklow said. The village in the Central Highlands was originally built in the 1920s and '30s to support 2,000 hydroelectric workers, but as the dams and power stations servicing southern Tasmania became automated, staff were no longer required.

Property developer Julian Homer eventually bought the entire village, which had become run down, restoring the art-deco buildings to turn it into a tourism-focused site. "He's finally finished his program of renovation, which has taken him 13 years, so the whole of the town—all the 33 buildings and infrastructure—have been done up to a very high-class standard," Blacklow said. "Now it's ready for an operator to actually take over and continue the operations as a tourism village for accommodation, mainly."

Tarraleah, which agents said brings in an annual revenue of Aus\$2.1 million, currently has no permanent residents, only tourism-related staff. Visitors can fish at a lake with trout and salmon, go bush-walking, play golf, have a drink at a bar and stay in cottages—while

enjoying the company of ducks, geese and native animals such as kangaroos, wallabies and Tasmanian devils. Former resident Ingrid Mitchell, who lived in the village in the 1960s when her father worked at the station, said she was "very sad" to hear Tarraleah was for sale and wanted it to remain in local hands.

"It was a thriving community, we had a normal butcher, shopping center, the school was always busy, the post office, the swimming pool," she told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. "We used to have a Christmas party at the hall every year—great times." The sale of residential property and farmland to foreigners, including Australia's largest trading partner China, is a sensitive issue, with Canberra knocking back some sales on national interest grounds. — AFP



This undated handout shows the Tarraleah Lodge Hotel in Tarraleah village in Tasmania.





Photo shows David Greco stands in front of meats and cheeses on display at Mike's Deli in the Arthur Avenue Retail Market in the Bronx borough of New York. — AP photos



A worker hand-rolls cigars at a shop in the Arthur Avenue Retail Market in the Bronx borough of New York.

# Visiting Arthur Avenue in the Bronx means Italian food

A visit to Arthur Avenue in the Bronx means one thing: Italian food. Fresh mozzarella, handmade pasta and hero sandwiches loaded with ham, tomatoes, peppers and cheese - it's all here in the delis, restaurants, shops, cafes and bakeries along Arthur Avenue and East 187th Street. Some of the best-known places include Tino's Deli, Madonia Brothers Bakery and an old-school, family-style restaurant called Dominick's. But there are many other places to sample the neighborhood's bounty. Stop in at the DeLillo Pasticceria cafe, where display shelves overflow with cookies and pastries, for a sublime cappuccino and cannoli. Check out Borgatti's pasta store, where you can watch egg noodles being made on the spot. Borgatti's take-home specialties include fettucine made from squid ink and ravioli.

A must on any trip to the neighborhood is the Arthur Avenue Retail Market. This indoor venue is home to a shop where cigars are rolled by hand, a produce market, a T-shirt souvenir store, and Mike's Deli, a favorite stop among politicians and celebrities. In early April, Ohio Gov. John Kasich was photographed stuffing his face at Mike's, tearing into sandwiches and several helpings of spaghetti while stumping for votes in the New York Republican presidential primary. A scrapbook on display at the deli shows photos of other famous visitors - including Robert DeNiro and Hillary Clinton - chowing down and posing with enormous hunks of cheese and whole salamis.

David Greco, whose father founded Mike's Deli, recommends the Michelangelo hero, with prosciutto and heavenly fresh mozzarella, as one of the best things on the menu. Just be careful to keep the seeded top of the sandwich roll face up. If you don't, Greco will come over and say, "Your bread's upside down. It's bad luck."

Arthur Avenue is located in the Belmont section of the Bronx. Belmont bills itself as the "real" Little Italy, contending that it is a more vibrant Italian-American community than Manhattan's Little Italy, which has shrunk in recent decades to just a few blocks. But while the Italian flavor of Belmont's culture and retailers remains strong, the population of Italian-American families has declined over the decades. The local mix now includes Latinos, Albanians and students from nearby Fordham University.

Yet you can still find old women chatting away in Italian in the back row of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, surrounded by marble columns, stained glass windows and statues of the Madonna. And while it's not unusual to find foodies and tourists - including visitors from Italy - on Arthur Avenue, there's a certain type of shopper that Greco likes the best. "My favorite customers," he says, "are the grandmas."



The detail of a stained glass window in Our Lady of Mount Carmel church in the Belmont area of the Bronx borough of New York.



A sample of food from Mike's Deli in the Arthur Avenue Retail Market in the Bronx borough of New York.



A banner hangs from a streetlamp in the Belmont section of the Bronx borough of New York proclaiming the area to be 'Little Italy.'



Friday Times

FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 2016

# Travel



## Peru Cusco A very rich city

A tourist tries to take a picture while feeding a camelid in downtown Cusco, Peru. Tourists typically pose for photos with the camelids in Cusco, the main tourist destination in Peru, and tip the Quechua indigenous women who often care for them. —AP photos





Quechua women walk their camelids, which they use to charge tourists for portraits, in downtown Cusco, Peru.

**Peru is South America's third-largest country, with an area of 1,285,220 sq km (496,226 sq mi), extending about 1,287 km (800 mi) se-nw and 563 km (350 mi) NE-SW. Comparatively, the area occupied by Peru is slightly smaller than the state of Alaska. It is bounded by Ecuador and Colombia, on the by Brazil and Bolivia, on the S by Chile, and on the W by the Pacific Ocean, with a total land boundary length of 5,536 km (3,440 mi) and a coastline of 2,414 km (1,500 mi).**



A clown poses for the picture in the Plaza de Armas in Cusco, Peru.



Tourists walk past an elderly woman street beggar downtown Cusco, Peru.



Rusbel Ccopa, 6, sitting on a watermelon and using a bucket as a table, draws as he waits for his mother.

Various offshore islands, chiefly the Chincha Islands off Pisco in southern Peru, are uninhabited, but at least 21 of these are important to the Peruvian economy and are protected by the government's guano monopoly. Peru's capital city, Lima, is located on the Pacific coast.

#### History

Archaeological evidence indicates that Peru has been inhabited for at least 12,000 years. Perhaps as early as 6,000 years ago, the first prim-

itive farmers appeared. Between 500 BC and ad 1000 at least five separate civilizations developed. The Paracas, on the southern coast, produced elaborately embroidered textiles and performed brain surgeries, in Spanish "trepanaciones craneanas." The Chavín, in the highlands, were noted for their great carved stone monoliths. The Mochica, on the north coast, produced realistic pottery figures of human beings and animals. The Nazca in the south were noted for the giant figures of animals in the ground that can be seen

only from the sky. The Chimú were the most developed of these groups.

The Quechua Empire, whose emperors had the title Sapa Inca, was established in the 13th century. During the next 300 years, the extraordinary empire of the Incas, with its capital at Cuzco, spread its spiritual and temporal power to northern Ecuador, middle Chile, and the Argentine plains. By means of a system of paved highways, the small Cuzco hierarchy communicated its interests to a population of 8-12 million. The

intensive agriculture of scarcely tillable lands, held in common and controlled by the state, created a disciplined economy. The ayllu, a kinship group that also constituted an agrarian community, was the basic unit of the Inca Empire, economically and spiritually. The Incas were sun worshipers and embalmed their dead. Their highly developed civilization used a calendar and a decimal system of counting and advanced architecture, but never developed a wheel.

— [www.encyclopedia.com](http://www.encyclopedia.com)



A tourist takes a picture of her friend holding a baby alpaca provided by the Quechua women standing outside a department store who then take a tip for the service, in downtown Cusco, Peru.



Tourists pose for pictures with a Quechua woman and her pet camelid, before tipping her outside Santo Domingo Convent in downtown Cusco, Peru.





This photo shows the exterior of the new Polk Penguin Conservation Center at the Detroit Zoo in Royal Oak, Mich. — AP photos

# Detroit Zoo shows off new penguin habitat with better views

**A** new penguin habitat that the Detroit Zoo calls the world's largest such facility offers its 80-plus residents new rocks for climbing, waves, snow and better ice conditions, while allowing visitors to come nose-to-beak with the stately birds. A preview Wednesday showed off the \$30 million Polk Penguin Conservation Center, which features an underwater gallery and two acrylic tunnels where visitors can watch four species of penguins swim above, around and below them.

Zoo officials say it's designed to simulate the penguins' native habitat, including optimal air and water temperatures. Zoo CEO Ron Kagan, who made multiple research trips to Antarctica, says the penguins can "do the polar plunge" in the 25-foot-deep aquatic area. "This is so new, they're still learning this new environment," Kagan said in an interview. "They've never been able to dive this kind of depth. They've never had this kind of opportunity for ice and snow."

Sixty-nine penguins - gentoos, macaronis and rockhoppers - have marched over to their new home, which opens to the public on

Monday. Fourteen king penguins will arrive in a bit. The 33,000-square-foot Polk Center is situated on two acres. In addition to the

326,000-gallon swimming pool, the new inhabitants also have the option of spending time chilling in their spacious above-ground

abode that includes expansive windows that allow visitors to see in - and the penguins to see out. The environment is intended to encourage the same kind of behavior as in the wild, from leaping in and out of the water to nesting and rearing young.

"We've had penguins at the Detroit Zoo for many years, so we know how to feed penguins and keep them healthy," said Scott Carter, the zoo's chief life sciences officer. "What we wanted to make sure we could do here was make sure that we could create an environment in which penguins could really be happy, in which penguins could thrive." The center's design, inspired by the harsh climate of Antarctica, features an exterior that resembles a towering iceberg with a crevasse and waterfall.

It's "the biggest project that the Detroit Zoo has ever undertaken" Kagan said. A \$10 million donation from the Polk Family Fund is the largest gift in the zoo's 88-year history. The center is free with Detroit Zoo admission, but requires timed-entry passes that are available on a first-come, first-served basis. — AP



A penguin swims in the Detroit Zoo's new Polk Penguin Conservation Center.



Members of the media photograph the new habitat for penguins in the Detroit Zoo's new Polk Penguin Conservation Center.



Penguins swim in the Detroit Zoo's new Polk Penguin Conservation Center.





01:20 Soul Plane  
02:45 Phantoms  
04:20 Billy Two Hats  
06:00 Saved!  
07:30 The Beautiful Country  
09:30 The Crocodile Hunter: Collision Course  
11:00 The Watsons Go To Birmingham  
12:30 The Magnificent Seven  
14:35 The Apartment  
16:40 The Man In The Iron Mask  
18:50 Geronimo: An American Legend  
20:45 Big Screen  
21:00 The Birdcage  
23:00 State Of Grace

08:00 Countdown  
09:00 Countdown  
09:30 On The Move  
10:00 On The Move  
11:00 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: European Close  
19:00 Bloomberg Markets  
20:00 Bloomberg Markets  
21:00 Bloomberg Markets  
21:30 Brilliant Ideas  
22:00 Bloomberg Markets  
23:00 What'd You Miss?

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



00:20 Fast N' Loud  
01:10 Salvage Hunters  
02:00 Redwood Kings  
02:50 Ed Stafford: Into The Unknown  
03:40 Extreme Collectors  
04:05 Storage Wars Canada  
04:30 Auction Hunters  
05:00 How Do They Do It?  
05:30 Fifth Gear  
06:00 You Have Been Warned  
06:50 Troy  
07:40 The Carbonaro Effect  
08:05 Superhuman Science  
08:30 The Island With Bear Grylls  
09:20 Bear Grylls: Mission Survive  
10:10 So You Think You'd Survive?  
11:00 Salvage Hunters  
11:50 Redwood Kings  
12:40 Ed Stafford: Into The Unknown  
13:30 Misfit Garage  
14:20 Overhaulin'  
15:10 Extreme Car Hoarders  
16:00 So You Think You'd Survive?  
16:50 So You Think You'd Survive?  
17:40 So You Think You'd Survive?  
18:30 So You Think You'd Survive?  
19:20 So You Think You'd Survive?  
20:10 So You Think You'd Survive?  
21:00 Misfit Garage  
21:50 Overhaulin'  
22:40 Extreme Car Hoarders  
23:30 Killing Fields

01:08 Secret Space Escapes  
01:55 Moon Machines  
02:42 How The Earth Works  
03:29 Mythbusters  
04:16 Secret Space Escapes  
05:03 Moon Machines  
05:50 Nyc: Inside Out  
06:37 How Do They Do It?  
07:00 How Do They Do It?  
07:23 Mythbusters  
08:08 How The Earth Works  
08:53 Nyc: Inside Out  
09:38 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman  
10:23 Secret Space Escapes  
11:08 Moon Machines  
11:53 Nyc: Inside Out  
12:38 Mythbusters  
13:23 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman  
14:10 How The Earth Works  
14:57 Invent It Rich  
15:44 Moon Machines  
16:31 Future Firepower  
17:18 How The Earth Works  
18:05 Mythbusters  
18:50 Da Vinci's Machines  
19:40 Moon Machines  
20:25 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman  
21:15 How The Earth Works  
22:00 Da Vinci's Machines  
22:45 Moon Machines  
23:35 Mythbusters



00:00 Crime Stories  
01:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos  
02:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook  
03:00 My Crazy Ex  
04:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos  
05:00 50 Ways To Kill Your Lover  
06:00 I Killed My BFF  
07:00 Britain's Biggest Heists  
08:00 Crime Stories  
09:00 Surveillance Oz  
09:30 Private Crimes  
10:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook  
11:00 After The First 48  
12:00 The FBI Files  
13:00 I Killed My BFF  
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 I Killed My BFF  
20:00 Crime Stories  
21:00 The First 48  
22:00 The Killer Speaks  
23:00 Nightmare In Suburbia



00:45 I'm Alive  
01:40 Ten Deadliest Snakes With Nigel Marven  
02:35 Tanked  
03:25 Animal Cops South Africa  
04:15 Gator Boys  
05:02 Treehouse Masters  
05:49 Ten Deadliest Snakes With Nigel Marven  
06:36 Swamp Brothers  
07:00 Swamp Brothers  
07:25 My Cat From Hell  
08:15 Ten Deadliest Snakes With Nigel Marven  
09:10 Treehouse Masters  
10:05 Bondi Vet  
12:25 Bondi Vet  
12:50 Ten Deadliest Snakes With Nigel Marven  
13:45 Gator Boys  
14:40 Treehouse Masters  
15:35 Tanked  
16:30 Animal Cops South Africa  
17:25 River Monsters  
18:20 River Monsters  
19:15 Tanked  
20:10 Shamwari: A Wild Life  
20:40 Shamwari: A Wild Life  
21:05 Treehouse Masters  
22:00 River Monsters  
22:55 Gator Boys  
23:50 River Monsters



00:00 News Update  
00:30 Dialogue  
01:00 News Update  
01:15 China 24  
02:00 The Heat  
02:30 News Update  
03:00 Global Business  
04:00 News Update  
05:00 News Update  
06:30 Dialogue  
07:00 News Hour  
08:00 Global Business  
09:00 News Update  
10:30 Sports Scene  
11:00 Global Business  
12:00 News Update  
12:30 Culture Express  
13:00 Africa Live  
14:00 News Update



00:00 CNBC Conversation: Felipe Calderon  
00:30 CNBC Conversation: Kyriakos Mitsotakis  
01:00 U.S. Squawk Alley  
02:00 Asia Squawk Box  
05:00 Asia Street Signs  
07:00 Capital Connection  
08:00 Squawk Box Europe  
11:00 Europe Street Signs  
12:00 Worldwide Exchange  
13:00 U.S. Squawk Box  
16:00 Squawk On The Street  
18:00 U.S. Squawk Alley  
19:00 Fast Money: Half Time Report  
20:00 U.S. Power Lunch  
22:00 U.S. Closing Bell



00:20 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman

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 Gravity 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 Violetta Recipes  
17:10 Invisible Sister  
18:40 Best Friends Whenever  
19:05 Evermoor Chronicles  
19:30 Violetta  
20:20 Violetta Recipes  
20:30 Wizards Of Waverly Place - The Movie  
22:00 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



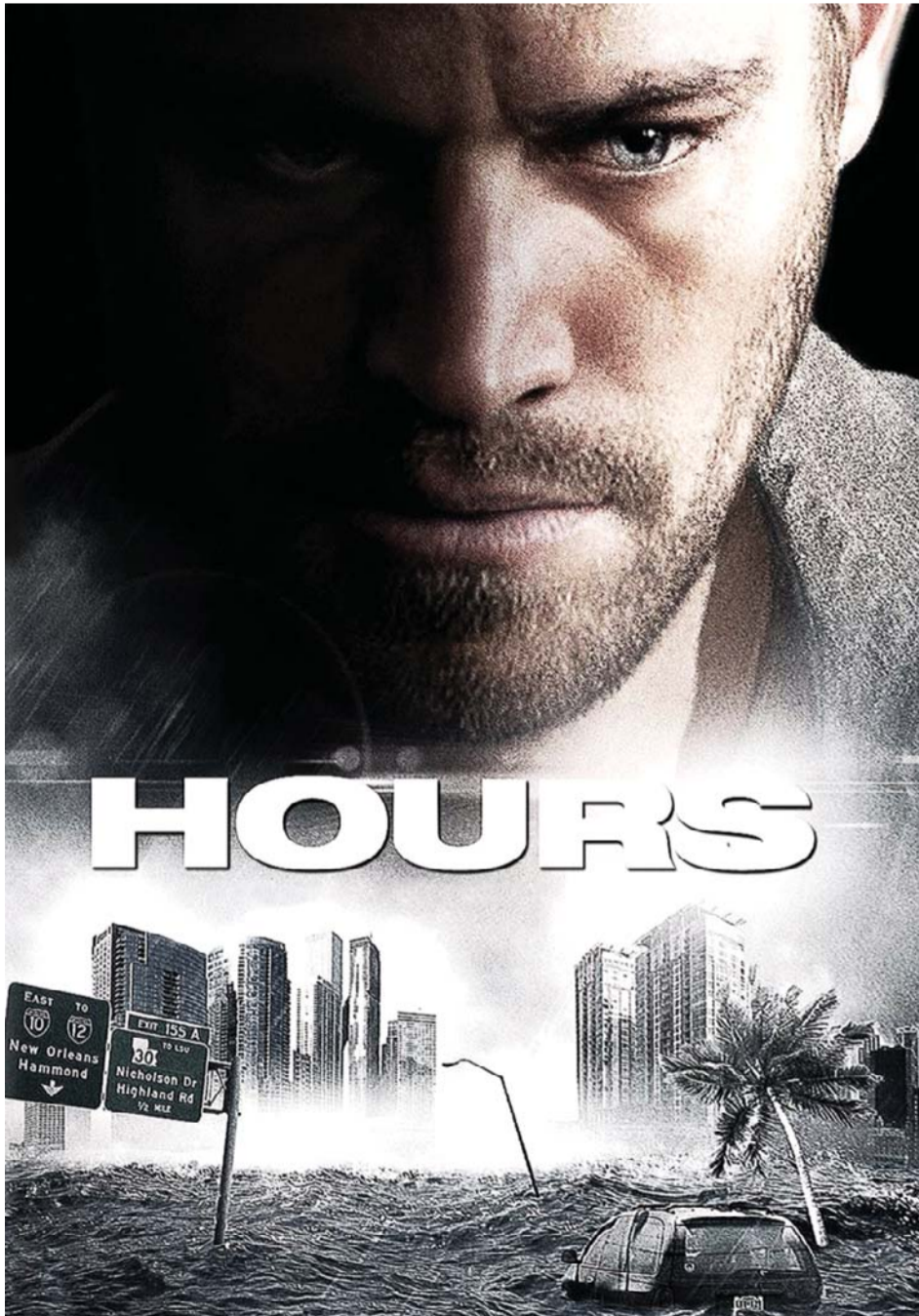
00:05 Art Attack  
00:30 Henry Hugglemonster  
00:45 Calimero  
01:00 Zou  
01:15 Loopdidoo  
01:30 Art Attack  
01:55 Henry Hugglemonster  
02:05 Calimero  
02:20 Zou  
02:30 Loopdidoo  
02:45 Art Attack  
03:10 Henry Hugglemonster  
03:20 Calimero  
03:35 Zou  
03:45 Loopdidoo  
04:00 Art Attack  
04:25 Henry Hugglemonster  
04:35 Calimero  
04:50 Zou  
05:00 Loopdidoo  
05:15 Art Attack  
05:35 Henry Hugglemonster  
05:50 Calimero  
06:00 Zou  
06:20 Loopdidoo  
06:35 Art Attack  
07:00 The Hive  
07:10 Zou  
07:25 Loopdidoo  
07:40 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse  
08:05 Sofia The First  
08:30 Goldie & Bear  
08:45 Jake And The Never Land Pirates  
09:10 Sheriff Callie's Wild West  
09:35 Doc McStuffins  
10:00 Sofia The First  
10:30 Goldie & Bear  
10:55 Minnie's Bow-Toons  
11:00 Miles From Tomorrow  
11:25 Special Agent Oso  
11:40 The Hive  
11:50 Handy Manny  
12:15 Jungle Junction  
12:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse  
13:00 Sofia The First  
13:25 Miles From Tomorrow  
13:50 Jake And The Never Land Pirates  
14:15 Sheriff Callie's Wild West  
14:40 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse  
15:10 Miles From Tomorrow  
15:35 Jake And The Never Land Pirates  
16:00 Sofia The First  
16:25 Jungle Cubs  
16:50 Aladdin  
17:15 Gummi Bears  
17:40 Goldie & Bear  
18:05 Miles From Tomorrow  
18:30 Sofia The First  
19:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates  
19:30 Miles From Tomorrow  
20:00 Goldie & Bear  
20:30 Sofia The First  
21:00 Jungle Cubs  
21:25 Aladdin  
21:50 Gummi Bears  
22:20 Lilo And Stitch  
22:50 Zou  
23:05 Henry Hugglemonster  
23:20 Calimero



00:20 Eastenders  
00:50 Holby City  
01:50 Stag  
02:45 Silent Witness  
03:40 Waking The Dead  
04:40 Eastenders  
05:10 Doctor Who  
06:00 Holby City  
06:55 Doctors  
07:30 Eastenders  
08:00 Dickensian  
08:50 Death In Paradise  
09:45 Doctor Who  
10:50 Doctor Who  
11:40 Doctor Who  
12:35 Doctor Who  
13:25 Holby City  
14:25 Doctors  
14:55 Eastenders  
15:25 Death In Paradise  
16:20 Death In Paradise  
17:15 Death In Paradise  
18:15 Doctors  
18:45 Doctors  
19:20 Father Brown  
20:05 Happy Valley  
21:00 Happy Valley  
22:00 Undercover  
23:00 Stag  
23:55 Doctors



00:00 Charlie Rose  
01:00 Bloomberg West  
02:00 First Up With Angie Lau  
03:00 First Up With Angie Lau  
04:00 Trending Business  
05:00 Trending Business  
06:00 Asia Edge  
07:00 Bloomberg West



HOURS ON OSN MOVIES HD ACTION



FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 2016

23:35 Zou  
23:50 Loopedidoo



06:00 Boyster  
06:10 Super Matrak  
06:35 Super Matrak  
07:00 Star vs The Forces Of Evil  
07:25 K.C. Undercover  
07:50 Supa Strikas  
08:15 Annedroids  
08:40 Lab Rats  
09:10 Kirby Buckets  
09:35 Guardians Of The Galaxy  
10:00 Rocket Monkeys  
10:25 Ultimate Spider-Man Web Warriors  
10:50 Boyster  
11:20 Boyster  
11:45 Pair Of Kings  
12:10 Pair Of Kings  
12:35 Lab Rats  
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  
16:05 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  
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  
21:30 Pickle And Peanut  
21:45 Lab Rats  
22:10 Mighty Med  
22:40 Disney Mickey Mouse



00:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry  
00:55 The Grace Helbig Show  
01:25 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
02:20 E! News  
03:15 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills  
04:10 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills  
05:05 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills  
06:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
06:55 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
07:50 Style Star  
08:20 E! News  
09:15 Giuliana & Bill  
10:15 Giuliana & Bill  
11:10 The Grace Helbig Show  
11:35 The Grace Helbig Show  
12:05 E! News  
13:05 Dash Dolls  
14:05 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
15:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
16:00 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills  
17:00 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills  
18:00 E! News  
19:00 Christina Milian Turned Up  
20:00 WAGS  
21:00 WAGS  
22:00 E! News  
23:00 Botched



00:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives  
00:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives  
01:00 Private Chef  
01:30 Private Chef  
02:00 Valerie's Home Cooking  
02:30 Valerie's Home Cooking  
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



BIG GAME ON OSN MOVIES HD



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 Chopped  
22:00 Cutthroat Kitchen  
23:00 Kitchen Casino



00:20 Pawn Stars  
00:45 Pawn Stars Australia  
01:10 Down East Dickering  
02:00 Ice Road Truckers  
02:50 Ax Men  
03:40 American Restoration  
04:05 American Restoration  
04:30 Pawn Stars  
05:00 Grave Trade  
06:00 The Curse Of Oak Island  
06:50 Mankind The Story Of All Of Us  
07:40 Hunting Hitler  
08:30 American Restoration  
08:55 Mountain Men  
09:45 Ax Men  
10:35 Swamp People  
11:25 Fifth Gear  
12:15 Counting Cars  
12:40 Counting Cars  
13:05 American Pickers  
13:55 Grave Trade  
14:45 Mankind The Story Of All Of Us  
15:35 Hunting Hitler  
16:25 Counting Cars  
16:50 Shark Wranglers  
17:40 Aussie Pickers  
18:30 Duck Dynasty  
18:55 Duck Dynasty  
19:20 Ax Men  
20:10 Swamp People  
21:00 Storage Wars: New York  
21:25 Storage Wars: New York  
21:50 Pawn Stars  
22:15 Pawn Stars Australia  
22:40 Hunting Hitler  
23:30 The Curse Of Oak Island



00:10 Sara's New Nordic Kitchen  
00:35 Tom's Istanbul Delight  
01:00 Cesar To The Rescue  
01:50 Chefs Run Wild  
02:15 Ariana's Persian Kitchen  
02:40 Ariana's Persian Kitchen  
03:05 Cruise Ship Diaries  
03:30 Tales From The Bush Larder  
03:55 Street Food Around The World  
04:20 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia  
04:45 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia  
05:10 Tales From The Bush Larder  
05:35 Tales From The Bush Larder  
06:00 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Sea  
06:50 Cesar To The Rescue  
07:40 Chefs Run Wild  
08:05 Ariana's Persian Kitchen  
08:30 Ariana's Persian Kitchen  
08:55 Cruise Ship Diaries  
09:20 Tales From The Bush Larder  
09:45 Street Food Around The World  
10:10 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of

Australia  
10:35 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia  
11:00 Tales From The Bush Larder  
11:25 Tales From The Bush Larder  
11:50 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Sea  
12:40 Cesar To The Rescue  
13:35 Chefs Run Wild  
14:00 David Rocco's Dolce Vita  
14:30 David Rocco's Dolce Vita  
14:55 Cruise Ship Diaries  
15:25 Miguel's Feasts  
15:50 Street Food Around The World  
16:20 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia  
16:45 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia  
17:15 Tales From The Bush Larder  
17:40 Tales From The Bush Larder  
18:10 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Sea  
19:05 Cruise Ship Diaries  
19:30 Miguel's Feasts  
20:00 Street Food Around The World  
20:25 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia  
20:50 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia  
21:15 Tales From The Bush Larder  
21:40 Tales From The Bush Larder  
22:05 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Sea  
22:55 Cesar To The Rescue  
23:45 Chefs Run Wild



00:30 Hot In Cleveland  
01:00 The Nightly Show With Larry Wilmore  
01:30 Web Therapy  
02:00 The Brink  
02:30 You're The Worst  
03:00 Mad Love  
03:30 Living With Fran  
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 Kevin From Work  
10:00 I Hate My Teenage Daughter  
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 Living With Fran  
14:30 Kevin From Work

15:00 I Hate My Teenage Daughter  
15:30 Hot In Cleveland  
16:00 The Nightly Show With Larry Wilmore  
16:30 The Bernie Mac Show  
17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers  
18:00 Fresh Off The Boat  
18:30 Black-ish  
19:00 2 Broke Girls  
19:30 The Simpsons  
20:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon  
21:00 Hot In Cleveland  
21:30 The Nightly Show With Larry Wilmore  
22:00 Comedians  
22:30 The Brink  
23:00 You're The Worst  
23:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers



00:00 Mercury Rising  
02:00 Hercules  
04:00 Batman Unlimited: Animal Instincts  
06:00 Pearl Harbor  
09:15 Big Ass Spider!  
10:45 Hercules  
12:45 Hours  
14:45 Betrayed  
16:30 Pearl Harbor  
19:45 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
22:00 Pawn Shop Chronicles



00:00 The Right Kind Of Wrong  
01:45 Hope Springs  
03:30 Blues Brothers 2000  
05:45 The Preacher's Wife  
08:00 Mr. Destiny  
10:00 Blues Brothers 2000  
12:15 Hope Springs  
14:00 My Father The Hero  
16:00 Mr. Destiny  
18:00 The Bounty Hunter  
20:00 That Awkward Moment  
22:00 Borat



01:30 One Last Look  
03:00 Foxcatcher  
05:15 A Valentine's Date  
07:00 1911  
09:00 10 Years

11:00 A Valentine's Date  
13:00 Atlas Shrugged Part 2: The Strike  
15:00 God Help The Girl  
17:00 10 Years  
19:00 Not Fade Away  
21:00 A Walk Among The Tombstones  
23:00 By The Gun



01:00 Vanity Fair  
03:30 Gattaca  
05:30 The Apostle  
08:00 Won't Back Down  
10:30 Happiness  
12:30 What Dreams May Come  
14:30 Gattaca  
16:30 Won't Back Down  
19:00 True Colors  
21:00 Jersey Boys  
23:15 The People vs Larry Flynt



01:30 Perfect Sisters  
03:30 Project Almanac  
05:30 Batman: Assault On Arkham  
07:00 The Good Lie  
09:00 The 7th Dwarf  
10:30 Fast & Furious 7  
13:00 Streetdance: All Stars  
15:00 Still Alice  
16:45 Big Game  
18:30 Divergent  
21:00 Insurgent  
23:00 The Drop



01:00 Hatching  
02:45 Captain Sabertooth And The Treasure Of Lama Rama  
04:30 Dixie And The Zombie Rebellion  
06:00 Tarzan  
08:00 Blackie And Kanuto  
10:00 Zarafa  
11:30 Marco Macaco  
13:00 Captain Sabertooth And The Treasure Of Lama Rama  
14:45 Snow Queen  
16:30 Jungle Shuffle  
18:15 Zarafa  
20:00 Echo Planet  
22:00 Snow Queen  
23:45 Jungle Shuffle



00:00 Careful What You Wish For  
02:00 Next Goal Wins  
04:00 Not Safe For Work  
06:00 Marvel's Hulk vs. Thor & Wolverine  
08:00 Until She Came Along  
10:00 Son Of Batman  
12:00 Fast Girls  
14:00 Ashes  
16:00 Until She Came Along  
18:00 High Road  
20:00 No Good Deed  
22:00 Sleeping Beauty



00:30 Super League  
02:30 Inside The PGA Tour  
03:00 PGA Tour  
06:30 European Tour Weekly  
07:00 Golfing World  
08:00 World Rugby  
08:30 Welsh Open Snooker  
10:00 Super Rugby Highlights  
10:30 Live Super Rugby  
12:40 Live Super Rugby  
15:00 World Rugby  
15:30 Gillette World Sport  
16:00 Super Rugby  
18:00 Golfing World  
19:00 Super Rugby Highlights  
19:30 Super Rugby Highlights  
19:55 Live Super Rugby  
21:58 Live Super League



# TECH BILLIONAIRE DONATES \$250 MILLION FOR CANCER 'MOONSHOT'

**LOS ANGELES:** Tech billionaire Sean Parker announced a \$250 million grant on Wednesday to fund research aimed at breakthroughs in cancer treatment through immunotherapy. Parker, the founder of music-sharing service Napster and an early investor and executive at Facebook, will create a center for immunotherapy—which aims to use the body's immune system to fight the disease—collaborating with six US-based cancer research institutions. "We are at an inflection point in cancer research and now is the time to maximize immunotherapy's unique potential to transform all cancers into manageable diseases, saving millions of lives," said Parker, who last year created the Parker Foundation.

"We believe that the creation of a new funding and research model can overcome many of the obstacles that currently prevent research breakthroughs. Working closely with our scientists and more than 30 industry partners, the Parker Institute is positioned to broadly disseminate discoveries and, most importantly, more rapidly deliver treatments to patients." Parker, 36, and his wife Alexandra marked the launch with a glittering gala dinner at their \$50 million, nine-bedroom Beverly Hills mansion, bought from comedian and presenter Ellen DeGeneres in 2014. Stars including Tom Hanks, Katy Perry, Orlando Bloom, Sean Penn and Bradley Cooper attended alongside tech industry leaders such as Jack Dorsey of Twitter, Anne Wojcicki of Google and Laurene Jobs, widow of Steve Jobs.

### 'Game-changer'

"The common understanding is that all these people have always worked together and anybody who works on cancer is happy to share all their research and help each other out," said Hanks, 59, whose wife, the actress and singer Rita Wilson, underwent a double mastectomy



**NEW YORK:** Parker Foundation Chairman Sean Parker speaks during the Clinton Global Initiative annual meeting in New York. — AP

last year. "It's the opposite of that because there's intellectual property, there's grant money involved. So (Parker) is bringing a level of common sense that you would have thought had already existed but didn't."

Wilson, also 59, praised Parker for being a rich young man who could do anything with his fortunes but had chosen instead to go about curing cancer "by thinking outside the box." "I think about all the women or men... who are going through all sorts of different kinds of cancers right now and something like immunotherapy will be a life-changer and a game-changer for those people," she said. Almost 600,000 Americans are expected to die of cancer in 2016, according to the American Cancer Society. That translates to more than 1,600 peo-

ple a day. It is the second most common cause of death in the United States, exceeded only by heart disease, and accounts for nearly one of every four deaths.

### 'Leaders in the field'

The new Parker Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy will work with over 40 laboratories and more than 300 researchers and immunologists. All the research and intellectual property will be shared, "enabling all researchers to have immediate access to a broad swath of core discoveries," according to a statement. "Immunotherapy is the closest we've ever come to what that magical so-called cure for cancer may look like," said Peter Jackson, 54, director of fantasy trilogies "The Lord of the Rings" and "The Hobbit." The center will be headed by University of California-San Francisco scientist Jeffrey Bluestone, who was named to a panel to help guide the "moonshot" cancer initiative announced this year by Vice President Joe Biden. "Immunotherapy represents a fundamentally new, breakthrough treatment paradigm in the fight against cancer. It harnesses the body's own powerful immune system to mobilize its highly refined disease-fighting arsenal to engage and eliminate the cancer cells," Bluestone said.

"Our scientists are leaders in the field and will now work together to make discoveries to treat and potentially cure cancer." Bluestone was the founder and served for 10 years as director of the Immune Tolerance Network, a multicenter clinical immunology research program. Partners in the project in addition to UCSF include the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, Stanford Medicine, UCLA, the University of Pennsylvania and The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. — AFP

## 450 VIETNAMESE DRUG ADDICTS ESCAPE REHAB

**HANOI:** Around 450 Vietnamese drug addicts have escaped from a rehabilitation centre where many were held for compulsory treatment, an official said Thursday. The detainees attacked guards, climbed walls, and broke down the main gate at the centre in the Vietnam's southern province of Ba Ria Vung Tau late Wednesday. "We have brought 150 patients back, while search efforts are underway for nearly 300 others," Le Thi Trang Dai, director of the provincial labor department said. Vietnam's communist government enforces a compulsory treatment program for the country's estimated 140,000 drug addicts. Addicts can also voluntarily enter the centers to undergo rehabilitation treatments.

The escapees were a mix of compulsory and volunteer admissions, Dai said. Local authorities are urging families to bring back runaway patients so they can complete their treatment, she added. "Police are also investigating the reasons behind the escape, trying to understand if there is a leader behind the incident," she said. The escapees have been begging for clothes from local residents and trying to hitchhike out of the area, the state-run VN Express newspaper said. "Others have escaped into (a) nearby deep forest," the report added.

Addicts undergo two-year spells of treatment at the centres aimed at curbing rising drug use rates, especially among young people. US-based Human Rights Watch has denounced the conditions in Vietnam's rehab centers and a UN expert has recommended they be closed. HRW says the treatment centers are "forced labor camps" where inmates do not receive proper health care and are often subjected to physical violence. Addicts are mostly forced to report to the centers by their family or local authorities, but they are not criminals. — AFP

CLINIC  
PAGE



Kuwait Times

Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem  
فهد علي المخيزيم

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

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





## KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (14/04/2016 TO 20/04/2016)

**SHARQIA-1**  
BEFORE I WAKE 12:45 PM  
CRIMINAL 3:00 PM  
BEFORE I WAKE 5:15 PM  
MA3 AL KHATAR (Kuwaiti Film) 7:30 PM  
CRIMINAL 9:45 PM  
BEFORE I WAKE 12:05 AM

**SHARQIA-2**  
THE JUNGLE BOOK 1:00 PM  
THE JUNGLE BOOK 3:15 PM  
THE JUNGLE BOOK 5:30 PM  
THE JUNGLE BOOK 7:45 PM  
THE JUNGLE BOOK 10:00 PM  
MA3 AL KHATAR (Kuwaiti Film) 12:15 AM

**SHARQIA-3**  
FAN- Hindi 12:30 PM  
KUNG FU PANDA 3 1:30 PM  
FAN- Hindi 3:30 PM  
FAN- Hindi 6:30 PM  
FAN- Hindi 9:30 PM  
CRIMINAL 12:30 AM

**MUHALAB-1**  
BEFORE I WAKE 11:30 AM  
CRIMINAL 1:30 PM  
CRIMINAL 3:45 PM  
BEFORE I WAKE 6:00 PM  
THE AMERICAN SIDE 8:00 PM  
CRIMINAL 10:15 PM  
CRIMINAL 12:30 AM

**MUHALAB-2**  
FAN- Hindi 11:30 AM  
FAN- Hindi 2:30 PM  
FAN- Hindi 5:30 PM  
FAN- Hindi 8:30 PM  
FAN- Hindi 11:30 PM

**MUHALAB-3**  
THE JUNGLE BOOK 11:45 AM  
THE JUNGLE BOOK 2:00 PM  
THE JUNGLE BOOK 4:15 PM  
THE JUNGLE BOOK 6:30 PM  
THE JUNGLE BOOK 8:45 PM  
BEFORE I WAKE 11:00 PM  
BEFORE I WAKE 1:00 AM

**FANAR-1**  
BEFORE I WAKE 12:30 PM  
BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE 3:00 PM  
MA3 AL KHATAR (Kuwaiti Film) 6:15 PM  
BEFORE I WAKE 8:15 PM  
MA3 AL KHATAR (Kuwaiti Film) 10:30 PM  
BEFORE I WAKE 12:45 AM

**FANAR-2**  
FAN- Hindi 11:45 AM  
FAN- Hindi 2:45 PM  
FAN- Hindi 5:45 PM  
FAN- Hindi 8:45 PM  
FAN- Hindi 11:45 PM

**FANAR-3**  
CRIMINAL 12:45 PM  
THE AMERICAN SIDE 3:15 PM  
CRIMINAL 5:30 PM  
OBSERVANCE 7:45 PM  
THE AMERICAN SIDE 9:45 PM  
CRIMINAL 12:05 AM

**FANAR-4**  
THE JUNGLE BOOK (3D) 1:00 PM  
THE JUNGLE BOOK 3:15 PM  
THE JUNGLE BOOK (3D) 5:30 PM  
THE JUNGLE BOOK 7:45 PM  
THE JUNGLE BOOK (3D) 10:00 PM  
BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE 12:15 AM

**FANAR-5**  
FAN- Hindi 1:15 PM  
TOP CAT BEGINS 2:00 PM  
TOP CAT BEGINS 4:00 PM  
TOP CAT BEGINS 6:00 PM  
FAN- Hindi 8:00 PM  
FAN- Hindi 11:00 PM

**MARINA-1**  
BEFORE I WAKE 1:00 PM  
KUNG FU PANDA 3 3:00 PM  
FRI+SAT

BEFORE I WAKE 3:00 PM  
NO FRI+SAT  
BEFORE I WAKE 5:00 PM  
BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE 7:00 PM  
BEFORE I WAKE 10:00 PM  
BEFORE I WAKE 12:05 AM

**MARINA-2**  
THE JUNGLE BOOK 11:30 AM  
THE JUNGLE BOOK 1:45 PM  
THE JUNGLE BOOK 4:00 PM  
THE JUNGLE BOOK 6:15 PM  
THE JUNGLE BOOK 8:30 PM  
THE JUNGLE BOOK 10:45 PM  
MA3 AL KHATAR (Kuwaiti Film) 1:00 AM

**MARINA-3**  
FAN- Hindi 12:00 PM  
FAN- Hindi 3:00 PM  
CRIMINAL 6:00 PM  
CRIMINAL 8:15 PM  
MA3 AL KHATAR (Kuwaiti Film) 10:30 PM  
CRIMINAL 12:45 AM

**AVENUES-1**  
KUNG FU PANDA 3 1:15 PM  
KUNG FU PANDA 3 3:30 PM  
MA3 AL KHATAR (Kuwaiti Film) 5:45 PM  
MA3 AL KHATAR (Kuwaiti Film) 8:00 PM  
MA3 AL KHATAR (Kuwaiti Film) 10:15 PM  
MA3 AL KHATAR (Kuwaiti Film) 12:30 AM

**AVENUES-3**  
MR. RIGHT 11:45 AM  
OBSERVANCE 2:00 PM  
MR. RIGHT 4:30 PM  
THERI-TAMIL 6:30 PM  
JU ON: THE GRUDGE 3 9:30 PM  
OBSERVANCE 11:30 PM  
OBSERVANCE 1:15 AM

**AVENUES-4**  
CRIMINAL 11:30 AM  
FAN- Hindi 2:15 PM  
FAN- Hindi 5:15 PM  
NO THU+FRI  
Special Show "THE JUNGLE BOOK" 5:15 PM  
THU+FRI  
FAN- Hindi 8:15 PM  
FAN- Hindi 11:15 PM

**AVENUES-5**  
THE JUNGLE BOOK 11:45 AM  
THE JUNGLE BOOK -3D 2:00 PM  
THE JUNGLE BOOK 4:15 PM  
THE JUNGLE BOOK -3D 6:30 PM  
THE JUNGLE BOOK 8:45 PM  
NO THU+SUN  
Special Show "THE JUNGLE BOOK" 8:45 PM  
THU+SUN  
THE JUNGLE BOOK 11:00 PM

**AVENUES-6**  
FAN- Hindi 12:00 PM  
FAN- Hindi 3:00 PM  
FAN- Hindi 6:00 PM  
FAN- Hindi 9:00 PM  
FAN- Hindi 12:05 AM

**360°- 1**  
THE JUNGLE BOOK -3D 1:15 PM  
THE JUNGLE BOOK 3:30 PM  
THE JUNGLE BOOK -3D 5:45 PM  
THE JUNGLE BOOK 8:00 PM  
THE JUNGLE BOOK 10:15 PM  
MA3 AL KHATAR (Kuwaiti Film) 12:30 AM

**360°- 2**  
BEFORE I WAKE 12:45 PM  
BEFORE I WAKE 3:00 PM  
BEFORE I WAKE 5:15 PM  
BEFORE I WAKE 7:30 PM  
BEFORE I WAKE 9:45 PM  
BEFORE I WAKE 12:05 AM

360°- 3  
KUNG FU PANDA 3 12:15 PM  
KUNG FU PANDA 3 2:30 PM  
KUNG FU PANDA 3 4:45 PM  
MA3 AL KHATAR (Kuwaiti Film) 7:00 PM  
MA3 AL KHATAR (Kuwaiti Film) 9:15 PM  
MA3 AL KHATAR (Kuwaiti Film) 11:30 PM

### SITUATION WANTED

**M.Com** sixteen years experience in independently handling accounts of medium sized companies upto finalization, familiar with accounting systems, at present working in hospital, seeking suitable position. Mobile: 66019422. **(C 5161) 14-4-2016**

**Sri Lankan** maid looking for a part time job, our honest, trustworthy and hard working, preferably with a European family. She has been working with us for several years and we can recommend her to everyone. Contact: 55206281. **(C 5159) 12-4-2016**

### FOR SALE

**Nissan** Sentra 2014 model, black color, very good condition, required KD 3000 cash,

installments also possible. Please call 66047733. **(C 5160) 13-4-2016**

**2008** Suv Audi Q7, black, full option, very good condition. KD 3900. Contact: 90905788. **(C 5158)**

**Owner** leaving Kuwait want to sell household items, Samsung smart TV 40", bedroom furniture, drawing room furniture, 1 Ikea office table with two side tables, with 1 Ikea office chair, curtains, dining table, Arabic majlis, 2 gas cylinders. Contact 69302121. **(C 5157) 10-4-2016**

**Contents** of a flat (furniture) for sale in Salmiya next to Donbosco School, expat leaving Kuwait. Contact: 97453334.

### Prayer timings

**Fajr:** 04:00  
**Shorook** 05:22  
**Duhr:** 11:48  
**Asr:** 15:22  
**Maghrib:** 16:14  
**Isha:** 19:34



## Hospitals

<b>Sabah Hospital</b>	<b>24812000</b>
<b>Amiri Hospital</b>	<b>22450005</b>
<b>Maternity Hospital</b>	<b>24843100</b>
<b>Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital</b>	<b>25312700</b>
<b>Chest Hospital</b>	<b>24849400</b>
<b>Farwaniya Hospital</b>	<b>24892010</b>
<b>Adan Hospital</b>	<b>23940620</b>
<b>Ibn Sina Hospital</b>	<b>24840300</b>
<b>Al-Razi Hospital</b>	<b>24846000</b>
<b>Physiotherapy Hospital</b>	<b>24874330/9</b>

## Clinics

<b>Kaizen center</b>	<b>25716707</b>
<b>Rawda</b>	<b>22517733</b>
<b>Adaliya</b>	<b>22517144</b>
<b>Khaldiya</b>	<b>24848075</b>
<b>Kaifan</b>	<b>24849807</b>
<b>Shamiya</b>	<b>24848913</b>
<b>Shuwaikh</b>	<b>24814507</b>
<b>Abdullah Salem</b>	<b>22549134</b>
<b>Nuzha</b>	<b>22526804</b>
<b>Industrial Shuwaikh</b>	<b>24814764</b>
<b>Qadsiya</b>	<b>22515088</b>
<b>Dasmah</b>	<b>22532265</b>
<b>Bneid Al-Gar</b>	<b>22531908</b>
<b>Shaab</b>	<b>22518752</b>
<b>Qibla</b>	<b>22459381</b>



# Friday Times BUSINESS

FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 2016

## HOW SAUDI ARABIA PLANS TO SHAKE UP ITS ECONOMY

PAGE 38



Dark economic cloud over IMF-World Bank meeting

Page 41



SHANGHAI: Two workers prepare to leave after working on the roof of a building in Shanghai yesterday. China's growth slowed further in the first three months of this year, economists polled by AFP forecast, even as authorities step up policy support for the world's second-largest economy. — AFP

## PROSPECTS FOR OIL OUTPUT CUTS UNCLEAR

### IRAN, LIBYA SUPPLY AND COMPLIANCE KEY UNCERTAINTIES

**LONDON/DUBAI:** An oil output cut by global producers, following on from the output freeze initiative, is quite unlikely and would be months away, OPEC sources said, suggesting any additional action to boost prices is remote.

The freeze plan - to be discussed by OPEC and non-members such as Russia on Sunday in Doha - has helped oil prices to rise over 60 percent from a 12-year low near \$27 a barrel in January, despite doubts whether it is enough to tackle a supply glut.

While a cut would go further, OPEC delegates say doubts over compliance with the output freeze and the uncertainties over Libyan and Iranian supply means that any discussion of a cut would be unlikely before late 2016 or next year. "It is difficult to talk about a cut," said a delegate from a major OPEC producer, adding any such discussions would be months away if they occurred at all.

"Maybe when the Iranians arrive at their previous production level of 3.6 million barrels a day or 3.7 million bpd, and then OPEC will talk about a cut. Not before that."

A second delegate from another major producer in the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries gave a similar timeframe, dismissing the prospect that OPEC could trim supply at its next scheduled

meeting in June. "There will be no cut in June. Maybe later in the year or next year. It depends on the market rebalancing." Libya, pumping a fraction of its potential due to fighting in the country, has said it does not plan to attend Sunday's meeting.

Iran, pumping about 3.30 million bpd, has refused to join the output freeze as it wants to recover market share following the lifting of Western sanctions in January. Russian oil minister Alexander Novak told a closed-door briefing this week that the oil output freeze will be loosely-framed with few detailed commitments, two people present at the briefing told Reuters.

#### BARELY AGREE

Oil officials are not seriously talking about any steps beyond the output freeze, according to another OPEC source. "Talk of a cut is far behind the scenes now. They can barely agree on the freeze," he said. Nonetheless, the common wish of all sides to avoid a renewed drop in prices puts pressure on all sides to get the freeze deal agreed, OPEC sources said.

Countries are discussing a number of reference points at which to freeze output - January levels, February levels or an average - and have floated the idea of setting up a

committee to monitor compliance. "The Saudis don't want the deal to fail because of the political pressure on them to act," an OPEC watcher who asked not to be named said. "And in general, no one wants to see prices sinking to \$30 and below again."

A production freeze, at least in theory, will set down a baseline which could form a starting point for any future supply agreements - potentially making such agreements easier. But delegates say it is still early days. OPEC ditched individual output quotas in late 2011 when it set an overall output target for all members. The overall target was also scrapped by OPEC last December.

"If OPEC and non-OPEC agree on something and implement it, surely it could help oil market stability," said a third OPEC delegate. "However, this is a big if." Meanwhile, oil steadied at around \$44 per barrel yesterday after the International Energy Agency (IEA) trimmed its forecast for demand growth but said a fall in oil output in the United States was speeding up.

Brent crude futures were up 12 cents from their last close at \$44.30 a barrel by 1138 GMT. U.S. crude was up 4 cents at \$41.80 a barrel. The IEA trimmed its estimates for 2016 global demand growth from last month to 1.16 million barrels per day, but said a much-

anticipated slide in production of light, tight oil in the United States was gathering pace.

The market was choppy ahead of a keenly anticipated producers' meeting on Sunday in Doha of the world's biggest oil exporters, including Saudi Arabia and Russia. They are set to finalise a deal reached in February to freeze oil output at January levels, aiming to bolster oil prices. But many analysts think there is scope for disappointment after the meeting.

"There is hope going into the talks that supply will be frozen, and there will be lots of volatility in the next two days, but there is potential for disappointment," said Frank Klumpp, analyst at LBBW in Stuttgart. Russian oil minister Alexander Novak told a closed-door briefing of energy analysts in Moscow on Wednesday that the deal would be loosely framed with few detailed commitments.

"The agreement will not be very rigidly formulated, it is more of a gentlemen's agreement," one of those present said, paraphrasing Novak's words at the briefing. "There is no plan to sign binding documents," another person at the briefing said. This suggests producers are unlikely to formally agree to rein in production, which now stands at about 2 million barrels per day (bpd) in excess of demand. — Reuters



## EUROZONE INFLATION RATE REVISED UP TO ZERO

**LONDON:** The latest bout of falling prices across the 19-country eurozone has ended after just a single month. Revised figures yesterday from the European Union's statistics agency showed that inflation was flat in the year to March. That's up from the initial estimate of a 0.1 percent fall and February's 0.2 percent annual drop.

The biggest price increases came from restaurants and cafes while cheaper fuel was the biggest drag on inflation.

The earlier Easter in much of the eurozone may have helped the uptick, particularly in Germany, which saw inflation in March rise to 0.1 percent from minus 0.2 percent in February.

The upward revision is likely to provide some modest cheer to policymakers at the European Central Bank, who have backed a series of stimulus measures, such as cutting interest rates and expanding a government bond-buying plan, primarily to get inflation back to the target of just below 2 percent. But Alasdair Cavalla, senior economist at the Centre for Economics and Business Research, cautioned against too much optimism.

"It is important to remember the level of inflation," said Cavalla. "Zero is not indicative of a healthy economy." The ECB has been worried that too-low or negative inflation could turn into deflation, a long-

term drop in prices that would weigh on the already-fragile eurozone economy. Despite the flat rate for the eurozone as a whole, ten of the bloc's countries are reporting falling prices.

A consistent drop in prices can choke the life out of an economy by enticing consumers to delay big purchases beyond everyday needs such as food and energy in the knowledge that they will cost less down the line.

And faced with lower prices, businesses also make less profit and start looking to reduce costs. That means job losses, wage cuts and a growing reluctance to invest and innovate. That hurts the econ-

omy further, potentially creating a downward spiral in which businesses have to cut costs further.

One of the drags on inflation over the past year has been the fall in oil prices, which hit 13-year lows in February. Since then, oil prices have recovered by about a third higher, which should help push up inflation. The ECB hopes that rising wages and expectations of higher prices will also start to push up inflation, though that may take some time. The core rate, which strips out energy and the other volatile items like food, alcohol, and tobacco, picked up to 1 percent in the year to March from 0.8 percent the previous month. - AP



**SINGAPORE:** A general view shows the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) building in Singapore yesterday. — AFP

## SINGAPORE EASES MONETARY POLICY AS GROWTH STALLS

**SINGAPORE:** Singapore announced a shock loosening of monetary policy yesterday to kickstart the stuttering economy, as it forecast a slower growth outlook this year and analysts warned of a possible recession.

The city-state's central bank joined several others around the world in announcing easing measures as they battle sluggish global demand—particularly from key market China—and a weak outlook. The Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) said it was shifting to a neutral policy of allowing for a "zero percent" appreciation of the local dollar. Previously, it allowed for a "modest and gradual" rise of the local unit.

Singapore uses currency policy rather than interest rates as a tool to tweak the island's economy. It manages the dollar against an undisclosed basket of currencies of its major trading partners and competitors. The MAS said in a statement: "The Singapore economy is projected to expand at a more modest pace in 2016 than envisaged in the October policy review." The MAS last shifted its currency policy to zero in October 2008, when the economy was in recession as the world was ravaged by the global financial crisis. It twice lowered the level of appreciation last year, in January and October.

"This is not a policy to depreciate the domestic currency and only removes the modest and gradual appreciation path of (exchange rate) policy band that was in place," it said.

However, the announcement sent the local currency tumbling 0.9 percent against the US dollar, dragging other regional units along with it on fears it will lead to similar moves in regional emerging economies protect their exports.

The local currency is now at its weakest level since March 29. It had gained 7.40 percent over the past three months on expectations US interest rates would not rise until June at the earliest. A weaker currency makes Singapore's exports more competitive. Yesterday's announcement came as the government released data showing economic growth was flat quarter-on-quarter in January-March, which was sharply down from the 6.2 percent seen in the previous three months.

The government has said it expects the economy to expand 1.0-3.0 percent this year, but private sector economists have forecast it to come it at the lower end of the range. The economy grew 2.0 percent in 2015. —AFP

## HOW SAUDI ARABIA PLANS TO SHAKE UP ITS ECONOMY

GOVT-LED SHAKE-UP TO GO FURTHEST IN KINGDOM'S HISTORY

**RIYADH/DUBAI:** In late February, several hundred Saudi officials, company executives and foreign consultants gathered in a luxury Riyadh hotel to discuss how Saudi Arabia's economy could survive an era of cheap oil.

One company manager at the event told Reuters that officials from about 30 Saudi government bodies manned booths in which they described their challenges. Corporate bosses were encouraged to "figure out ways to do partnerships to address those needs, to offer feedback, to complain, and to plan future ventures or even just future meetings," the manager said. "It was like a private sector version of a national parliament."

The workshop was part of Saudi government attempts to work out how to restructure the economy so it no longer relies on oil. The National Transformation Plan (NTP), as Riyadh has dubbed the changes, is expected to be unveiled in the next few weeks. Much is still secret. Ministries have refused to discuss plans in detail and Western consultancies contacted by Reuters declined to confirm their involvement, let alone policy details.

Officials, consultants and executives, though, say the five-year program is both ambitious and risky. It includes asset sales, tax increases, spending cuts, changes to the way the state manages its financial reserves, an efficiency drive, and a much bigger role for the private sector.

Such changes have been talked about for years but never put into action. One reason to think this time could be different is that policy-making has in the past year shifted away from conservative bodies such as the finance ministry and central bank. Power is now concentrated in a new 22-member Council of Economic and Development Affairs, formed after King Salman took the throne in January 2015.

The Council is chaired by his son, Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who is about 30. In his role as defence minister, Prince Mohammed launched Saudi Arabia's military intervention in Yemen in March 2015. Now, he wants to shake up economic policy.

"Since the foundation of the kingdom there has been no government-led program that innovates in this way," said Mohamed al-Affif, a veteran banker who

now runs Cash Solutions, a boutique financial services firm.

### CONSULTANTS AND WHATSAPP

People familiar with the NTP said it was born late last year in discussions between Prince Mohammed and a few other top officials. At the time, oil was sinking below \$30 a barrel, about half the low point that had been expected. That saddled the kingdom with an annual budget deficit near \$100 billion and strengthened the case for radical changes.

While Prince Mohammed is the ultimate decider, he has chosen Economy and Planning Minister Adel Al-Fakieh, a former food industry executive and mayor of Jeddah, to help with the detail. As labor minister between 2010 and 2015, Fakieh overcame opposition from business to policies that pushed companies to hire more Saudis. People involved in the NTP say Fakieh, 57, uses WhatsApp on his mobile phone obsessively, conducting chats with dozens of groups until the small hours.

Riyadh is spending tens of millions of dollars on foreign consultants for the NTP. London-based Source Global Research estimated in March that total Saudi spending on consultancies - mostly by the government or state-linked bodies - grew over 10 percent in 2015, from \$1.06 billion in 2014. Consultants and ministry officials, many of them young Saudis with Western degrees, work at the Khozama office building in Riyadh, thrashing out policy in as many as 40 groups known as "delivery labs". The plans are heavy on jargon-labelled targets requiring ministries to hit rigid budget and reform goals, according to documents seen by Reuters.

### MODELS

One model is neighbouring United Arab Emirates, which began radical reforms by cutting gasoline subsidies last year, people familiar with the Saudi plan said. Another model is Malaysia, which in 2010 moved to diversify beyond commodity exports and attract more foreign investment. Consultancy McKinsey & Co played a major role in the Malaysian plan and is now at the centre of the Saudi effort.

The NTP echoes Malaysia's program in

three ways. It puts a single body in charge of implementation to force better cooperation between ministries. It seeks feedback from the private sector early, even during planning. And it aims to boost the private sector's share of investment, something Saudi planners consider vital as oil revenues sag.

Riyadh wants private firms to develop tourism facilities on some of its islands, plans to create "free zones" with minimal red tape near airports, and even wants private investment in some schools.

New infrastructure such as roads and port facilities will be constructed under build-operate-transfer contracts, in which private firms finance the projects and then operate them to recoup their investments. "The government will take no risk anymore, it will only provide opportunities," said a Saudi economist who attended a recent workshop.

The NTP will also speed up Saudi Arabia's long-running but slow-paced privatization program. Up to 5 percent of national oil giant Saudi Aramco will be sold to the public, Prince Mohammed says, possibly raising tens of billions of dollars. Also on the block: chunks of other companies in up to 18 sectors, including health-care, mining and transport.

Management of the country's financial reserves will become more aggressive, according to officials and consultants. The central bank, which acts as the kingdom's sovereign wealth fund, holds \$584 billion of foreign assets, mostly in conservative investments such as bank deposits and US Treasuries. In the future, privatization proceeds will be invested in corporate assets around the world, generating income and obtaining access to technology and expertise.

Saudi officials have been visiting the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority - which has over \$700 billion invested in developed and emerging market equities, fixed income, private equity, real estate and infrastructure - to see how it works, sources said.

Prince Mohammed told Bloomberg last month that one fund, the Public Investment Fund (PIF), would be expanded to control over \$2 trillion eventually. The fund is now believed to have about \$100 billion of assets. —Reuters



## WEALTHIER CHINESE INVESTORS BUYING PRIVATE JETS AS HEDGE

**SHANGHAI:** Some of China's wealthier investors are buying private jets to secure a mobile, dollar-denominated hedge against volatile financial markets and a declining yuan currency, an industry analyst said, although the overall aircraft market is struggling.

China's benchmark Shanghai stock index surged 150 percent in the 12 months to June before crashing, while the yuan, or renminbi (RMB), has depreciated since July, leading to a flight of capital from the country. The state of financial markets has seen investors "cashing out, monetising that stock increase if you will and pouring it into an aircraft purchase", Asian Sky Group managing director Jeff Lowe said on the sidelines of China's premier business jet show, which ended yesterday.

"It allowed them the opportunity likewise to get out of RMB and get into US dollars. It's a moveable asset," he said. China's slowing economy and corruption crackdown have clipped the wings of its once-soaring market for business jets, as yet another sector feels the pain of weaker growth in the Asian giant.

The number of business jets in mainland China grew just 3.8 percent to 300 planes in 2015, far weaker than the 16 percent annual growth in 2014, according to Asian Sky, an aviation services provider which releases an annual fleet report.

It estimates that Chinese operators took delivery of 17 new business jets and 13 pre-owned ones last year, but at the same time 19 planes left the country-implying a net gain of 11. "It's not shrinking, but it's growing at a pace which is less faster than before," Chadi Saade, vice president commercial for Airbus Corporate Jets, said at the show. China's economy—the world's second largest—expanded 6.9 percent last year, the weakest in a quarter of a century. Since President Xi Jinping took the helm three years ago, the government has doggedly pursued a campaign against graft and enforced an austerity program, which has hurt the overall climate for business jets. "China is still under the scenario that we know of, the austerity measures," said Fernando Grau, director of marketing and product strategy for executive jets of Embraer China. But there are other longstanding issues holding up development of the Chinese market, including lack of infrastructure and strict controls on air space, much of which is under the authority of the military.

"There is no extensive general aviation network in China," he said. "That's the reason holding off the deployment of more business jets in China, the lack of take-off and parking slots." Despite the slowdown, manufacturers said they are still seeing activity and hope for a pick-up in the years to come. "The Chinese market though it is somewhat quiet, many aircraft have left the country and few aircraft entered... we are still optimistic," said Jean-Michel Jacob, president of Dassault Aviation Falcon in Asia-Pacific. — AFP

## CHINA LOWERS YUAN RATE BY MOST IN THREE MONTHS

**SHANGHAI:** China's central bank cut its currency exchange rate against the dollar by the largest amount in three months yesterday as the greenback strengthened on improved Chinese trade data.

The People's Bank of China (PBoC) set the yuan at 6.4891 to \$1.0, down 0.46 percent from Wednesday's fix, according to the China Foreign Exchange Trade System, the biggest one-day drop since January. Authorities only allow the yuan to rise or fall two percent on either side of the daily fix, to prevent volatility and maintain control over the currency.

A lower yuan should make Chinese goods cheaper on world markets and repeated cuts in the rate last August and again in January raised fears Beijing was seeking to devalue the unit to give its exporters a competitive advantage. Officials have repeatedly said they have no intention of doing so. The dollar rose after China released data Wednesday showing exports surged more than expected in March, the latest results suggesting a growth slowdown in the world's number two economy could be easing.

Tommy Xie, a Singapore-based economist at Oversea-Chinese Banking, told Bloomberg News the lower fixing was "a reflection of the overnight dollar recovery", but added that the drop was not as big as expected and expected further weakening. — AFP



**SHANGHAI:** Business jets stopped at exhibition area ahead of the 2016 Asian Business Aviation Conference and Exhibition (ABACE 2016) at Shanghai Hongqiao Airport in Shanghai. — AFP

## PUTIN SEEKS TO CHARM, SAYS ECONOMY IS ON THE MEND

### RUSSIANS SEND 1 MILLION QUESTIONS TO PRESIDENT

**MOSCOW:** Mixing wry jokes with economic statistics, Russian President Vladimir Putin sought to charm the nation during his annual marathon call-in TV show yesterday, promising that its troubled economy will rebound and vowing to make other countries reckon with Russia's interests.

Putin answered questions from adults and children from around the country during the highly scripted event, which he uses to burnish his image as a strong leader who protects Russia from foreign threats and cares about ordinary people's needs. Ahead of the show, Russians sent more than 1 million questions to Putin, ranging from economic troubles at home to the situation in Syria.

Asked about Russia's strained ties with Turkey, Ukraine and some other nations, Putin said Russia is ready for friendly ties with all nations but will retaliate to any hostile moves. "We must respond, or otherwise they will sit on our neck and whip us up," Putin said. He said the United States must learn to respect Russia's legitimate interests and cooperate with Moscow as an equal.

"If they talk to us in a respectful way, we will always be able to find solutions that will satisfy everyone," he said. "They must simply work with Russia as an equal partner." Putin told viewers that Russia has shored up the Syrian army to the point where it can conduct offensive operations despite a Russian military drawdown, pointing to the Syrian forces' success in recapturing Palmyra from the Islamic State group.

Putin also voiced hope that the truce brokered by Russia and the US will help the Syria peace talks in Geneva go forward, paving way for a new constitution and an early election. The IS and the al-Qaida-linked Nusra Front have been excluded from the truce.



**MOSCOW:** Russian President Vladimir Putin gestures while answering a question during his annual televised call-in show in central Moscow yesterday. — AFP

Despite the current strain in relations with Turkey, Putin said Russia considers it a friendly nation but has "problems with some politicians who have behaved improperly." When a 12-year-old girl

asked him if he would save Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko if they were drowning and which one would he save first, Putin responded wryly that "if someone decides to drown, it's impossible to save him."

But he added that "we, of course, are ready to extend the hand of assistance and the hand of friendship to any of our partners if they themselves want this." Russia-Turkey ties worsened dramatically after a Turkish jet shot down a Russian warplane at the Syrian border last November. Putin responded by halting the sale of package tours to Turkey and banning most agricultural imports from Turkey. Putin acknowledged that Russia's economy remains in recession, but predicted yesterday it would begin growing again next year, noting that agriculture production was rising. — AP

## AUSTRALIA TO GRANT 10-YEAR VISAS FOR CHINESE

**SHANGHAI:** Australia is granting 10-year visas to some Chinese nationals, Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said yesterday, seeking to boost visits to a country that already attracted more than one million tourists from China last year.

To increase visits by Chinese citizens to Australia the government will for the first time offer visa applications in Chinese and allow online applications, he said as he kicked off a visit to China focused on economic ties.

"We're also trialling 10-year validity visas, again for the first time, here in China," Turnbull said in the commercial

hub of Shanghai, without specifying what class of traveller was involved.

There was no indication whether the concession was reciprocal. Australia is one of the few developed economies to run a trade surplus with China, thanks to purveying of raw materials such as iron ore on a gigantic scale, but it is seeking to diversify its resources-weighted economy in the face of falling commodities prices. The country valued its bilateral trade with China at Aus\$150 billion (\$115 billion) last year, and the two nations in December put into effect a free trade agreement, which opens markets further. — AFP





**NEW DELHI:** Managing director Nissan Motors India Pvt Ltd, Arun Malhotra gestures as he speaks near the newly launched Datsun 'redi-Go' car at a function in New Delhi yesterday.



**NEW DELHI:** Corporation Christian Mardrus gestures as he speaks near the newly launched Datsun 'redi-Go' car at a function in New Delhi yesterday. — AFP

## US INFLATION IN FOCUS AS STOCK MARKETS TAKE A BREATH

**LONDON:** European shares were steady yesterday despite a second day of strong gains in Asia, where investors were encouraged by an uptick in China's trade and Singapore's surprise easing of monetary policy. US inflation figures and another batch of earnings reports will likely dominate trading through the rest of the day.

**KEEPING SCORE:** In Europe, Germany's DAX was up 0.1 percent at 10,034 while the CAC-40 in France fell 0.1 percent to 4,488. The FTSE 100 index of leading British shares was steady at 6,362. US stocks were poised for a flat opening too, with Dow futures and the broader S&P 500 futures down 0.1 percent.

**INFLATION:** Traders are keenly awaiting U.S. inflation figures for March after equivalent figures for the 19-country showed an upward revision to zero from minus 0.1 percent. The expectation is that headline US inflation in the year to March edged higher to 1.2 percent, but that the core rate, the Fed's preferred measure, was unchanged at 2.3 percent and above the 2 percent target. Weekly jobless claims and a run of speeches from Fed officials will also be monitored but inflation appears to be the main point of interest.

**ANALYST TAKE:** "Another month of inflation picking up would surely support the argument for another rate hike before the end of the year, which the market is currently pricing in," said Craig Erlam, senior market analyst at OANDA.

**US EARNINGS:** The quarterly corporate earnings result season is off to a mixed start, with aluminum company Alcoa disappointing but JP Morgan Chase & Co. doing better than expected. On Thursday, there are a raft of financial companies reporting, including Bank of America, BlackRock and Wells Fargo Bank. "It will be interesting to see whether the others can follow in the footsteps of JP Morgan and exceed expectations, with the bar having been set quite low in the lead up to the results," said OANDA's Erlam.

**SINGAPORE:** Highly trade-dependent Singapore implemented a "zero percent appreciation" policy for its currency after economic growth was flat in the first quarter of the year. The step toward monetary easing suspended a policy of allowing the Singapore dollar to gradually appreciate. The hope is that the new policy will help shore up exports.

**ASIA'S DAY:** Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 closed 3.2 percent higher at 16,911.05, as the yen slightly weakened against the dollar. Hong Kong's Hang Seng gained 0.9 percent to 21,337.81 while the Shanghai Composite index was up 0.5 percent at 3,082.36. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 rose 1.2 percent to 5,117.70. South Korea's KOSPI climbed 1.8 percent to 2,015.93. Markets in Thailand and India were closed for holidays.

**ENERGY:** Benchmark US crude oil was flat at \$41.75 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange while Brent crude, the international standard, rose 9 cents to \$44.27. — AP

# DOMESTIC DEMAND DRIVING GERMAN GROWTH IN 2016-17

## CHEAP OIL FUELS MODERATE RECOVERY: INSTITUTES

**BERLIN:** Germany's leading economic institutes trimmed their growth forecast for the current year yesterday, but insisted Europe's biggest economy is enjoying a moderate recovery, fuelled by cheap oil and robust consumer spending.

The institutes—the DIW in Berlin, IWH in Halle, Ifo in Munich and RWI in Essen—predicted that gross domestic product (GDP) would expand by 1.6 percent this year and then by 1.5 percent in 2017, after growth of 1.7 percent in 2015. The 2016 forecast is slightly lower than the 1.8 percent the institutes had foreseen in the last few months of last year. The German government is currently pencilling in growth of 1.7 percent for this year.

"The German economy is in a moderate upturn. Against the background of rising employment, noticeable wage rises and increased purchasing power as a result of falling energy prices, the recovery is being driven by private consumption," they wrote. Growth momentum is also coming from spending related to taking in and housing a huge influx of refugees, the institutes continued. "In addition, domestic demand is benefitting from low interest rates. But few stimulative effects are being seen from the global economy," they added.

The additional spending on refugees, however, will erode the government's budget surplus, the think tanks said. Around 10 billion euros (\$11 billion) have been earmarked in next year's budget to cover the costs of taking in and housing more than one million new arrivals in Germany who have fled war and persecution in their home countries.

"Refugee-related spending is on the rise and fiscal policy is also slightly expansive. But a tangible increase in income tax revenues, in sales tax and social contributions, as well as falling interest payments, means the budget surplus could still amount to 11 billion euros this year and 10 billion euros next year," they calculated.

### ECB in spotlight

The institutes said that low interest rates were particularly boosting demand for real estate in Germany, but they saw no risk of a property bubble. Some observers have suggested that the European Central Bank's



**BERLIN:** Economists of Germany's leading economic research institutes (L-R) Heiner Mikosch, Oliver Holtemoeller, Timo Wollmershaeuser, Roland Doehrn and Ferdinand Fichtner present their spring report yesterday in Berlin. — AFP

easy money policies aimed at kick-starting inflation in the single currency area are helping to fuel real estate speculation.

The ECB has increasingly come under fire in Europe's biggest economy recently, and even Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaeuble has suggested that its loose monetary policies have aided the rise of right-wing populism. But at a news conference in Berlin, Ifo economist Timo Wollmershaeuser said the ECB's current policy stance was "appropriate" given the

very low rate of inflation. His colleague at IWH, Oliver Hoeltemoeller, agreed, but conceded that there were "also risks" for financial stability and the implementation of structural reforms. The huge number of refugees could put some pressure on the labour market and push the jobless rate up to 6.4 percent in 2016 from an anticipated 6.2 percent in 2016 and 6.4 percent in 2015, the institutes calculated. But at these levels, joblessness is still at its lowest level since unification in 1990. — AFP

## JAPAN QUALIFIES CHRYSLER JEEP CHEROKEE FOR GREEN TAX BREAK

**TOKYO:** Chrysler's Jeep has been declared green by the Japanese government, becoming the first gasoline-engine American-made US-brand vehicle to qualify for this nation's green-car tax incentive.

The US automaker said the 2016 Jeep Cherokee Trailhawk meets the emissions and fuel-efficiency standards that allow buyers to take a tax break of about 58,000 yen (\$530) off the price tag. The vehicle sells for about 5.1 million yen (\$47,000) in Japan, although the cost depends on the model grade and other options. American cars, with their long-time reputation as gas-guzzlers, have struggled to woo buyers in Japan, the

home of Toyota Motor Corp, the world's No 1 automaker, as well as Honda Motor Co and Nissan Motor Co.

The Japanese makers boast a reputation for producing gas-sipping models, like hybrids and subcompacts. The news about the Cherokee marks a bit of a milestone not only for the Jeep brand but also for US autos. Chrysler Japan spokesman Akira Suzuki says 7,510 Jeep vehicles - 726 of them Cherokee models - were sold in Japan last year. The Jeep Cherokee was listed among the 10 best cars in the 2014-2015 Japan Car of the Year Award, the first time an American vehicle made it to that list, generally dominated by the Japanese. —AP



## COURT SIDES WITH ARGENTINA, SPEEDING BOND SETTLEMENTS

**NEW YORK:** A federal appeals court cleared the way Wednesday for Argentina to settle its debts and strengthen its ability to maneuver in worldwide markets.

The 2nd US Circuit Court of Appeals turned away creditors who wanted to keep in place court-ordered protections, though Circuit Judge Christopher Droney said a lower-court judge should take steps to determine whether Argentina has met conditions he required be fulfilled before court orders against the republic are permanently lifted. The conditions include completing settlement payments.

A three-judge panel announced its deci-

sion after hearing oral arguments for more than an hour. It found a judge was within his rights to conclude that circumstances surrounding the decadelong court battle changed dramatically when Argentina's new president, Mauricio Macri, decided to let the nation negotiate deals with bondholders after he took office Dec. 10.

Since January, Argentina has reached agreements to pay more than \$8 billion to creditors, mainly US hedge funds. Argentine Economy Minister Alfonso Prat-Gay, who is in New York ahead of Argentina's first international bond sale in more than a decade, said, "This is a step toward achieving nor-

mality and the kind of development that Argentina deserves."

His country is expected to sell up to \$15 billion in bonds, and he said the holdout funds will be paid on April 22. The creditors went to court in New York after Argentina in 2001 defaulted on \$100 billion in bonds. Argentina invited all its bondholders to swap their bonds at steep discounts for new bonds in 2005 and 2010.

US District Judge Thomas Griesa had issued orders banning Argentina from paying interest through US banks to 93 percent of its bondholders, who agreed to exchange their bonds for new bonds worth

25 percent to 29 percent of their original value. His orders protected a variety of investors, including some who bought their bonds at pennies on the dollar and made a steep profit with settlements that paid 70 percent to 80 percent of the original value.

Those who urged the appeals court Wednesday to leave court orders protecting them in place included investors who paid full price for their bonds in the 1990s and who were hoping to do better than the 70 percent payout offered to those who did not get a chance to negotiate directly with Argentina through a court-appointed mediator. — AP



WASHINGTON: World Bank President Jim Yong Kim speaks at a press conference during the 2016 International Monetary Fund, World Bank Spring Meetings at IMF headquarters yesterday. — AFP

## DARK ECONOMIC CLOUD OVER IMF-WORLD BANK MEETING

### RISING REQUESTS FOR AID AS BREXIT FEARS GROW

**WASHINGTON:** Worries that the global economy is nearing a stall made worse by the specter of "Brexit" cloud the air as the world's finance chiefs gather in Washington beginning for the IMF-World Bank Spring meetings. Finance ministers and central bankers will be greeted with dire warnings that if they do not take immediate action to boost growth and consumption, the world risks slowing to the point that recession is possible.

The IMF opened the week by cutting its forecast for world economic growth for the third time in six months, saying growth has been "too slow for too long." It said intensifying financial and political risks around the world, from volatile financial markets to the Syria conflict to global warming, had left the economy "increasingly fragile."

#### Rising requests for aid

And it said it was concerned over rising nationalism and "fraying" unity in the European Union under pressure from the migration crisis and the possibility Britain might pull out of the European Union-Brexit. Britain votes on whether to remain in the 28-nation EU on June 23. The Fund lowered its growth forecast for 2016 to 3.2 percent, compared to the 3.8 percent it expected a year ago. "Lower growth means

less room for error," IMF chief economist Maurice Obstfeld said.

"The weaker is growth, the greater the chance that the preceding risks, if some materialize, pull the world economy below stalling speed." The meetings open amid a rise in countries seeking aid from the IMF and the World Bank. Last week Angola, its finances battered by the plunge in oil prices, requested a three-year bailout program from the Fund.

And the World Bank said Monday that its lending to needy countries surged last year "to levels never seen outside a financial crisis." In meetings with the 189 country members of both institutions, and in parallel meetings of the G20 leading economies, the message will be that each country needs to try harder to reverse the downturn.

Those with stronger finances need to spend and invest, in infrastructure for example; others need to restructure and reform in ways that boost economic activity.

But also in the air is a need for a Plan B if growth and confidence further deteriorate, especially as doubts rise about the efficacy of the low and negative interest rates of leading central banks.

"Policymakers also need to make con-

tingency plans and design collective measures for a possible future in case downside risks materialize," the Fund said.

#### Looking for Plan B?

Going into the meetings however there were few signs of a collective effort likely to emerge. The Germans—who are pushed to do more spending—want to see more reforms by others. But, said one person closely familiar with German officials' thinking, structural reform "is like the Yeti: many people say they have seen it, but we really don't even know if it exists."

Meanwhile the United States, the world's largest and, among developed countries, the healthiest economy, wants to see others doing the heavy lifting. "The United States cannot and must not be the only engine of growth," a senior treasury official said this week.

Underpinning the talk of policy and macroeconomics, however, is the issue of confidence among people around the world not seeing conditions for themselves improve after years. With unemployment already high in many regions like Europe and rising in emerging and poorer countries, he added, "We definitely face the risk of going into doldrums that could be politically perilous." — AFP

## BOE WARNS AGAIN ON BREXIT, HOLDS RATES

**LONDON:** The Bank of England warned again yesterday over the impact of Britain's possible exit from the European Union, as it voted once more to freeze interest rates. The British central bank's nine-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) decided unanimously to keep borrowing costs at a record-low 0.50 percent, it said in a statement following its April gathering.

Britons are set to vote in a crucial referendum on June 23 to decide whether to back a so-called Brexit-or exit from the EU. The economy may face "an extended period of uncertainty", as the BoE considers the "likely implication for monetary policy" if Britain left the European Union, read the minutes from the April gathering.

The MPC added that there was evidence to suggest that uncertainty surrounding the EU referendum decision was already hampering activity. "There are some signs that uncertainty relating to the EU referendum has begun to weigh on certain areas of activity, as some decisions, including in capital expenditure and commercial property transactions, are being postponed pending the outcome of the vote," it cautioned.

"This might lead to some softening in growth during the first half of 2016." The MPC also voted unanimously to maintain the amount of cash stimulus, or quantitative easing (QE), pumping around the economy at £375 billion (\$540 billion, 478 billion euros). The BoE had already warned last month that the referendum uncertainty could send the pound slumping further and boost financing costs.

Governor Mark Carney also declared that Britain's potential departure from the EU represented the "biggest domestic risk" to the nation's financial stability.

#### Hays warning

Meanwhile, UK-based international recruitment company Hays Plc expects to be able to start making special dividend payouts from next year, as strong growth across Europe drove it to its 12th consecutive quarter of year-on-year growth in fees. The company also said it expected market forecasts for operating profits for the year ending in June to move up from the current consensus of 177 million pounds after reporting a like-for-like 4 percent rise in net fees in the last three months.

Hays shares were up 9 percent at 135.1 pence by 1020 GMT, making the stock the biggest gainer in the Stoxx Europe 600 index. "We had 20 countries growing by more than 10 percent and I'd expect in the next quarter we'd have a similar 20 or so countries growing by 10 percent and that's the benefit of a diversified group," Finance Director Paul Venables told Reuters.

He forecast good growth in current fourth quarter, in European markets such as Germany and France as well as the United States. UBS raised its operating profit forecast to 179 million pounds from 175 million for the year ending June 30, factoring in smaller than previously expected impact from the movements in the euro and the Australian dollar against the pound. Hays, which places workers in areas such as finance, construction and IT, posted a comparable profit of about 164 million pounds in the last financial year.

The expectations of another strong year puts Hays on a path to start distributing surplus cash via special payouts. Venables said Hays was likely to be able to start paying special dividends from next year, adding that analysts' expectations of yearly payouts of about 100 million pounds were "definitely possible".

Dividends paid on results for the year ended June 2015 totalled 37.9 million pounds. — Agencies



# LEE'S LATE HOMER LIFTS SEATTLE

**SEATTLE:** South Korea's Dae-Ho Lee hit a two-run, pinch-hit homer with two outs in the 10th inning, lifting Seattle over Texas 4-2 for its first win of the year at Safeco Field on Wednesday night. The right-handed hitting Lee, who spent the last four years in Japan after 11 seasons in his home country, came on to bat for Adam Lind against left-hander Jake Diekmann (0-1). Lee launched an 0-2 pitch deep over the left-field wall for his second homer. Steve Cishek (1-1) pitched two innings.

## ROYALS 4, ASTROS 2

Salvador Perez tagged Houston reliever Ken Giles for a tiebreaking two-run homer in the eighth inning, lifting the Kansas City Royals over the Houston Astros. The World Series champion Royals have taken two of the three from the team they beat in the decisive Game 5 of the AL Division Series last October. This four-game set wraps up Thursday. Giles (0-1) retired the first two batters in the eighth before walking Alex Gordon on a full count. Perez followed with a drive off the facade above the Crawford Boxes in left field. Giles has given up three home runs in four games, and flung his glove in the dugout after this latest shot. He was acquired from Philadelphia in the offseason after giving up a total of three homers in 113 games over the past two years. Jose Altuve had three hits for Houston, including a solo home run. Luke Hochevar (1-0) got the win and Joakim Soria pitched the ninth for his first save.

## RED SOX 4, ORIOLES 2

Baltimore finally lost after opening the season with a team-record seven straight wins, beaten by the bats of Xander Bogaerts, Jackie Bradley Jr and Boston. The Orioles were the last undefeated team in the majors, ending their longest winning streak to start a season since moving to Baltimore in 1954. The franchise opened 9-0 in 1944 as the St. Louis Browns. The Red Sox snapped a three-game losing streak. Bogaerts hit a two-run double and Bradley had a tiebreaking triple. Chris Davis hit a two-run homer for the Orioles. Joe Kelly (1-0) labored through five innings, giving up two runs on seven hits with five walks and six strikeouts. Craig Kimbrel, the fifth Boston reliever, struck out all three batters he faced for his second save. He took the loss in the first game of the series, giving up a three-run homer to Davis. Ubaldo Jimenez (1-1) gave up four runs on six hits and four walks in five innings.

## CUBS 9, REDS 2

John Lackey pitched into the seventh inning and Kris Bryant hit his first homer of the season as Chicago matched the best eight-game start in franchise history with victory over Cincinnati. Miguel Montero had two of Chicago's 10 walks and scored three times as the Cubs improved to 7-1 for the first time since 1985 and just the 11th time overall. Jason Heyward drove in two runs with a two-out single in the third and robbed Scott Schebler of a hit with a diving grab in right-center in the fourth. Lackey (2-0) allowed two runs and six hits in 6 2/3 innings. He struck out seven and walked three, rebounding nicely from a shaky start at Arizona last Thursday. Lackey also contributed at the plate, chasing Alfredo Simon (0-1) with a two-out RBI single in Chicago's five-run first.

## DODGERS 3, DIAMONDBACKS 1

Adrian Gonzalez hit his first home run of the season and Alex Wood pitched into the eighth inning, leading Los Angeles to a victory over Arizona. Wood (1-1) allowed a run and five hits in seven-plus, struck out three and walked three in his 100th major league appearance and 69th start. The left-hander gave up only one hit after



**LOS ANGELES:** Arizona Diamondbacks catcher Wellington Castillo is unable to make a catch on an infield fly hit by Los Angeles Dodgers' Yasmani Grandal during the eighth inning of a baseball game in Los Angeles on Wednesday, April 13, 2016. Grandal reached on the error. — AP

Brandon Drury's leadoff single in the fourth. Kenley Jansen followed struggling right-hander Pedro Baez out of the bullpen and got the final five outs for his third save in as many chances. Rubby De La Rosa (0-2) was charged with three runs - two earned - and five hits in 4 2/3 innings. The right-hander spent his first two big league seasons with the Dodgers and is 0-4 with a 9.67 ERA in five career starts against them.

## ROCKIES 10, GIANTS 6

Nolan Arenado homered twice, doubled and singled to drive in a career-high seven runs and rookie Trevor Story had two triples as Colorado tied a franchise record with 12 extra-base hits in beating San Francisco. The Rockies set a team record with four triples. Story had three of Colorado's 18 hits. Arenado was one RBI shy of the club mark done four times. He hit a two-run homer in the third inning and added a three-run shot in the eighth that broke open a one-run game. San Francisco starter Jake Peavy (0-1) allowed a franchise-high 10 of those extra-base hits. It is the most allowed by a pitcher since Curt Schilling gave up 10 for Boston on Aug. 10, 2006, against Kansas City. Chris Rusin (1-0) threw 2 1/3 innings to get the win.

## WHITE SOX 3, TWINS 0

Carlos Rodon worked his way out of trouble several times to complete six scoreless innings and Jerry Sands hit a two-run home run to help Chicago keep Minnesota winless. At 0-8, the Twins have been outscored 33-13 this season. The only other winless team in the majors is Atlanta, also 0-8. The Twins beat the Braves in that epic seven-game World Series in 1991 - some 25th anniversary this season is turning out to be for the two teams. Rodon (1-1) needed 107 pitches to make it as far as he did. He walked five, including the leadoff man twice, but the Twins left the bases loaded in the sixth

after filling them with one out. David Robertson pitched a perfect ninth inning for his fourth save in as many attempts. Phil Hughes (0-2) gave up the one-out homer to straightaway center field to Sands in the seventh.

## NATIONALS 3, BRAVES 0

Tanner Roark pitched seven innings and Stephen Drew and Jayson Werth hit fourth-inning home runs as Washington beat winless Atlanta for its fourth straight victory. Roark allowed four hits and three walks. Pitching on five days of rest, Roark (1-1) struck out four and left after 100 pitches. Jonathan Papelbon pitched the ninth for his fifth save. The Braves (0-8) are off to their worst start since opening the 1988 season with 10 losses. Washington got three runs and four hits in six innings against Atlanta starter Matt Wisler (0-1). The Braves were without outfielder Hector Olivera, who was placed on paid administrative leave by Major League Baseball after he was arrested and charged with assaulting a woman at a hotel outside Washington.

## INDIANS 4, RAYS 1

Carlos Carrasco pitched eight efficient innings and Jason Kipnis hit his first homer to help Cleveland past Tampa Bay. Carrasco (1-0) came within one strike of a no-hitter here last July and held Tampa Bay to just a single and a walk through the first seven innings in this one. He allowed a run on three hits in the eighth inning and finished with eight strikeouts and just 93 pitches. Drew Smyly (0-2) tied a career high with 11 strikeouts in seven innings for the Rays. The left-hander gave up three runs on three hits, all in the fourth inning. Cody Allen pitched the ninth for his second save.

## TIGERS 7, PIRATES 3

Jarrold Saltalamacchia hit a grand slam for

his 100th career home run and Shane Greene pitched six strong innings in his first start since undergoing shoulder surgery last August as Detroit beat Pittsburgh. Saltalamacchia connected off Arquimedes Caminero (0-2) with two outs in the sixth inning, hitting a drive into the right-field bleachers that enabled the Tigers to erase a 2-1 deficit. Greene (1-0) allowed two runs and three hits in six innings in his first start of the season, which was delayed after the Tigers were rained out Sunday night against the New York Yankees.

## BLUE JAYS 7, YANKEES 2

Jose Bautista had two hits and collected his 800th RBI and J.A. Happ worked six innings for his first victory of the season to help Toronto beat New York. Facing the Yankees for the first time since August 31, 2014, Happ (1-0) allowed one run and seven hits in six innings. He walked three and struck out four. Mark Teixeira hit a solo homer, his third, but New York failed to win its third straight. Making his second start of the season, Yankees right-hander Michael Pineda (1-1) allowed three runs, two earned, and five hits in six innings.

## METS 2, MARLINS 1

Kevin Plawecki grounded a tiebreaking, two-run single through a drawn-in infield in the seventh inning to help New York beat Miami and stop a four-game losing streak. Logan Verrett, starting in place of injured pitcher Jacob deGrom, allowed three hits in six shutout innings, and Hansel Robles and Jerry Blevins (1-0) combined to escape a bases-loaded, no-outs jam in the seventh. Miami's Adam Conley struck out a career-high nine in six scoreless innings, but Dustin McGowan (0-1) faltered in the bottom half. Wilmer Flores singled, took second on a wild pitch and third on Asdrubal Cabrera's single. McGowan retired Juan Lagares on a comebacker, but Plawecki singled just past the outstretched glove of shortstop Miguel Rojas for his first hit this season.

## ANGELS 5, ATHLETICS 1

Matt Shoemaker pitched one-hit ball for six innings and Los Angeles beat Oakland for its fourth straight win. Mike Trout had three hits and scored three runs as the Angels finished a three-game sweep. Marcus Semien hit his third home run in two days for the A's. Oakland fell to 1-6 at home. Shoemaker (1-1) gave a single in the second inning to Danny Valencia. He struck out five and walked three. Eric Surkamp (0-1) went 4-2/3 innings, giving up two runs on five hits.

## BREWERS 6, CARDINALS 4

Domingo Santana hit a go-ahead two-run homer in the ninth inning and Chase Anderson threw six innings without an earned run as Milwaukee beat St. Louis. Santana connected off closer Trevor Rosenthal (0-1) with two outs to break a 4-4 tie. Jeremy Jeffress pitched the ninth for his fourth save. St. Louis' Brandon Moss tied the game 4-4 with a lead-off, pinch-hit homer in the eighth off reliever Michael Blazek (1-0).

## PHILLIES 2, PADRES 1

Maikel Franco homered, doubled and drove in both runs and Jerad Eickhoff struck out nine in seven scoreless innings to lead Philadelphia over San Diego. Eickhoff (1-1) gave up four hits and walked none. He did it while displaying the power he showed at the end of last season when he fanned 10 in each of his final two starts. Franco connected off Colin Rea (0-1) in the first for his second homer of the season. He hit an RBI double in the third. — AP



# BACKES GETS OT WINNER, BLUES STUN BLACKHAWKS

## ZATKOFF SHINES AS PENGUINS BEAT RANGERS

**ST LOUIS:** St Louis goalie Brian Elliott earned his first career playoff shutout in a 1-0 overtime victory over the defending Stanley Cup champion Chicago Blackhawks on Wednesday night in the first game of the Western Conference quarterfinal series. He made 35 saves and didn't look at all like a player getting just his second playoff start in three years. "You just try to get your emotions in check and try not to get too revved up, calm yourself down a little bit when needed," Elliott said. "At this time of the year it's just about that next game. You're not looking at the past or the future."

In the opening games of the Eastern Conference quarterfinals series, Patric Hornqvist had his first playoff hat-trick as the Penguins beat New York 5-2, and Alex Killorn broke a third-period tie to lift Tampa Bay to a 3-2 win over the Detroit Red Wings. At St Louis, David Backes scored at 9:04 of overtime trying to go across the ice to Alexander Steen, and the pass deflected off a Chicago Blackhawks defenseman in front of the net. It was Backes' sixth career playoff goal and the first in overtime. "I said out there, that's an ugly goal and I specialize in those," the Blues' captain said. "Rightfully so. First shot of the game for me, too."

Backes' shot got past Corey Crawford after bouncing off Trevor Van Riemsdyk's skate. Defensemen Jay Bouwmeester and Alex Pietrangolo assisted on the winner. "I kind of felt it hit the inside of my pad and from there I was just hoping that it died," Crawford said. "It was a tough bounce, but we've got to feel good about how we played." Elliott led the NHL with a .930 save percentage and was up to the task against a lineup

led by scoring champion Patrick Kane and Jonathan Toews.

St Louis cruised into the postseason with the third-best record in the NHL, winning eight of its last 10 games. The Blues opened their previous series in 2014 against the Blackhawks with a pair of overtime victories, with Alexander Steen getting the winner in triple overtime in the opener. But Chicago won the last four, two in overtime. The Blackhawks were 4-1 in overtime last season in the playoffs, including a double-overtime win at Nashville in Game 1 of their opening series. "That's the type of goal that gets scored in overtime," Chicago defenseman Niklas Hjalmarsson said. "But they deserved it too, and we've got to find a way to score."

### PENGUINS 5 RANGERS 2

Patric Hornqvist had his first playoff hat trick as the Pittsburgh Penguins pulled away from the New York Rangers 5-2 in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference quarterfinals Wednesday night. Hornqvist added an assist, Sidney Crosby had a goal and two assists and backup goaltender Jeff Zatkoff excelled in his first postseason start, finishing with 35 saves. Tom Kuhnhackl also scored for Pittsburgh, which took advantage when New York goalie Henrik Lundqvist left with a facial injury after the first period. Lundqvist played just 20 minutes after taking a stick to the face from teammate Marc Staal. Antti Raanta was shaky in Lundqvist's place, stopping 16 of 19 shots. Derek Stepan scored twice for the Rangers, but New York never led as its quest to knock the Penguins out of the playoffs for a third straight year got off to an underwhelming start.



**ST LOUIS:** Jonathan Toews #19 of the Chicago Blackhawks controls the puck against Kevin Shattenkirk #22 of the St Louis Blues in Game One of the Western Conference Quarterfinals during the 2016 NHL Stanley Cup Playoffs at the Scottrade Center on April 13, 2016. — AFP

### LIGHTNING 3, RED WINGS 2

Nikita Kucherov scored twice and Alex Killorn snapped a third-period tie, lifting Tampa Bay past Detroit in Game 1 of their series. Ben Bishop had 34 saves for the defending Eastern Conference champions, who

got the winner from Killorn less than two minutes after a potential go-ahead goal was waived off when Detroit coach Jeff Blashill successfully challenged that Tampa Bay was off-sides before Victor Hedman scored. Killorn took a feed from Tyler Johnson

and slipped the puck past Jimmy Howard at 8:52 of the third. Kucherov scored in the first and second periods and also assisted on the winner. Mike Green and Justin Abdelkader scored for Detroit. Game 2 is today night at Amalie Arena. — Agencies

## MORIYA, LEE LEAD AT LOTTE CHAMPIONSHIP

### SINGH OUT OF OLYMPICS, REPORTEDLY CITING ZIKA

**LOS ANGELES:** Thailand's Moriya Jutanugarn fired a four-under par 68 to take a share of the first round lead at the PGA Tour's Lotte Championship on Wednesday. On a blustery day, the 21-year-old Moriya got off to a hot start by making birdie on two of her first three holes. She finished with seven birdies, one bogey and one double bogey to finish tied with Australia's Lee Min-Jee who also opened with a 68. Moriya and Lee have a one-stroke lead over a group of five that comprises Canada's Brooke Henderson, Germany's Caroline Masson, American Kim Kaufman and Kim Sei-Young of South Korea. "I think I was having fun with my game today," Moriya said. "I was trying to play with a strong

wind and trying to get up and down. "It feels like I had a lot of patience with the wind, so pretty good for my game."

Moriya said she just tried to play loose and carefree. "You know, I didn't even count (score) until I finished," Moriya said. "I was like, that's nice, seven birdies. It was fun making birdies with this wind." Lee finished with six birdies, including three in the final five holes. She also had two bogeys. She, too, was pleased with the way she handled the tricky conditions. "It helps if you're a good ball-striker, but you also need to judge the wind as well, like how far you want to take it right, or if the wind is right to left," she said. "You got to have some luck with it, too. It's not just all about your skill. Mother Nature can throw

anything at you. I think I judged it really well today so I'm happy."

### Singh out of Olympics

In another development, Fiji's former world number one Vijay Singh will not compete at the Rio Olympics, officials in the Pacific island nation said yesterday, with reports saying he was concerned about the Zika virus. Golf Fiji said the three-time major champion had informed them he would not be attending the Games in August. "I can confirm that is the case," spokeswoman Ofa Swann said. Golfchannel.com quoted the US-based 53-year-old as saying he felt bad about not attending but was concerned about Zika and wanted to concentrate on the PGA Tour.

"The timing of it, you know I have to focus over here," he said. "I would like to play the Olympics, but the Zika virus, you know and all that crap." The Rio Olympics are being staged against a backdrop of fears about the mosquito-borne Zika virus, with thousands of cases reported in Brazil. On Wednesday, US health authorities confirmed long-held suspicions that it causes birth defects, including microcephaly, a defect in which babies are born with unusually small heads. Swann said Singh's management had not mentioned Zika when he announced his withdrawal, instead citing "a full schedule". Singh was world number one for 32 weeks in 2004-05 and won the last of his 34 PGA titles in 2008. — Agencies



# WARRIORS ROMP TO RECORD 73RD VICTORY

## HOLLYWOOD ENDING AS 60-POINT BRYANT BOWS OUT

**OAKLAND:** Stephen Curry and the Golden State Warriors took their last shot at Michael Jordan and history and they swished it - for 73. Down to their final chance at the record, the Warriors became the first 73-win team Wednesday night by beating the Memphis Grizzlies 125-104, breaking what many considered an unmatchable mark set 20 years ago by Jordan's Chicago Bulls - and Golden State coach Steve Kerr, too. Curry achieved yet one more shooting milestone, becoming the first player to make 400 3-pointers in a season by knocking down 10 from long range on the way to 46 points and 402 total 3s. Golden State saved one last record for the closing day of the regular season, and did it for a roaring, sellout home crowd at Oracle Arena. Yet these Warriors want nothing more than to build off their remarkable run so far and ride it to another title. Draymond Green had 11 points, nine rebounds and seven assists as defending champion Golden State (73-9) topped the Jordan-led 1995-96 Bulls who went 72-10. When the final buzzer sounded, Green bounded onto the floor and grabbed the game ball as confetti streamed down and "73 WINS" appeared on the scoreboard.

### LAKERS 101, JAZZ 96

Kobe Bryant went out with a Hollywood ending to his remarkable career. He scored 60 points in his final game, wrapping up 20 years in the NBA with an unbelievable offensive showcase in Los Angeles' victory over Utah. Bryant scored 23 points in the fourth quarter, posting his first 50-point game since February 2009 and rallying the Lakers from a 15-point deficit to win the final game of the worst season in franchise history. With the entire Staples Center crowd standing, Bryant made a 3-pointer with 59 seconds left. He hit another with 31 seconds to play, putting the Lakers ahead 97-96. He finished with an assist before checking out for good with 4.1 seconds left in just the 17th win of the season. Bryant took a career-high 50 shots to get there. He posted his highest-scoring performance since getting 61 against New York in 2009. It was the fifth highest-scoring game of his career, and he became the oldest player to score 50 points in an NBA game. The entire night was a tribute to Bryant, who is retiring after five championship rings and 18 All Star selections with the Lakers, who honored him before and after the game. Bryant is just the fifth player in NBA history to play 20 seasons, and the first with just one team.

### ROCKETS 116, KINGS 81

James Harden scored 38 points as the Houston Rockets took the final Western Conference playoff spot with an easy victory over the Sacramento Kings. The Rockets never trailed and had a 64-44 lead at halftime behind 16 points from Harden and 10 each from Dwight Howard and Michael Beasley. They won their last three games to sneak into the playoffs after losing three of the previous four to fall behind Utah and into ninth place in the West.



**LOS ANGELES:** Kobe Bryant of the Los Angeles Lakers celebrates with teammates following his final game as a Laker in their season-ending NBA western division matchup against the Utah Jazz in Los Angeles, where the Lakers defeated the Jazz 101-96. — AFP

Houston will meet top-seed Golden State in the first round of the playoffs this weekend. Ben McLemore had 24 points for the Kings, in what was likely coach George Karl's final game with the team amid reports that he could be fired as soon as Thursday. Karl went 44-68 since taking the job in February 2015, and this season is the 10th straight season in which the Kings did not make the playoffs.

### SPURS 96, MAVERICKS 91

Rookies Boban Marjanovic and Jonathon Simmons set career scoring highs to help San Antonio rally past Dallas despite leaving home four starters and two key reserves. The loss left the Mavericks at risk of falling to the No. 7 seed in the Western Conference and having to face the second-seeded Spurs again in the first round of the playoffs after San Antonio's 4-0 sweep of its Texas rival in the regular season. Marjanovic, a 7-foot-3 Serbian center making his fourth start, had 22 points and matched a career high with 12 rebounds as the Spurs erased an 18-point halftime deficit in the third quarter and finished off the rally in the fourth. Simmons scored 19. Kyle Anderson, a second-year player, matched his career best with 15 points, including eight in the fourth quarter. He had 10 rebounds for his first career double-double.

### PISTONS 112, CAVALIERS 110, OT

LeBron James and all other starters for Cleveland and Detroit rested for their first-round playoff matchup as Jodie Meeks scored 20 to lead the Pistons past the Cavaliers. James rushed onto the court to celebrate when Jordan McRae's 3-pointer tied it

103-all and forced OT. But Meeks, who played just 17 minutes all season because of a foot injury, scored four in the extra session. McRae scored 36 and had a chance to tie it in the final second, but missed two free throws after being fouled on a 3-pointer. The teams will play Game 1 this weekend.

### RAPTORS 103, NETS 96

Rookie Norman Powell scored a career-high 30 points as Toronto wrapped up the best regular season in franchise history by beating Brooklyn. With the No 2 seed in the Eastern Conference already secured, the Raptors didn't bring All-Star guards Kyle Lowry and DeMar DeRozan, plus Jonas Valanciunas, James Johnson and DeMarre Carroll to the game. They won anyway, improving to 56-26 after coming into the season as the only NBA team that had never previously even won 50. Powell added nine rebounds and five assists, while Terrence Ross had 24 points and 10 rebounds. Delon Wright scored 18 points. Bojan Bogdanovic scored 29 points for the Nets, who lost their final 10 games and finished 21-61.

### CELTICS 98, HEAT 88

Isaiah Thomas had 21 points as Boston rallied from 26 points down to beat Miami. Coupled with Atlanta's loss to Washington, Boston earned the fifth seed in the Eastern Conference. The Hawks' loss also gave Miami the third seed and its fifth Southeast Division title in six years. The Celtics will face the fourth-seeded Hawks in the first round. Miami will take on No 6 seed Charlotte. Avery Bradley added 17 points and seven rebounds. Evan Turner finished with 16 points for Boston. Joe Johnson and

Hassan Whiteside each had 19 points to lead the Heat. Goran Dragic added 18 points, and Dwyane Wade had 17.

### WIZARDS 109, HAWKS 98

With a seemingly half-hearted showing in its final regular-season game, Atlanta lost to a bunch of backups for Washington and wound up with the No. 4 seed in the Eastern Conference. Atlanta finished 48-34 - the same record as Miami, who lost at Boston but owned the tiebreaker over the Hawks and so earned the No 3 seed. Because of Miami's loss, Atlanta would have moved up to No. 3 with a victory. Instead, the Hawks dropped their second game in a row and will face the No 5 Celtics in the first round of the playoffs. Al Horford led the Hawks with 19 points. Ramon Sessions, one of four reserves who started for Washington, scored 22 points.

### MAGIC 117, HORNETS 103

Al Jefferson scored 26 points to help playoff-bound Charlotte close out its best regular season in 16 years with a victory over Orlando. The Hornets are the sixth seed in the Eastern Conference and will face the third-seeded Miami Heat in the first round of the NBA playoffs. Troy Daniels added 13 points and Spencer Hawes and Jeremy Lamb had 12 each for Charlotte, which finished the regular season 48-34 - the fifth-most wins in franchise history. Evan Fournier and Aaron Gordon each had 22 points for the Magic.

### PACERS 97, BUCKS 92

Solomon Hill scored a season-high 25 points to help Indiana beat Milwaukee. Lavoy Allen and Glenn

Robinson III each added 14 points for Indiana, which clinched the seventh seed in the Eastern Conference on Tuesday night after beating the New York Knicks. With the Pacers locked into a first-round playoff series against the Toronto Raptors, coach Frank Vogel sat starters, including Paul George and Monta Ellis. Giannis Antetokounmpo led the Bucks with 19 points and nine rebounds.

### BULLS 115, 76ERS 105

Nikola Mirotic scored 32 points and Justin Holliday a career-high 29 as Chicago closed a disappointing season with a victory over Philadelphia. Mirotic hit seven 3-pointers. Holliday made five from long range, matching a personal best. Jimmy Butler added 10 points, 12 rebounds and 10 assists. The Bulls wiped out an early 24-point deficit and led by as much as 19. That's little consolation for a team that expected to challenge Cleveland for supremacy in the Eastern Conference. Instead, they missed the playoffs for the first time since 2008 at 42-40. Robert Covington led Philadelphia with 27 points. The 76ers finished an NBA-worst 10-72.

### TIMBERWOLVES 144, PELICANS 109

Karl-Anthony Towns had 28 points and 14 rebounds as Minnesota sent coach Sam Mitchell out in style with an easy victory over New Orleans. Gorgui Dieng had 20 points and 11 rebounds and Shabazz Muhammad scored 28 points for the Timberwolves (29-53), who learned before the game that owner Glen Taylor planned to open up a search for a new president of basketball operations and coach. Minnesota shot 65 percent, made 13 of 28 3-pointers and set a franchise record for points in a game. Omer Asik had 24 points and 11 rebounds for the Pelicans.

### SUNS 114, CLIPPERS 105

Mirza Teletovic scored 22 points to lead Phoenix and the Suns finished their second-worst season in franchise history with a victory over a Los Angeles team made up almost entirely of Clippers bench players. The loss snapped the Clippers' six-game winning streak. Still, they won 10 of 12 games heading into their first-round playoff series against Portland. With the No. 4 spot in the West already assured, Los Angeles left Chris Paul, DeAndre Jordan, Blake Griffin and Jamal Crawford home. Wesley Johnson and CJ Wilcox scored 19 apiece for the Clippers.

### TRAIL BLAZERS 107, NUGGETS 99

Damian Lillard had 21 points before sitting in the final quarter as Portland, its playoff fate sealed earlier Wednesday night, beat Denver. CJ McCollum added 17 points for the Blazers, who led by as many as 18 points in the final quarter despite putting all of their starters on the bench. The Trail Blazers were assured of the fifth seed in the Western Conference by virtue of Dallas' 96-91 loss to the San Antonio Spurs. The Blazers will face the Los Angeles Clippers in the first round of the playoffs. Emmanuel Mudiay had 25 points for the Nuggets. — AP



## INFANTINO DEFENDS 40-TEAM WORLD CUP PLAN

**LOS ANGELES:** FIFA President Gianni Infantino defended his controversial plan to expand the World Cup to 40 teams on Wednesday, rejecting criticism the move would dilute the quality of football's showpiece event. In an interview with Fox Sports 1, the chief of world football's governing body pointed to the expansion of teams at Euro 2016 as evidence that the 32-team World Cup could successfully accommodate more sides.

"(UEFA) were criticized at the time by people saying 'That's almost half of the teams, the qualifiers will be as boring as ever, no-one will be interested,'" Infantino told interviewer Alexi Lalas. "And the exact opposite came true-which is that it was great from a sporting point of view because many more teams have a chance to qualify, which means many, many more teams have the dream to qualify. "It was great and it will be great for the World Cup in terms of popularity. Because you will have more nations involved in the World Cup. There is enough quality-we see it in Europe," said Infantino, citing the results of



FIFA President Gianni Infantino

the so-called minnows at the 2014 World Cup. "Look at the last World Cup-England and Italy were kicked out by Costa Rica.

This is football," he said. Infantino said exactly how the eight extra spots would be distributed throughout the world had yet

to be confirmed. However he indicated Africa would be the biggest beneficiary, with two extra places, while Asia and would also get an extra place and a playoff spot. "There would be of course more spots for everyone," Infantino said. "For example, two more Africans, one and a half in CONCACAF, half in South America, half in Oceania, one and a half in Asia, we arrive at 39.

"And the last spot should be played on the pitch somehow let's see how by the one who will deserve it in the best possible way." Infantino meanwhile refused to be drawn on the increasingly acrimonious dispute between the USA's World Cup-winning women's team and American soccer chiefs. Five members of the US team have filed a lawsuit against the US Soccer Federation alleging wage discrimination. Asked to confirm whether he believed women players should be paid the same as men, Infantino replied: "I think it is linked with many different elements that need to be discussed. There is not a straightforward answer to this." — AFP

## COLOMBIAN CASTRO KEEPS SUNDOWNS ON TITLE TRACK

**JOHANNESBURG:** Clinical Colombian Leonardo Castro scored twice as Mamelodi Sundowns retained a four-point South African Premiership lead by winning 3-1 at lowly Polokwane City Wednesday. Keagan Dolly was the other scorer for the Pretoria club against opponents reduced to 10 men with 16 minutes left when Edgar Manaka got a straight red card for a studs-up challenge. Second-place Wits kept the pressure on the record six-time champions with a lucky 1-0 win at relegation threatened Jomo Cosmos courtesy of a goal from Namibian Henrico Botes.

Cosmos dominated possession and a first-half thunderbolt from Zimbabwean Charlton Mashumba came back off the crossbar in university town Potchefstroom. The winless league run of title-holders Kaizer Chiefs stretched to four matches as they conceded a stoppage-time goal to draw 2-2 at Mpumalanga Black Aces. Fourth-place Chiefs led twice in Nelspruit only to be robbed of maximum points when Eddie Ngalo scored for often outplayed Aces, who are fifth in the 16-club standings. Platinum Stars stayed third by coming from behind to draw 1-1 at Ajax Cape Town with the equalizer coming from Ndumiso Mabena.

Sundowns have 55 points, Wits 51, Platinum 44, Chiefs 40 and Aces 38 with six rounds left in a league offering a \$690,000 (610,000 euro) first prize. Castro struck in each half with a close-range shot and a tap-in. Thobani Mncwango halved the deficit and Dolly beat Zimbabwean goalkeeper George Chigova just past the hour. Sundowns coach Pitso Mosimane hailed the victory three days after his team lost a CAF Champions League first-leg qualifier 1-0 to V Club in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The three points could come at a heavy price, though, as Uganda goalkeeper Denis Onyango was stretched off 10 minutes from time after collapsing in his goalmouth.

"Tonight was about grinding out a victory-not beautiful football. We are playing a lot of matches but there is no tiredness, only a desire to be successful," he said. Botes struck from point-blank range midway through the opening half after Cosmos goalkeeper Sherwyn Naicker spilled a Daine Klate free-kick. "They (Cosmos) murdered us tonight and we stole the points," admitted Wits coach Gavin Hunt, who won three consecutive Premiership titles as coach of SuperSport United. Cosmos coach and owner Jomo Sono agreed with Hunt: "There was only one team on the park tonight-mine. We came away empty handed, but I am proud of my boys." — AFP

### FRENCH LEAGUE PREVIEW

## CLASH OF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE HOPEFULS; LYON, NICE FACE OFF

**PARIS:** Lyon host Nice today in a Ligue 1 clash between two in-form sides fighting for an automatic Champions League qualifying spot next season. Lyon, second behind Paris Saint-Germain whose midweek defeat to Manchester City ended French interest in the Champions League, are level on 55 points with Monaco who host struggling southern rivals Marseille on Sunday.

But Nice are just two points behind with five matches left to play. Monaco's grip on an automatic qualifying berth loosened as the principality side were swept aside 4-1 at Lille last Sunday, before Hatem Ben Arfa's hat-trick saw Nice past Rennes 3-0. As Monaco wobble Nice are now on form with their star striker Ben Arfa in inspirational mood. Lyon meanwhile have netted 14 goals in their past five matches to move above Monaco on goal difference and into second spot and automatic qualification with a 2-0 win at Montpellier last week.

It was Lyon's eighth win from their last 10 games, a run that has catapulted them back into contention for Europe's top club competition. Lyon, who had dropped to ninth place nine points behind Monaco, have been boosted by the return of injured players. Coach Bruno Genesio, appointed last December in place of Hubert Fournier, has managed to win over the sceptics with the way he has forged team spirit. And the 50-year-old admitted that the club's 2-1 win over PSG in January acted "like a real trigger". "That made us aware of our qualities," said Genesio.

Lyon are unbeaten in their last seven games at home and defender Christophe Jallet believes playing at

their Parc Olympique Lyonnais will be decisive. "We know that Nice have an experienced team, unfortunately for them they are coming to Lyon," said Jallet who extended his contract midweek until 2018. But the coach is above all able to count on a full squad compared to his predecessor, which has allowed him to even relegate French international midfielder Mathieu Valbuena to the bench. Forward Alexandre Lacazette has returned to full form demonstrating the efficiency which escaped him in the first half of the season, bringing his total to 16 Ligue 1 goals - 10 since the winter break. Players like Rachid Ghezzal and Maxwell Cornet, who scored both goals

against Montpellier, have also found their stride. Monaco will be hoping to take advantage of the crisis in Marseille who are sitting 14th, just six points above the relegation zone.

To add to the disarray Marseille owner Margarita Louis-Dreyfus announced on Wednesday that the club was now officially up for sale. PSG, meanwhile, return to domestic duty following their inglorious exit from Europe bidding to finish their season with dignity starting with Saturday's game at home to midtable Caen. Laurent Blanc, who made tactical errors against Man City, will need to avoid further disappointing the clubs Qatari owners. —AFP

### French Ligue 1 table

**PARIS:** French Ligue 1 table ahead of this weekend's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):

Paris SG	33	26	5	2	83	18	83 - champions
Lyon	33	16	7	10	54	34	55
Monaco	33	14	13	6	48	40	55
Nice	33	15	8	10	50	37	53
Rennes	33	13	12	8	50	42	51
Saint-Etienne	33	15	6	12	39	34	51
Lille	33	12	13	8	33	25	49
Angers	33	12	10	11	35	32	46
Caen	33	14	4	15	35	44	46
Nantes	33	11	11	11	30	35	44
Bastia	33	12	7	14	31	37	43
Bordeaux	33	10	13	10	41	50	43
Lorient	33	10	12	11	45	51	42
Marseille	33	8	16	9	43	38	40
Guingamp	33	10	9	14	39	49	39
Montpellier	33	10	7	16	38	42	37
Reims	33	9	9	15	37	48	36
Gazélec-Ajaccio	33	7	13	13	31	45	34
Toulouse	33	7	11	15	38	49	32
Troyes	33	2	8	23	22	72	14 - relegated



## WORLD IN SUSPENSE AS LEICESTER FAIRYTALE NEARS FINAL CHAPTER

**LONDON:** The Premier League has always had worldwide appeal but instead of Wayne Rooney and Sergio Aguero taking top billing, Jamie Vardy and Riyad Mahrez now star in Leicester City's title challenge as it nears its conclusion over the next few weeks. From seven points adrift at the bottom of the table and seemingly relegation certainties a year ago to seven points clear at the top and in sight of their first English League title, Leicester's turnaround has become one of the most talked-about stories in world sport.

Since joining the Football League in 1894, their best performance was a runners-up spot in the old first division in 1929 and, until this season, their chief claim to footballing fame, apart from three League Cup triumphs, was the unique achievement of reaching four FA Cup finals and losing them all. The Premier League is watched by audiences measured in the billions across more than 200 countries. Even the United States is no longer immune, with rapidly growing viewing figures and Newsweek magazine giving up three pages to describe Leicester's quest for the "upset of the century".

Various global Leicester fan clubs, which for years tooted along quietly with a handful of dedicated members, have suddenly blossomed. Typical are the New York Foxes, founded by twin brothers Jordan and Jason Becker who became Leicester fans in 1998 when American Kasey Keller played in goal for the team. The club now gathers, along with fans of a host of other clubs, in The Football Factory cellar bar near the Empire State Building to watch the club's games. "It used to be just a couple of us but we now connect with ex-pats and folks coming over on holiday and now that the club is raising its profile, more and more people want to be around and watch," Jason Becker said.

"I mean, how can you miss a game right now - and Leicester is everyone's second-favorite team now, everyone seems to be pulling for us." His confidence did not quite run to backing his team for the title pre-season but he did not miss out entirely. "Sadly, I didn't get the 5,000 to 1 odds that other people had early in the season, but 7-1 is not so bad," he said of a bet he laid when most people were still predicting the bubble would burst. Thailand, home of club owner and duty-free magnate Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha, has taken Leicester to heart too and Bangkok airport now greets arriving passengers with adverts featuring Leicester players.

Market stalls in the Thai capital selling unofficial replica shirts have begun to carry the blue of Leicester alongside their staples of Manchester United, Barcelona and Bayern Munich. Japan has adopted Leicester's Shinji Okazaki as its new Premier League hero. A Reuters reporter in Tokyo last week was asked by his taxi driver the usual "Where are you from?" opening gambit and when he replied "England" the driver immediately asked the question on everyone's lips: "What about Leicester? Can they win it?"

In France, where all-conquering Paris St Germain wrapped up the dullest league in Europe weeks ago, fans and media in search of drama have switched their interest across the channel.

Their focus is on Mahrez and N'Golo Kante as they wonder how the duo bumped along barely raising a ripple for years at Le Havre and Caen but now, after eight months in England, the bargain-buys-turned-internationals are vying for the Footballer of the Year award. Spanish fans brought up on decades of dominance of Real Madrid and Barcelona are also reveling in the little-man nature of Leicester, and veteran goalkeeper Iker Casillas, now playing in Portugal, captured the mood last week when he tweeted: "Everyone is passionate about their club, but everyone feels like Leicester are one of our own. INCREDIBLE!"

Much of Italy's interest is centered on manager Claudio Ranieri, their much-travelled and much-loved compatriot who has belied his reputation by achieving success this season with one of the most settled line-ups of the Premier League era. Bar-room nostalgia in his native Rome looks back to 1985 when Verona came out of nowhere to claim their first, only and similarly unlikely league title.

In South America, the trend also seems to draw comparisons with local against-the-odds successes and in Brazil, where as many as five Premier League games are screened live each weekend, everybody is talking about Leicester. Chapecoense, a small club who were promoted in 2013 and have held their place in the top flight since in spite of their tiny budget, were so impressed by Leicester's achievements that they invited them for a friendly via Twitter. — Reuters



**LONDON:** Everton's Gareth Barry (second left) is shown a yellow card by referee Mike Jones during the English Premier League soccer match between Crystal Palace and Everton, at Selhurst Park, London on Wednesday April 13, 2016. — AP

## PALACE HELD IN STALEMATE BY 10-MAN EVERTON



**LONDON:** Crystal Palace put 11 points between themselves and the bottom three of the Premier League but were unable to make their advantage count in a goalless draw at home to 10-man Everton on Wednesday. In a meeting of two FA Cup semi-finalists, Everton were a man down at Selhurst Park early in the second half after James McCarthy was sent off. Victory would have all but assured Palace of top-flight survival but the south London side still have some

work to do to preserve their Premier League status. Saturday's 1-0 win over Norwich City gave Palace their first league win of 2016 and manager Alan Pardew said Wednesday: "I would have taken four points from these last two games...but wow, we should have won."

"Although I'm frustrated, I'm pleased with another good performance. I want my offensive players to be a bit hotter, but I'm pleased with two clean sheets. "That point is crucial, as I don't think those bottom three can catch us now." Under-fire Everton manager Roberto Martinez said: "It was a more than decent result. It's always difficult to cope with direct play."

When you do that with 10 men, it is incredibly positive. "The resilience and hard work, to be able to be so solid, was great. We had as many chances. Joel Robles had to be at his best but it was a

level game. To play like that with 10 men, it was incredibly satisfying." Jason Puncheon was the first Palace player to test Everton goalkeeper Robles, who had a fine match.

At the other end, Palace goalkeeper Wayne Hennessey saved well from Seamus Coleman and Romelu Lukaku. Everton were down to 10 men in the 52nd minute when McCarthy, already booked for a first-half foul on Yohan Cabaye, blocked Yannick Bolasie to earn a second yellow that saw him sent off. "When I saw it live I thought it was a yellow," said Martinez.

"But when you watch it on replay, it's the opposite. I think Yannick Bolasie comes across James. His body cannot disappear. I think the Palace player looks for it." The Toffees, often defensively frail this season, were then indebted to Robles for two fine saves by Robles from Puncheon. — AFP

## UTD'S VAN GAAL STRUCK BY RATIONAL RASHFORD

**LONDON:** Manchester United manager Louis van Gaal hailed Marcus Rashford's startling self-awareness after the 18-year-old striker's memorable goal inspired his side to FA Cup victory at West Ham United. Rashford broke the deadlock in the 54th minute of Wednesday's quarter-final replay, shimmying inside James Tomkins and arcing an unstoppable shot into the top-right corner. Marouane Fellaini added a second and although Tomkins replied late on, visiting goalkeeper David de Gea brilliantly held West Ham at bay to send United into the last four for the first time since 2011. Hailing Rashford, who has now scored six times in 11 games, Van Gaal said: "He's very focused on his work and that I admire when you are so young."

"There's so much attention now because he is scoring so many important goals and you can cope with that attention and focus on your next match. "And when

you have criticism, he can cope with criticism also and he can say about himself, 'Yes manager, you are right, and I have to do that and that'. "I think it is fantastic because there are not a lot of players that can see their self-image in the match." After months of intense speculation about his position, Van Gaal will lead his side out to face Everton at Wembley later this month knowing that he is two victories from a first trophy as United manager.

The Dutchman came in for a fresh wave of criticism after Sunday's 3-0 defeat at Tottenham Hotspur, but he said that his record meant that he was worthy of the patience afforded him by the United hierarchy. "I do my work, I do my utmost best and everywhere I have worked, I have won something," he said. "A lot of things have been changed in all the clubs where I have worked and because of that I am here. I am selected by Manchester United because of

that. Not because I am a lousy trainer or manager."

### 'Fighting spirit'

Van Gaal went on to claim that United had exhibited a similar level of control against West Ham as they had at Tottenham, where Mauricio Pochettino's side struck three times in six second-half minutes, but that the result at White Hart Lane had prevented him from saying so. "We controlled the game," he said. "But I cannot say that when we lose 3-0."

The next day it's: 'Man United has played very lousy.' But it was not true. "I'm very happy that in spite of that defeat, 3-0, we can have the spirit this evening again like we have showed after the defeat against Liverpool. "Two-zero in the Europa League against our biggest enemy and the next match was West Ham United and we were 1-0 behind and fighting back (to draw 1-1, in their first meeting). — AFP



## FIVE REASONS FOR BARCELONA'S DRAMATIC DIP

**MADRID:** Barcelona's hopes of becoming the first side to retain the Champions League were dashed as they were eliminated 3-2 on aggregate by Atletico Madrid on Wednesday. A 2-0 defeat at the Vicente Calderon was Barca's third in four games after a 39-match unbeaten run stretching back the previous six months. Here, AFP Sports looks at five reasons why Barca have suffered such a drastic dip in form.

### Tiredness

The effects of playing in six competitions since mid-August with a short squad has finally begun to take hold on a Barca squad that was also affected by a transfer ban last summer, which delayed big money signings Arda Turan and Aleix Vidal's involvement until January. Barca have played 56 games already this season, including a mid-season trip to Japan for the Club World Cup. By contrast, Atletico have played 48 matches and Real Madrid 43. The Catalans were overruled by Real in the final stages as their losing run

began in El Clasico on April 2 and lacked the physical freshness to break down the mass ranks of Real Sociedad and Atletico's defense in the past week.

### Difficult run of fixtures

Just as Barca have wained physically, they also faced their most difficult run of the season with two gruelling games against Atletico and Real's visit to the Camp Nou mixed in with a trip to high-flying Villarreal and a visit to Sociedad's Anoeta, where they have their last four league games. Barca have won just one of those five, and were lucky to even do that as Fernando Torres's sending-off turned the first leg against Atletico with Los Rojiblancos leading 1-0 at the time. A three-point lead over Atletico with just six games to go means Barca are still strong favourites to retain their La Liga title, principally because their calendar eases up significantly in the final weeks of the season.

Five-time World Player of the Year Lionel Messi has now failed to score the last seven

times Barca have been eliminated from the Champions League. Messi started 2016 on fire with 24 goals in his first 19 games of the year after a stunning 2015 that elevated him back above Real Madrid rival Cristiano Ronaldo to reclaim the Ballon d'Or. Yet, he has been held scoreless in Barca's five-game wobble since and has continually dropped deeper, further away from the opposition area to try and make a difference as a playmaker without success.

### International break

Barca's record unbeaten run was ended in their first game after the March international break as their momentum was stalled by a two-week layoff whilst the majority of their squad jetted around the world. Of the Barca 11 that started El Clasico, six had represented their country in South American World Cup qualifiers in the previous week. The inopportune timing of the break just as the business end of the club season begins has been questioned by Europe's biggest

clubs and has only added to Barca's fatigue in an extremely demanding season.

### Lack of competent back-up

Despite Barca's obvious signs of fatigue, Coach Luis Enrique has used his full complement of three substitutions just twice in the last five games. With the star front three of Messi, Luis Suarez and Neymar taking up a huge chunk of Barca's wage bill, there wasn't enough spare cash to reinforce the squad with a fourth striker as Enrique wanted in January. Moreover, expensive signings like Turan, Jeremy Mathieu and Thomas Vermaelen have only contrived to make a negative impact. Mathieu's introduction for Gerard Pique with Barca leading 2-0 at Villarreal changed the game as the Frenchman scored an own goal to earn the hosts a point. Meanwhile, Turan endured a torrid return to the Vicente Calderon on Wednesday having left Atletico last summer in his own words to "win the Champions League." — AFP

## HAZARD WARNING FOR 5TH-PLACED GLADBACH

**HANOVER:** Borussia Moenchengladbach are running out of chances to secure a Champions League spot for a second straight season and a win at bottom club Hanover 96 today is now almost obligatory. Gladbach, who finished third in the Bundesliga last season, the last automatic qualifying spot for Europe's biggest club competition, are fifth in the table with only five games remaining. The team had a stellar first half of the campaign under coach Andre Schubert, who took over from Lucien Favre in September, but their Champions League hopes have dipped after losing three of the last six matches. "We still have qualification in our own hands," said attacking midfielder Thorgan Hazard. "We have only two more home games so we have to collect points on the road. "It would be wrong to underestimate Hanover. They may have few chances of staying up but the change of coach has given the players confidence."

Gladbach have not travelled well in recent months, with their last away victory coming in October. Schubert's men have 45 points and are ahead of Mainz 05 and Schalke 04 on goal difference. Gladbach trail fourth-placed Bayer Leverkusen by three points and Hertha Berlin, who are third, by four. Fourth spot at the end of the season will secure a berth in the Champions League preliminary round. Hanover, who brought in Daniel Stendel as coach earlier this month to replace Thomas Schaaf, are all but certain of going down on 18 points, 10 off the relegation playoff spot. If they are beaten today, Hanover would equal the league record with an eighth straight home defeat.

Bayern Munich and second-placed Borussia Dortmund have already opened a big gap at the top of the table. Leaders Bayern, who have 75 points and are chasing a record fourth consecutive Bundesliga crown, host Schalke tomorrow. Europa League quarter-finalists Dortmund, who still have an outside shot at the title and are sure of playing Champions League football next season, are on 68 points and entertain Hamburg SV on Sunday.

Hertha travel tomorrow to fifth from bottom Hoffenheim who are battling to avoid the drop. Last season's runners-up VfL Wolfsburg, eliminated from the Champions League by Real Madrid on Tuesday, are down in eighth position and visit Werder Bremen tomorrow. — Reuters



**MADRID:** Barcelona's Luis Suarez (left) elbows Atletico's Diego Godin as they jump for a high ball during the Champions League 2nd leg quarterfinal soccer match between Atletico Madrid and Barcelona at the Vicente Calderon stadium on Wednesday April 13, 2016. — AP

## ONCE UNBEATABLE BARCA MOVE ON AFTER COLLAPSE

**MADRID:** Once unbeatable Barcelona is wondering where it all went wrong. The team that only a few weeks ago celebrated a streak of 39 games without a loss is now lamenting elimination from Europe's most important club competition. The Spanish giant was ousted by rival Atletico Madrid in the quarterfinals of the Champions League on Wednesday after its third loss in four games - a 2-0 defeat at the Vicente Calderon Stadium that erased its 2-1 first-leg win at the Camp Nou.

The result ended Barcelona's chances of repeating the treble of Champions League, Copa del Rey and Spanish league titles - its biggest goal entering the season. The loss also further dented the confidence of players who looked unstoppable not long ago. Lionel Messi, Luis Suarez and Neymar - the trio of world-class strikers that are capable of scoring at will - have been far from great recently. "Our objectives are always the highest, we are proud that Barcelona always aims to win everything," coach Luis Enrique said. "But we must accept this result and try to improve.

We have two competitions left now, with a great chance to win them. They are two attractive goals to aim for. For any other coach in world, winning those two would be enough. But we must improve." Barcelona is left with the Spanish league and the final of the Copa del Rey, which will be played against Sevilla in May. Winning the league seemed like a certainty for the Catalan club a few rounds ago, but with the team's recent struggles, not even that is guaranteed.

Barcelona held a nine-point lead over Atletico less than a month ago but the gap has dwindled to only three points after a draw and two consecutive losses, including one at home to Real Madrid, which is four points back and also in contention. "It's obvious we aren't at our best at the moment," Luis Enrique said. "Especially if you consider the level we have been playing at this season. But that's football. We need to lift ourselves now." Until a 2-2 draw at Villarreal in the league three rounds ago, Barcelona was cruising.

The club had won 19 of 20 games, and the only winless result was a Copa del Rey draw at

Valencia, when it played without the regular starters. Since the Villarreal game, Barcelona's trio of high-profile forwards managed to score only two goals in four matches - both times with Suarez in the first leg against Atletico, after Fernando Torres was sent off in the first half.

Messi is enduring his worst scoring slump with Barcelona in five years. He's been held scoreless since a win over Arsenal in the round of 16 of the Champions League on March 16. Neymar hasn't found the net in four games, since the Villarreal game in the Spanish league. In the midst of the turmoil, Barcelona had to mourn the death of former idol Johan Cruyff, who passed away just before the 2-1 home loss to Real Madrid. Veteran midfielder Andres Iniesta said there is no doubt the recent setbacks have affected the team's mindset. "The dynamic is not positive right now. We have to find strength because what's left to be played is still important," Iniesta said. "It hurts to be going through this moment. It hurts a lot for all of us, but we have to keep working to try to win what's still left to be won." —AP