

58% of jobless Kuwaitis not willing to work in private sector



Israel soldier who shot Palestinian charged with manslaughter



With alliances strained, Obama seeks to reassure Gulf on Iran



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## GOVT BLASTS OIL STRIKE, UNION REFUSES TO BLINK

MPs REQUEST SPECIAL DEBATE • KPC VOWS TO BOOST OUTPUT



Min 19°  
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High Tide 09:31 & 21:34  
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### OIL FALLS OVER DOHA FAILURE

**LONDON:** Oil tumbled yesterday, a day after top producers failed to reach a deal in Doha to cap output, fanning fresh fears over a supply glut that has plagued the market. Prices had rebounded last week on hopes the OPEC exporters' club and other major players, including Russia, would agree to freeze output levels at Sunday's meeting. However, discussions in the Qatari capital floundered and a deal to curb abundant global oil supplies failed to materialize, sending the market lower once again.

The Doha failure "has raised the fear that the current glut and oversupply issue is never going to be solved", GKF analyst James Hughes told AFP. "It has also brought into question the relevance of the OPEC cartel, if the most powerful voice in the group cannot affect change." The long-running oil glut sparked a vicious collapse from above \$100 in mid-2014 to 13-year lows of around \$27 in February. Kingpin Saudi Arabia insisted it would not agree to freeze production without the participation of fellow cartel member Iran - which boycotted the talks.

"The much-awaited meeting exposed the political rift between Saudi Arabia and Iran, and (this) ultimately doomed the agreement," said Barclays oil analyst

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KUWAIT: Striking Kuwaiti oil workers sit in a tent at the union's headquarters in Ahmadi yesterday. — Photo by Fouad Al-Shaikh

By B Izzak and A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** The Cabinet yesterday warned again that there would be no tolerance for those who deliberately disrupt work at vital facilities or cause damage or loss to state interests, as a walkout by thousands of Kuwaiti oil workers entered its second day, slashing production by over 60 percent. The oil workers' union however insisted it will not back down unless all its demands were met. It called for abolishing plans to cut the workers' benefits and scrap plans to include oil workers under a new payroll scheme. The union added the response of the strike has so far been very impressive.

Meanwhile, 10 lawmakers yesterday filed a motion requesting a special session on Thursday to debate the consequences of the open-ended strike by the oil workers and its potential damage to the national economy. The lawmakers said in their request that the total strike could cause extreme harm to the country's national interests and utilities and result in huge financial losses for the country that will rise day by day.

They said the special session was necessary to debate the legitimacy of the strike and the interests of the workers and the nation. They also said the debate will allow MPs to hear the views of the government. There was no immediate reaction from the Assembly speaker or the government over the request which was signed by MPs Saleh Ashour, Jamal Al-Omar, Hamdan Al-Azemi, Ahmad Al-Azemi, Abdullah Al-Turajji, Humoud Al-Hamdan, Talal Al-Jallal, Fares Al-Otaibi, Saud Al-Hurajji and Abdullah Maayouf.

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RIO DE JANEIRO: Anti-government demonstrators celebrate on Copacabana beach after the lower house of Congress voted to impeach Brazil's President Dilma Rousseff on Sunday. — AP

### ROUSSEFF LOSES KEY IMPEACHMENT VOTE

**BRASILIA:** The fight to oust Brazil's President Dilma Rousseff speeded up yesterday after lawmakers authorized impeachment proceedings against her, deepening the country's political crisis. Opponents of the 68-year-old leftist leader said they would quickly go to the Senate to formally hand over the impeachment case, following Sunday's overwhelming approval in the lower house. The Senate is expected to vote in May on whether to open a trial, at which point Rousseff would have to step aside, with her vice president taking over. A two-thirds majority in the Senate would then force her from office.

"Impeachment!" was the celebratory front-page headline of Folha de Sao Paulo daily yesterday. "Close to the end," said another leading newspaper, O Globo, adding: "Dilma Rousseff yesterday started to say goodbye to the presidency of Brazil." The marathon vote on Sunday saw 367 of the 513 deputies in the lower house of Congress back impeachment, well over the two-thirds majority needed to move the case forward.

Cheering and confetti burst from opposition ranks when the vote passed, countered by jeering from Rousseff allies - a snapshot of the divisive mood consuming the country just four months before Rio de Janeiro hosts the Olympics. Rousseff is accused of illegally manipulating budget figures. But Rousseff's attorney general, Jose Eduardo Cardozo said the charges were flimsy and amounted to "a coup against democracy." Rousseff was to give her first public reaction yesterday, he said.

Carla Selman, an analyst at IHS Country Risk, a consultancy, said that events could move quickly given the decisive nature of the lower house vote. "This is likely to accelerate a vote in the Senate, where the pro-impeachment camp is also expected to win," Selman said. Financial markets have been betting heavily on Rousseff's exit and the advent of a more business-friendly government to kick-start Brazil's economy.

The country is in the grip of its worst recession for decades and political paralysis in the capital has prevented reforms that might attract back foreign investors, scared off by Brazil's junk credit ratings. But the expected euphoric reaction at market opening yesterday did not materialize after being outweighed by the dampening effect of tumbling world oil prices.

If, as many expect, the Senate goes on to start a trial, Vice President Michel Temer, who abandoned Rousseff to become a key opponent, will assume power. He would also stay on if the trial ended in impeachment. Yesterday's newspapers printed pictures of him smiling as he watched the vote. But the celebrations could be short lived, analysts say. Temer would inherit a country wallowing in economic disarray and a dysfunctional political scene where Rousseff's Workers' Party vows revenge. "It will not be easy" for Temer, said Andre Cesar, an independent political analyst. "It will be a nightmare."

Analysts predict a long crisis rather than the radical fix that proponents of impeachment say would follow Rousseff's ouster.

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### HOUTHIS BACK OUT OF PEACE TALKS

#### JORDAN RECALLS ITS IRAN ENVOY

**AMMAN:** Jordan yesterday summoned its ambassador in Iran for consultations over what Amman said was the Islamic republic's "meddling in Arab affairs", a government spokesman said. Mohamed Momani, who is also the kingdom's information minister, said Jordan's envoy would return to Amman for "discussions". Iran in January finalized a deal with world powers over its disputed nuclear program, which saw economic sanctions lifted.

Since the accord, Momani said Iran committed "a series of actions and declarations that constitute unacceptable interference in the internal affairs of Arab countries and especially Gulf states". Relations between Iran and Arab nations have deteriorated since a row broke out over the execution of influential cleric and activist Nimr Al-Nimr by Saudi Arabia in January. Angry Iranian mobs stormed and set fire to Saudi Arabia's embassy in Tehran and its mission in Mashhad, Iran's second city.

After the riots, Momani said Jordan had asked Iran to "totally cease meddling in Arab affairs," a request that Tehran apparently failed to convince Amman it was willing to carry out. Jordan and Saudi Arabia share a long border and are both part of the Riyadh-led coalition currently battling Iran-backed rebels in Yemen. Momani also said around 50,000 Syrians are stranded in no-man's land along the border with Jordan, a three-fold increase since January because of increased security checks. He said the refugees were massed around the desert border posts of Hadalat and Rokban. In January, Jordan had estimated their number at 16,000 and appealed for assistance from international relief agencies. —Agencies

**KUWAIT:** Crucial talks between Yemen's government and rebels were delayed yesterday after the insurgents failed to show up, prompting UN concern over the fate of peace efforts for the war-torn country. The talks in Kuwait aim to end to more than 13 months of fighting that has devastated already-impooverished Yemen. A week-old ceasefire meant to lay the groundwork for the talks has been repeatedly breached, with both sides trading blame. Representatives of the internationally recognized government as well as the Iran-backed Houthi rebels and their allies - loyalists of former president Ali Abdullah

Saleh - had been due to gather yesterday morning in Kuwait for the negotiations.

But while a government delegation led by Yemeni Foreign Minister Abdulmalek Al-Mikhlafi was in Kuwait, the rebel delegation remained in Yemen, protesting over alleged Saudi truce violations. "Our presence in Kuwait requires a total halt to (Saudi) aggression," said Houthi rebel leader Mohamed Ali al-Huthi, quoted on the website saba-news.net, demanding "a guarantee that (coalition) warplanes will no longer violate Yemen's sovereignty".

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ADEN: Supporters of the southern separatist movement wave the movement's flag during a rally in Yemen's second city yesterday. — AFP

### BOMB RIPS THROUGH JERUSALEM BUS



JERUSALEM: Israeli forensic officers search in the remains of burnt-out buses after a bomb blast ripped through the vehicles yesterday. — AFP

**JERUSALEM:** A bomb blast ripped through a bus in Jerusalem yesterday and sparked a fire, wounding at least 21 people, Israeli police said, in an apparent escalation in a wave of violence. Details were still emerging, but police said a bomb had exploded on one bus in a relatively isolated area of Jerusalem, sparking a fire that spread to another one as well as a car. Israeli domestic security agency Shin Bet referred to the explosion as a "terror attack".

The bombing was expected to lead to a sharp increase in security ahead of Jewish Passover celebrations beginning Friday night. If confirmed as a Palestinian bombing, it would both reverse a decline in a wave of violence that erupted in October and mark an escalation, with most of the attacks having been stabbings.

"A professional examination of police sappers has proven that a bomb exploded on the back part of the bus, resulting in the wounding of passengers and the burning of the bus," a police statement. "In addition, another bus and car were damaged." An AFP journalist at the scene said one bus was completely burnt out while another was partially burned, with a large

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KUWAIT: Oil workers on strike attend a press conference organized by workers' union in Ahmadi yesterday.



Unionists attend the press conference. —Photos by Fouad Al-Shaikh

# WORKERS HAVE RIGHT TO STRIKE WITHIN LAW: MP

## PETROL SECURED AT LOCAL MARKET: OFFICIAL

By Meshaal Al-Enezi and agencies

**KUWAIT:** Chairman of the parliaments priorities committee in the parliament MP Yousef Al-Zalzal reiterated workers' right to stage labor strikes, provided that they are held within the limits of laws and regulations. "If such strikes cause damage to public funds and the state's greater good, things will need to be reconsidered," he added. "Oil is Kuwait's lifeblood and only source of national income, and its production cannot be halted, delayed or used as a threat," he explained, noting that such acts were incriminated by law, especially when initial reports assess the losses in the hundreds of millions. He also noted things seem very 'foggy' because news about the strike through social media networks lack credibility. "We must have an official body responsible for posting genuine news through social media networks to prevent the circulation of false ones," he demand-

ed, urging the government to solve the strike problem wisely.

### Production rates

The production rates of the three refineries of Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) are compatible with the contingency plan, Oil Sector's Spokesman Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled Al-Sabah said, reassuring that local supplies of petrol and derivatives are completely provided.

There are positive developments in the management of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) subsidiaries' operations on the second day of the oil workers' strike Sheikh Talal said in a press release yesterday. He added that the increase in oil and gas production is enough for reaching normal rates gradually.

Sheikh Talal said the Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) has re-operated two production facilities in north and south Kuwait, thus boosting crude and gas pro-

duction rates. He added that the outcomes of the contingency plan carried out by the KPC to address the workers' strike is greatly working out, speaking highly of the practical steps taken by the KPC's international marketing sector. Production rates at Al-Shuaiba and Umm Al-Aish factories of the Kuwait Oil Tanker Company (KOTC) are very normal, he said, pointing to full commitment to meeting people's gas needs.

The KPC's response blueprint, mainly exchanging inter-company experts and workers, and using the help of technicians and workers from the Ministry of Electricity and Water has largely contributed to containing the strike-bearing crisis, he remarked. KPC subsidiaries are working fervently to honor the country's oil commitments and to safeguard its reputation both at home and abroad, the oil sector's spokesman said.

Sheikh Talal thanked all volunteers who are playing a great role in overcoming the

current crisis in an initiative that reflects a great sense of responsibility and patriotism. Oil sector laborers started Sunday a strike in protest against proposed austerity measures on the background of the sharp drop in oil prices.

### Electricity fees

Commenting on the new electricity prices, Zalzal told his diwaniya visitors Sunday that what MPs agreed on concerning the exemption of private residences from the new prices was fair for citizens. He added that recommendations had been made to the government that considering any electricity price increases for private residences would not be done in the future until smart meters were installed. However, Zalzal remarked that the government still needs to organize huge awareness campaigns to urge citizens to cut down water and electricity consumption.



Head of KNPC employees' syndicate Mohammad Al-Hajri speaks during the press conference.



Head of KOC employees' syndicate Salah Al-Marzouq speaks during the press conference.



## GOVT BLASTS OIL STRIKE, UNION REFUSES TO BLINK

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Thousands of Kuwaiti oil workers began an open-ended strike on Sunday to protest measures by the oil ministry to cut financial benefits of the workers as part of austerity measures. The government also wants to include oil workers under a new payroll scheme that would cut their salaries and incentives. The strike has slashed the country's crude production to 1.1 million barrels per day from the normal 3.0 million barrels and also reduced refining and gas production operations.

Kuwait Petroleum Corp (KPC) officials have insisted that production will rise gradually over the coming few days as KPC was asked by the Cabinet to recruit manpower from Kuwait and abroad to help operate oil facilities. The council of ministers is also taking legal measures against workers who have joined the strike.

In their weekly meeting, the ministers were offered a detailed explanation on the efforts by KPC and affiliate companies to handle the situation. An account was offered by Minister of Finance and acting oil minister Anas Al-Saleh and a team from KPC and Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) and Kuwait Oil Company (KOC). The efforts mainly focused on activating a contingency plan to honor KPC's commitments, providing fuel for the stations of the ministry of electricity and water and oil products for the local and global markets.

The Cabinet lauded the efforts and the national role played by workers in oilfields and refineries, and the "spirit of responsibility" manifested by retired ones and volunteers who offered to work and fill the gap, State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh

Mohammad Al-Abdullah said. The Cabinet also reviewed the legal steps and procedures KPC and subsidiaries are taking in line with their regulations against strike inciters and those who caused damage to the state's potentials and public funds, for maintaining state interests.

### KPC to Boost Oil Production

Khaled Al-Asousi, KNPC's deputy chief executive for support services, said output was now 1.1 million barrels per day but would reach normal levels in coming days. "We have several alternative plans - today some of the staff returned to their places of work. Partner companies are participating in the increase in production. The situation is reassuring." Non-Kuwaiti workers in the industry are not on strike.

Before the strike, Kuwaiti oil production was running at about 2.8 million bpd, Reuters data show. "We expect a big increase in crude inventory in the coming days and we have enough stocks for export and we have no fears of a stoppage of any shipment," Asousi said. He also said, "Supplies of petroleum derivatives for the local market are enough for a whole month."

MP Abdullah Al-Turajji meanwhile called for the need to appoint a fulltime oil minister from within the oil sector, which has many highly-qualified officials who are fit for the job. The lawmaker also called for the dismissal of the board of directors of KPC for failing to deal with the legitimate demands of the workers to convince them not to strike. Turajji called for resorting to reason over the strike which has cost the country massive losses and said he was confident that the issue will be resolved quickly.

Liberal MP Rakan Al-Nasef said that the strike is a grave mistake which has caused massive losses and harmed the country's supreme interests, adding that accepting the workers demand in a manner that could undermine national security is totally rejected. He said the right to strike is legitimate but warned that there are mechanisms that must be followed before the strike which could achieve workers' rights.

### Unions Vow to Continue Strike

Speaking at a press conference held yesterday, heads of the oil sector employees' syndicates insisted on their demands and stressed

that the strike would continue until these demands are met in full. They also said that they are not demanding any pay raises and only seek to maintain and protect the gains they already have. "Hear from us and not about us, listen to your children in the oil sector!" said the head of KNPC employees' syndicate Mohammed Faleh Al-Hajri, addressing the prime minister. Hajri also addressed the Kuwaiti people, noting that what was happening in the oil sector would happen to them later. "We have and will defend you and the protestors are still holding out for your sake," he added.

Head of the KIPCO employees' syndicate Farhan Al-Ajmi said that the demands made

by the oil union and syndicates all revolve around protecting the rights those employees already have and that they were not demanding anything new for the time being. "Our strike is to protect our rights and not to get more," he remarked.

Head of KOC employees' syndicate Salah Al-Marzouq pointed out that employees support the government in its rationalization plans but they refuse to let it take away any incentives they are already getting according to the private labor law number 6/2010 and the oil sector law number 28/69. "Officials have been misinformed about our demands and were told we are demanding raises, but we refuted this and the truth will surely reach them," he said, urging protestors to be patient because previous strikes that mostly lasted for a week did not get them anywhere. At the workers' union headquarters in Ahmadi, strikers gathered in tents despite rising temperatures that kept most of the public inside. Protest banners reading "we will not compromise" and "no to a strategic alternative, the country is not for sale" were hung by workers who vowed to continue pickets, even if they were fewer in number than on Sunday.

"Workers in Kuwait Oil Company are determined ... We are convinced of all that we do, the workers have a legal right to strike," said Eman, an employee in KOC's administrative department. She said her colleagues who were not participating in the strike were supportive of it but feared the consequences of walking out. Abu Abdullah, another worker, questioned government threats to take legal action against organizers of the strike. "I don't believe that Kuwait would do such a thing or turn into a police state," he said. (Material from agencies used in this report)





# 58% UNEMPLOYED KUWAITIS UNWILLING TO WORK IN PRIVATE SECTOR

## EFFORTS TO KUWAITIZE PRIVATE SECTOR LARGELY FAILED

By Ahmad Jabr

**KUWAIT:** Nearly 58 percent of unemployed Kuwaitis refuse to work in the private sector, preferring to wait until a public sector job becomes available, according to government labor statistics released this week.

The data suggests that government efforts to encourage more citizens to work within the private sector - including through the distribution of matching stipends and other benefits - has largely failed. Almost 87 percent of Kuwait's national labor force works in the public sector, according to the 2015 Labor Force Survey published by Kuwait's Central Statistical Bureau (CSB).

Kuwait's Constitution guarantees all citizens work, under Article 41: "Every Kuwaiti has the right to work and to choose the type of his work. Work is a duty of every citizen necessitated by personal dignity and public good. The State shall endeavor to make it available to citizens and to make its terms equitable."

The public sector remains the

most attractive employer for a variety of reasons: shorter working hours, often less demanding work, all public holidays, benefits and perks not always available in the private sector and security since locals cannot be fired except in extreme circumstances.

Unemployment among Kuwaitis reached 4.7 percent in 2015 according to the recent statistics. The total unemployment rate reached 2.2 percent, down from 2.5 percent according to earlier statistics. Furthermore, the statistics show that 1.8 percent non-Kuwaitis are unemployed.

The reliance on foreign labor in the private sector, however, has been a controversial issue. Almost 95 percent of employees in the private sector are foreigners, and it currently employs nearly 75 percent of expatriate workers in Kuwait (not including domestic helpers, who make up 17 percent of expatriate workers). This situation meanwhile continues to cast a shadow on the government's ability to go ahead with its planned demographic structural strategies, through which

Kuwait looks to cut down the expatriate population from 69 percent of the total population today to not more than 50 percent.

### Wage and education

According to the statistics, nearly 94 percent of expatriate workers in Kuwait are paid less than KD 600 a month, while that percentage increases in the private sector to 96 percent. Statistics released earlier by LMIS had indicated that the average salary of expatriates in the private sector stands at KD 251 a month.

The majority of expatriates in Kuwait are concentrated in categories which do not necessarily require labor with high academic qualifications, such as construction, manufacturing industries as well as wholesale and retail sectors. The statistics seem to support this argument, as they show that nearly 39 percent of expatriates in Kuwait have 'primary and below' education level, 35 percent with intermediate, compared to only 13 percent university graduates. On the other hand, the statistics show that university graduates dominate the

numbers of Kuwaiti labor forces in both sectors with nearly 45 percent in general.

The 2015 Labor Force Survey (LFS) was conducted and released by the Labor Market Information

System (LMIS), which is affiliated to the CSB. It covered a sample that included 5,286 families and 220 groups of workers housed by institutions. It is a standard household-based yearly survey of work-related

statistics. Household survey usually are the most reliable and complete source of labor market information. The analysis of the LFS 2015 provides a good snapshot of the labor market situation in Kuwait.

Table 19 : Percentage Distribution of Employed Persons by Sector, Sex and Nationality (Kuwaiti / Non-Kuwaiti) 2015

Sector and Sex	Nationality			القطاع والنوع
	Total المجموع	Non-Kuwaiti غير كويتي	Kuwaiti كويتي	
<b>Both Sexes</b>				كلا الجنسين
Government	19.3	7.2	86.6	حكومي
Government-Owned Establishment ( Public Sector )	1.5	0.8	5.4	مؤسسات مملوكة للدولة ( قطاع عام )
Private	64.6	74.8	7.9	خاص
Household sector	14.4	17.0	0.0	عائلي ( منزلي )
Other	0.2	0.2	0.1	أخرى
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	الجملة
<b>Males</b>				ذكور
Government	13.6	3.5	84.0	حكومي
Government-Owned Establishment ( Public Sector )	1.7	0.9	7.2	مؤسسات مملوكة للدولة ( قطاع عام )
Private	81.8	92.2	8.7	خاص
Household sector	2.7	3.1	0.0	عائلي ( منزلي )
Other	0.2	0.3	0.1	أخرى
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	الجملة
<b>Females</b>				إناث
Government	31.9	16.1	89.9	حكومي
Government-Owned Establishment ( Public Sector )	1.2	0.7	3.2	مؤسسات مملوكة للدولة ( قطاع عام )
Private	26.8	32.2	6.8	خاص
Household sector	40.1	51.0	0.0	عائلي ( منزلي )
Other	0.0	0.0	0.1	أخرى
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	الجملة

Table 41 : Percentage Distribution of Kuwaiti Unemployed Persons by Sex and Willingness to Work in the Private Sector 2015

Sex	Willingness to Work			النوع
	Total المجموع	لا يرغب Not willing	يرغب Willing	
<b>Both Sexes</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>57.5</b>	<b>42.5</b>	كلا الجنسين
Male	100	50.8	49.2	ذكور
Female	100	64.2	35.8	إناث

Table 42 : Percentage Distribution of Kuwaiti Unemployed Persons by Willingness to Work in the Government Sector, and Sex 2015

Nationality and Sex	Willingness to Work			الجنسية والنوع
	Total المجموع	لا يرغب Not willing	يرغب Willing	
<b>Male</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>95.2</b>	ذكور
<b>Female</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>97.8</b>	إناث
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>96.5</b>	الجملة

Table 27 : Percentage Distribution of Employed Persons by Occupation, Nationality (Kuwaiti / Non-Kuwaiti) and Sex 2015

Occupation	Nationality and sex									المهنة
	Total المجموع			Non-Kuwaiti غير كويتي			Kuwaiti كويتي			
	جملة	إناث	ذكور	جملة	إناث	ذكور	جملة	إناث	ذكور	
Legislators, senior officials & managers	5.7	2.9	6.9	2.0	1.3	2.2	25.6	8.7	38.6	الشرعون وكبار الموظفين والمندوبين
Professionals	12.4	24.4	7.1	8.8	19.2	4.6	32.4	43.0	24.2	الاحترافيين
Technicians & associates	7.9	11.9	6.1	4.8	7.5	3.8	24.8	28.3	22.2	التقنيون ومساعدي الاحترافيين
Clerks	3.4	4.7	2.8	1.6	1.3	1.8	13.2	17.3	10.0	الكتبة
Service, shop & market workers	9.3	9.2	9.4	10.6	11.0	10.4	2.4	2.6	2.2	العاملون في الخدمات والبيع في الأسواق والمحال
Skilled agricultural & fishery workers	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	عاملون المهرة في الزراعة والحراثة والصيد السمكية والصيد
Craft and related trade workers	17.1	0.1	24.8	20.0	0.1	28.1	1.3	0.1	2.3	الحرفيون والصين المرتبطة بهم
Plant & machine operators & assemblers	10.4	0.1	15.0	12.2	0.1	17.1	0.3	0.0	0.5	عمال تشغيل المصانع والآلات وعمال التجميع
Primary occupations	33.6	46.7	27.6	39.7	59.5	31.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	المهن الأولية
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	الجملة



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KUWAIT: Yeo Jun-suk, a staff reporter from the Korea Herald, visited Kuwait Times yesterday where he interviewed Editor-in-Chief Abd Al-Rahman Al-Alyan on developments in the local and regional scenes. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

# ARAB WOMAN AWARDS WINNERS ANNOUNCED



KUWAIT: (From left) Dr Labiba Tamim, Sheikh Mubarak Al-Sabah, Sheikh Mansour Mubarak Al-Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Shiekha Mariam Ahmed Nawaf Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah, and Sheikhha Rafa Mansour Mubarak A-Abduallah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.



(From left) Noor Faisal Al-Qatami, Dr Fawzi Al-Qatami and Faisal Nasser Al-Qatami.

By Faten Omar

**KUWAIT:** The winners of the Arab Woman Awards were announced on Sunday at a ceremony at the residence of the Undersecretary of the Department of Protocol Affairs at the Amiri Diwan Sheikh Mubarak Fahd Al-Salem Al-Sabah's. The private winners' ceremony was attended by the board of judges, this year's winners and their families and VIP guests.

excellence and celebrate achievements."

The Arab Woman Awards Kuwait was launched in 2013 by ITP and was co-founded by Dr Labiba Temmim; Executive Director at the Hayatt Ruqayah Abdul Wahhab Alqatami Breast Cancer Foundation, along with ITP's Deputy Managing Director Sue Holt.

### Culturally accepted platform

The Arab Woman Awards mission is to provide a culturally accepted platform to raise public awareness of the significant achievements of Arab women across the GCC and provide positive role models for young women. The Arab Woman Awards represents an exclusive opportunity to access top female members of the society; receive editorial and advertorial coverage on ITP consumer media platforms, logo placement on artwork, award sponsorship and on-site activations where they can demonstrate products and services direct to end consumers.

Launched in 2009, the Arab Woman Awards was established by ITP with the aim of providing a culturally accepted platform to raise awareness on the significant achievements of Arab women in areas including business, finance, legal, media and the humanitarian field. The awards are held annually in the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Kuwait and to-date over 250 women have been presented with the prestigious trophies. The Arab Woman Awards board of judges was announced ahead of the winners' presentation ceremony.



Ascia Al-Faraj, winner of the 'New Media' category.

"The overarching aim of the Arab Woman Awards is to highlight and recognize the outstanding contribution by women," Sheikh Mubarak said. "We had had such a fantastic range of entries this year, with so many women involved in wonderful projects across a wide variety of fields. The awards identify



Winner of the 'Entrepreneur' category Noor Al-Qatami with Editor-in-Chief of Hello Arabia Magazine Diana Antabli, and Anna Maria.

### The full lists of recipients of the 2015 Kuwait awards are:

- Businesswoman of the Year: Najla Al-Ghanim
- Finance: Riham Al-Ghanim
- Education: PR Moudi Al-Humoud
- Art: Amira Behbehani
- Entrepreneur: Noor Al-Qatami
- Literature: Basma Al-Enezi
- Sport: Taiba Al-Nouri
- Fashion Designer: Amna Al-Salem
- Young Designer: Muneera Al-Sahrhan
- Medical: Dr Rajaa Al-Attayah
- Media: Arwa Al-Wagayan
- New Media: Ascia Al-Faraj
- Humanitarian: Dr Seham Al-Foraih
- Legal: Esra Al-Amiri
- Young Talent: Fatemah Al-Ali and Fatemah Busakhr
- Energy: Badria Abdul Raheem
- Woman in Government: Hind Al-Subaih
- Inspirational Woman of the Year: Nada Al-Shammari
- Lifetime Achievement Award: Mariam Abdul Malik Al-Saleh
- Special Recognition: Moodi Al-Sultan
- Judges' choice: Sheikhha Basma Mubark Al-Sabah

## GPA MEETS TODAY IN KUWAIT



Nasser Al-Othman

**KUWAIT:** Secretariat General of the Gulf Press Association (GPA) holds its 17th meeting today in Kuwait, GPA's Secretary General Nasser Mohammad Al-Othman said, noting that the meeting would be hosted by Kuwait's local daily, Annahar and its editor-in-chief Emad Jawad Bokhamseen.

He added that the meeting, to be presided by GPA's chairman



Emad Bokhamseen

Torki Bin Abdullah Al-Sadeeri, will be dedicated to discuss suggested working plan for the tow coming years, he said. Meanwhile, Bokhamseen said that the Kuwaiti press is keen on providing all the requirements needed to help GPA achieve its goals. He added that the meeting will be held in Kuwait upon request Annahar made over two years before.

## WARBA BANK SPONSORED ADAN HOSPITAL PHYSIOTHERAPY AWARENESS OPEN DAY

**KUWAIT:** In line with its leading social responsibility program and driven by its keen commitment to support the health sector, Warba Bank, the fastest growing bank that offers a series of banking and investment services compatible with Islamic sharia according to the regional and global levels, sponsored an awareness open day for physiotherapy (child unit) being held at Al-Adan hospital.

Warba Bank initiative stems from its deep commitment to support the health sector and provide all the help needed to fulfill its social role. The Bank is confident in the role of physiotherapists in helping thousands of patients daily to regain their health and to relief the patients pain.

During the open day, a series of lectures and an exhibition were held to raise the awareness about physical therapy, where a professional team from Warba attended these events and contributed to educating attendees about the banks' services, products, Islamic banking mechanism while explaining its trends.

Within this context, the Bank said in a press statement: "As our inception in the Kuwaiti market, the Bank performed its responsibilities towards society as a whole

consistently and effortlessly. Accordingly, we will continue to provide the necessary assistance for the growth and development of other sectors of society, particularly the health sector, which constitutes the cornerstone of public health and disease prevention, ensuring a healthy and peaceful generations growth".

The statement also considered: "The bank is ongoing in its endeavor to support strategic events involving different sectors including: education, health and culture to achieve the general benefit and the wellbeing of the community, which is well known as the backbone of successful and sophisticated society."

It is well noted that Warba Bank works diligently to develop a strategy for social responsibility and does not hesitate to support various groups and sectors, where the bank imprints on sponsorships targeted at these sectors by dedicating a professional team from the bank to educate the masses about the importance of Islamic finance and its leading role in supporting the growth of the economy, particularly Warba Bank that constitutes a milestone in this area and is characterized by distinctive solutions.



## KUWAIT'S 'GHINWA' WINS TOP PRIZE AT MIT ENTERPRISE FORUM ARAB STARTUP COMPETITION

**KING ABDULLAH ECONOMIC CITY:** MIT Enterprise Forum Pan Arab, in partnership with founding partner Community Jameel and the Zain Group, announced the winners of the MIT Enterprise Forum Arab Startup Competition from a total of 76 contesting teams from 15 Arab countries. The competition's final award ceremony was held at the Bay La Sun Hotel and Marina in the King Abdullah Economic City on April 14, 2016. This year's event was also supported by government partner the Economic Cities Authority and hosting partner the King Abdullah Economic City along with global technology provider Huawei.

The competition was preceded by the Time to Invest in Arab Youth and Their Innovations Conference, organized by MIT Technology Review Arab Edition. During the conference, MIT Technology Review Arab Edition's five innovators under 35 in the Arab world were announced.

The ninth edition of this year's competition received an outstanding 5,967 individual and team applications from 21 Arab countries, up from 4,275 last year, and representing a record participation of over 16,500 entrepreneurs up from 12,000 last year. The 9 winning teams across three tracks - Ideas, Startups, and Social Entrepreneurship - hail from Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, Tunisia and Morocco.

The \$50,000 top prize for the best start up track was awarded to Kuwait's Ghinwa, who are building a mobile application that can be used by users to perform Karaoke where songs are licensed from the copyright owners to ensure legality, allowing users to share and promote their talents across different social media platforms.

Several high-profile entrepreneurs, investors and government officials from Saudi Arabia, the region and beyond shared insight during the conference and judged the competition. These include HRH Saud K Al-Faisal, Executive Director for Investment Policy at SAGIA, HH Reema Bint Bandar, founder and CEO of Alf Khair, Fady Mohammed Jameel, President of Community Jameel International, Scott Gegenheimer, CEO of Zain Group, Hassan Kabbani, CEO of Zain Saudi Arabia, Fahd Al Rasheed, Group CEO and Managing Director of Emaar Economic City and Wassim Khashoggi, vice secretary general operations of the Economic Cities

Authority. Speakers and judges from several leading organizations in the finance and technology space such as Google, Facebook, Oak Investment Partners, 500 Startups and MBC Group also shared insight during the event.

### The winners

The announcement of the MIT Enterprise Forum Arab Startup Competition ceremony took place during the evening award ceremony and the winners took home a pool of prize money totaling \$150,000.

Apart from the winner's prize money, each of the Ideas, Startups, and Social Entrepreneurship tracks semi-finalists benefited from top tier training, mentorship, coaching, media exposure, and great networking opportunities throughout the competition.

Startups Track: Winner: Ghinwa from Kuwait; 2nd place: Zamen from Egypt (A mobile application for real-time news feeds, filtered to display only the topics users interested in); 3rd place: B8ak from Saudi Arabia (A mobile application for home maintenance delivery)

Ideas Track: Winner: Tutorama from Egypt (A marketplace of pre-vetted, professionally recruited tutors, which students and parents can use to search for tutors by subject, curriculum, location/distance and scheduling availability); 2nd place: Deep OR from Morocco (Data Analytics and Operations Research to help make quick and educated resource allocation decisions); 3rd place: Ostor Lab from Morocco (A cloud-based mobile application vulnerability scanner) Social Entrepreneurship Track: Winner: Hydropneumatic Flushing System from Tunisia (An economic water flush that does not leak and that withstands frequent use); 2nd place: Pathfinder from Lebanon (A mobile app and a belt, both automatically and securely connected to serve the visually impaired harmonically and safely) and 3rd place: Low Cost PPC from Jordan (A lower leg prosthetic with low production costs).

Five innovators under 35: Ahmed Alfadhel (Saudi Arabia) - King Abdullah University for Science and Technology; Eve Tamraz (Lebanon) - White Labs; Jean Nehme (Lebanon) - Touch Surgery; Osman Bakr (KSA) - King Abdullah University for Science and Technology and Yaman Abou Jeib (Syria). — Glean.



Kuwait's Ghinwa with Zain Group CEO and Zain KSA CEO.





**KUWAIT:** Fire broke out in a foam factory in Subhan. Firemen ventilated the area and contained the fire before they were able to put it out. No injuries were reported.

— By Hanan Al-Saadoun

## MUNICIPALITY TRACKS ITS VEHICLES THROUGH GPS

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Municipality decided to install GPS devices on all its vehicles in order to be able to track them down at all times, the financial and administrative affairs department announced. The step comes in response to several complaints the municipality received about using its vehicles outside official working hours for employees' personal purposes. In case detecting any violations in using municipality, cleaning trucks or machinery out of service hours, violators would be subject to legal accountability, the departments stressed.



**KUWAIT:** A scene from the Municipal Council's meeting yesterday. — Photos by Fouad Al-Shaikh

## MINISTRY URGES PROMOTING E-CRIME AWARENESS AMONG YOUTH

**KUWAIT:** The Ministry of State for Youth Affairs yesterday stressed the momentousness of promoting awareness on e-crime among youth. The ministry has organized a series of seminars on e-crime in the country's six provinces, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and the Interior Ministry.

In a statement at a concluding ceremony today, Undersecretary of the ministry's youth development sector Meshal Al-Sebei, said that the seminars aimed to boost awareness on laws and penalties for

cybercrimes, such as spreading false information about the society and the people.

Meanwhile, Colonel Youssef Al-Habib from the Interior Ministry's Electronic Crimes Control Department, said that the breath-taking scientific progress has led to the emergence of new methods to commit e-crimes. An e-crime is one of the most dangerous offences, since it is not limited by geographical borders, he added. It refers to any criminal activity planned or carried out through the use of computers, he said. — KUNA

## AGREEMENT TO REMOVE RANCHES THAT HINDERED CONSTRUCTION IN MUTLAA

PREGNANT WOMEN'S WORKING HOURS REDUCED

By Meshal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** Yesterday's Municipal Council meeting witnessed controversy over Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Minister of Communication Essa Al-Kandari's rejection of a number of the council's resolutions, which might lead to activating article 14 of municipal law number 5/2005, according to member Mane Al-Ajmi.



**Municipal Council member Mane Al-Ajmi speaks during the meeting.**

cal factories. "We do not want to build another Um Al-Haiman," he warned, before the project was referred to the council's technical committee for further study.

### Children's rights

The Civil Service Commission (CSC) yesterday issued a directive concerning law number 21/2015 pertaining with children's rights, highlighting three major points. The first point stipulates that 'upon employer approval, a working mother is to be given a two-year unpaid leave to look after her baby a maximum of three times throughout her service'. The directive added that the leave will not be interrupted before it was over and that it will not affect other leaves.

The second point in the directive tackled article 54 of the law that calls for reducing pregnant women's working hours by at least two hours start-

ing from the sixth month. It also bans having pregnant women work overtime throughout the pregnancy. The third point in the directive tackled entitling working mothers two hours to breastfeed their babies during the first two years of the baby's age without reducing their wages.

### Court hearings

A court order was issued yesterday annulling the decision to dissolve Ardhiya co-op's board of directors and compensating it KD 4,000. Commenting on the verdict, Zaki Al-Sulaimi, Assistant Undersecretary for Legal Affairs at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor stressed that the ministry would go to the appeal court. Separately, the criminal court yesterday set a hearing to be held on May 30 to pass its sentence in the Fintas group case filed by state security against 13 citizens, including four ruling family members.



**CANBERRA:** Kuwait's Ambassador to Australia Najib Abdulrahman Al-Bader signs an agreement to build a mosque and Sabah Al-Ahmad Center for Islamic Studies. — KUNA

## AMBASSADOR INKS ACCORD TO BUILD CENTER IN CANBERRA

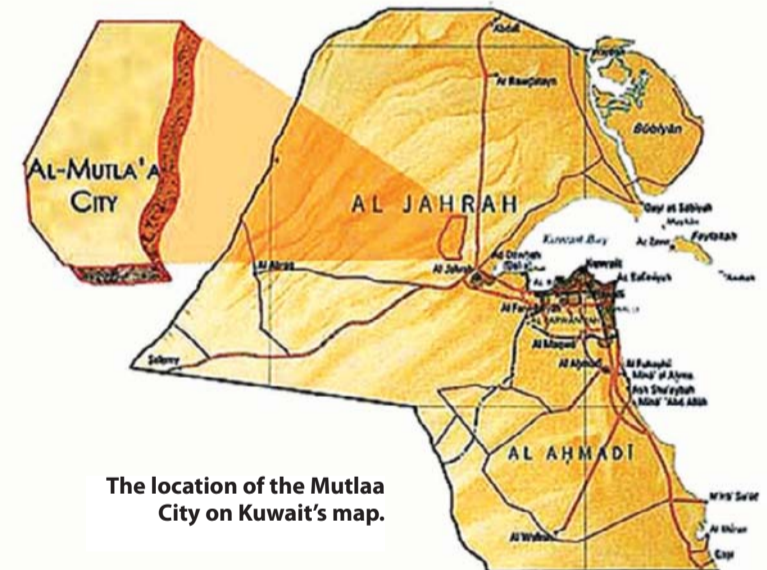
**CANBERRA:** Kuwait's Ambassador to Australia Najib Abdulrahman Al-Bader has inked an agreement for building a mosque and Sabah Al-Ahmad Center for Islamic Studies with Canberra Islamic Centre, construction of which costs \$1.08 million.

The signing ceremony was held by the Kuwaiti embassy at the center, with attendance of Ambassador Al-Bader, Australian MP from Canberra Jean Brutman, General Mufti Dr Ibrahim Abu Mohammad, Dean of the Arab Diplomatic Corps, Ambassador of Morocco Mohamed Mael-Ainain, the center chair Ethraa Khan, a representative of Canberra Church, ambassadors of Arab and Islamic nations and other dignitaries.

Ambassador Bader in a statement at the ceremony said the Kuwaiti contribution is primarily aimed at aiding the Muslim community in

Canberra, noting necessity of their integration into the local society through law abiding, adopting moderation and establishing constructive dialogue with people of other faiths. Kuwait is also seeking through such aid to contribute to securing some educational, cultural and social services for the community, as well as correcting misconceptions about Islam.

The State of Kuwait had been proclaimed by the United Nations as the 'Humanitarian Center' and His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah as the 'Humanitarian Leader', in recognition of the country's humanitarian contributions worldwide. Noting that the Muslim community in Australia accounts to 2.2 percent of the population, the ambassador underlined need for greater efforts for promoting Islamic values, and the fact that the Muslims are also victims of terrorism, and not only non-Muslims. — KUNA



The location of the Mutlaa City on Kuwait's map.

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## AN X-LARGE THIEF

By Sami Al-Khorafi

When we were young, we used to believe that a thief always wears a mask covering his eyes and that he usually goes out by night to steal. We also had a vision of him holding a bag with what he had stolen. This concept remained fixed in our minds until we grew up to find that such a 'worn out' thief changed to be dressed in very elegant attire, stealing in broad daylight right before our eyes, as if he was defying us to 'utter' a word of warning!

People have changed compared to the past when they used to warn each other in the diwaniya about someone who had just entered because he was a 'skilled' thief who would rob anything. Things are different nowadays because the same diwaniya visitors might whisper to each other that such a person is a 'good fellow'. Honesty is rare nowadays.

In the past, officials used to be welcome additions, honoring the posts they assume. They would work hard to develop work and satisfy everybody. They used

**Some of today's officials rejoice on being appointed, promising themselves to become millionaires and to make the best use of their positions before they leave.**

to be keen on being up to their responsibilities. On the other hand, some of today's officials rejoice on being appointed, promising themselves to become millionaires and to make the best use of their positions before they leave. They would price every favor and take bribes accordingly.

A word of honor used to prevail and control all transactions in the past. Today, one needs an army of lawyers and piles of contracts that are still rejected by opponents who would simply tell you to 'go to court and sue me!'

A thief has become a role model for many people because they see he has made fortunes in such short periods. "Why not do like them?," people say, thinking of making only one big deal that would place them amongst the elite instead of remaining with the poor having lentil soup in the central prison. Thieves now have many assistants as if they are staying in five-star hotels. They are adaptable according to the surrounding circumstances and environments.

Big x-large thieves - unless you repent and stop, you have to know that your days are near and that you will hold accountable before Almighty Allah because it seems that only He is mightier than you. You will have no escape then, nor will your lies help you. Life is too short and your thefts might be hidden now. However, we know that there is a 'judgment day' and you will be scandalized then and no one will dare defend you!

— Translated by Kuwait Times



Communication

Al-Anbaa

## ACTION TAKEN AGAINST VIOLATING SCHOOLS: MINISTER

**KUWAIT:** Education Minister Bader Al-Essa affirmed the ministry's seriousness to take all necessary legal measures against private schools that are in violation of decisions.

"We stopped the transactions of some private schools that are in violation, and were discovered recently, and we are waiting for complaints filed by guardians in order to act accordingly," he said.

He said whether a school adds additional floors or not, it does not have the right to



Education Minister Bader Al-Essa

increase fees unless approved by the ministry. Essa was speaking during a tour of some locations allocated to build schools in Sabah Al-Nasser. About Kuwaiti students who were racially discriminated against in the US state of Idaho, Essa said the cultural attach and the consul visited the college, adding that students there have several choices including moving to other universities, returning to Kuwait University or suspending their registration. — Al-Qabas

## AMIRI HOSPITAL ACQUIRES KD 3 MILLION EQUIPMENT

**KUWAIT:** Equipment worth KD 3 million were bought for Amiri Hospital lately, said informed health sources without specifying the type of the acquired machines. Sources said the purchase was done through one company and there was no tender to allow competition between companies and protect public funds.

They asked the health ministry to be fair in purchasing equipment

through tenders for all companies. Meanwhile, Health Ministry Assistant Undersecretary for Financial Affairs Mohammad Al-Azmi said the ministry wrote to the Civil Service Commission to approve appointment of employees on the "pay for work" system, and the ministry is waiting for the commission's reply. Azmi said the approved health budget by the finance ministry for the current fiscal

year reached KD 1,844,795,000 and is awaiting the National Assembly's approval.

Azmi said that KD 8 million was approved for outstanding jobs rewards, and expected all lists to reach him during the coming weeks. The lists will go through the approval stage and payments will be made by the end of May at the latest.

— Al-Jarida and Al-Rai

## HAPPINESS

By Dr Nermin Al-Houti

Each of us look for happiness, and more accurately, who among us does not look for ways that lead to joy? Happiness and joy are two sides of a coin, and the happiness percentage differs from one person to another, and ways of joy vary from one society to another, but there remains the joy of the heart in one meaning, which is the 'smile'.

Man may own everything, but there remains happiness as his goal and his longing, as despite owning everything, he is still not happy. On the other hand, we find another human being who does not have anything, and despite being deprived, we always find a smile on his face, and from here and there, and the irony and difference between the persons, the question remains - what are the reasons for happiness?

Sometime, a rose given to you takes you at the peak of happiness, and some days we feel very sad, and there comes he who whispers a word that removes all worries and brings back the smile to our faces. Hours, months and maybe years are spent on buying, visits and travels, and despite this we do not find happiness, while a few moments with simple things make you receive light whispers that make your heart beat with the feeling of joy.

Out of these lines, while we do not go deep in the philosophical meaning of happiness, we write about the feeling of happiness. Our alphabets gather our words coming out from the heart, to find that happiness comes from inner conviction and the human being's love for all what he possesses, and this is what the individual lacks now.

When you are satisfied with what you have, you feel happy, and you stay away from envy and looking at what others have, and your heart will be filled with happiness, then when you thank Almighty Allah for everything, the smile remains on your face. Thank Almighty Allah every morning for what he gave you, and wish every person you know good, and pray to Allah to make you happy and to grant you satisfaction and love for others. Here is where you will find happiness.

Final word: Plan to do good, because you are always good as long as you intend to do so.

— Translated by Kuwait Times

## MEETING TO ADDRESS PRICES FREEZE

**KUWAIT:** The Commerce and Industry Ministry called for a five-party meeting to discuss the commerce ministry's decision to freeze prices of products, services and handiworks. The bodies invited to the meetings are the Social Affairs Ministry, Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Kuwait Union of Consumer Co-operative Societies and the Kuwait Union of Foodstuff Manufacturers

Sources said the commerce ministry work on presenting the decision to freeze prices and discuss it with various parties to find the best means of its implementation, and explaining repercussions and circumstances related to its implementation. They said they will take the opportunity of having representatives of related parties during the fourth meeting of the members of the prices follow-up and supervision committee to discuss the decision and means of its implementation and its effects on businesses and consumers.

Sources said the commerce ministry will work on asking co-ops' representatives to submit a report that includes a list of products that were approved for price hikes last year, reasons for the hike and their approval procedures in order to ask companies to reduce prices that were raised based on high oil prices during the past period. They said the co-ops union asked for the approval of several decisions during the meeting, including:

- \* Halt all applications to increase prices until an integrated study is completed to find whether the increases are warranted or not.

- \* Reduce prices of products that were increased due to the effects of a rise in oil prices.

- \* Authorize the union to decide on price increases by 5 percent or less.

- \* All applications to raise prices by companies to the union have to be studied, and a report submitted to the committee whether to approve or reject them. — Al-Qabas

## CALLS FOR CLOSING MASSAGE PARLORS AFTER RECENT RAIDS

**KUWAIT:** After the arrest of 41 Asian transsexuals at massage parlors along with the patrons of these places, some members of the Municipal Council asked National Assembly members to grill the commerce and industry minister if he does not move and issue a decision to close these parlors and revoke their licenses.

Municipal Council member Nayef Al-Sour asked National Assembly members to Minister Yousef Al-Ali because of some massage parlors going beyond what they were licensed for and becoming brothels in violation of sharia and the laws. He said it is necessary to close them and deport workers who are transsexuals. He said the minister must revoke their licenses and never renew them.

He said the role of the interior ministry and vice detectives is not enough, so concerned authorities should unite towards putting an end to this shameful issue. He said most health cards given to transsexuals workers were through 'wasta'. — Al-Rai

## Crime

Report

### Jabriya man faces domestic abuse charges

**KUWAIT:** A citizen complained against her husband for beating and perforating her eardrum due to an earlier dispute between the two. The woman told Jabriya police that her husband beat her badly and caused the injuries mentioned in a medical report she submitted. A case was filed for investigations.

### Caught on tape

A citizen documented the theft of two of his gas cylinders by surveillance cameras and gave the footage to Farwaniya police station. A security source said the citizen found two gas cylinders missing, and when he checked the surveillance tape video, he saw a man entering the house calmly, taking the two gas cylinders and leaving. Farwaniya detectives are investigating.

### Blackmail

A citizen accused a man she knows of threatening and attempting to blackmail her because she rejected his interference in her life and does not do as he likes, and lodged a complaint at Fintas police station. A security source said the woman gave police the man's information, and investigations are underway.

### Two rescued

A Syrian woman and her daughter were rescued by Salmiya fire department after they were trapped in their building's elevator. Firemen lowered the lift manually and got the two out in good condition.

### KD 650 theft

A citizen was surprised to discover that KD 650 that was in his car was missing after giving a lift to a man from Adan to Abu Halifa. The citizen told police that while on his way, he stopped at a bookstore and took the Egyptian man in the car, and when the man reached his destination and left, the money was missing. Detectives are working on the case.

### Property damage

A citizen said two of his friends deliberately damaged his luxury car by hitting it several times. When asked about the reason for their action, he said they wanted to make him upset following a dispute with them. The case was referred to South Surra detectives. Both suspects were arrested and sent to concerned authorities.

### Hit-and-run

A child was hit by a car in Riqqa and rushed to Adan Hospital. The driver fled. The child's father filed a case at Riqqa police station and handed police a medical report stating the child's injuries. Detectives are looking for the suspect.

### Intruder caught

An Indian man was beaten before police arrived and arrested him on charges of entering a house with intention to commit a crime. A citizen called police and told them he found a stranger in his maid's room, and when police arrived at the house, they found that he was beaten up. He said the maid had invited him. Separately, an Egyptian man told police that someone entered his bedroom while he was in the shower and stole a mobile phone and KD 500. Investigations are ongoing. — Al-Rai



## OOREDOO SHOWCASES CSR STRATEGY AT GUST

**KUWAIT:** Ooredoo Kuwait, a member of international Ooredoo Group, has recently showcased its corporate social responsibility strategy through 'The Cause' conference, organized by Gulf University for Science and Technology (GUST). The conference took place at the university's campus between 10 and 14 April 2016.

The conference focused on public relations and advertising, with an emphasis on corporate social responsibility where fifteen guest speakers from participating organizations presented

their case studies and experiences. Representing Ooredoo Kuwait, Sarah Al-Qabandi, Senior Specialist - CSR and Sponsorships has showcased Ooredoo's 2015/2016 CSR strategy and major achievements in a discussion panel where she was also able to answer questions of eager students who wanted to have a better and clearer understanding of CSR and sponsorships opportunities.

Commenting on the sponsorship, Ooredoo stated: "We believe that we have a responsibility to manage and

leverage our resources to be beneficial to the Kuwaiti youth. Our participation in this conference is proof of our effective movement toward our goal of raising the awareness of the importance of CSR between the upcoming generations." "The Cause" is the result of joint efforts between students and faculty's department of Mass Communication and Media (MCM). It is organized jointly with the student Media Club and the PR Club, as well as dozens of student volunteers and others enrolled in several MCM courses.

## AHLI UNITED BANK SPONSORS REAL ESTATE, INVESTMENT EXPO

**KUWAIT:** Ahli United Bank (AUB) continues its active participation in prominent real estate exhibits held in Kuwait given their popularity. As a result, the Bank announced its sponsorship of the activities of the 9th Annual Real Estate and Investment Expo in Mishref from April 11-16, 2016.70 real estate, financial and investment companies exhibited in the show and displayed more than 250 projects in 15 Gulf and Arab countries, and around the world

Commenting on this sponsorship, Ahli United Bank issued a press release stating that its participation sought to introduce to the Expo visitors the most prominent products and financial solutions offered by the Bank to meet the high demand on owning real estate through sharia compatible financing programs. Ahli United Banks has a strong reputation in offering real estate financing services through a package of



benefits and facilities for clients characterized by attractive terms and conditions.

Ahli United Bank added: Our participation in these real estate events, which are of interest to a large group of Kuwaitis, provides us with direct communication with those visitors interested in real estate investment. This helps develop the local banking industry to meet the needs of the Kuwaiti market characterized by its dynamism and activity. Of course, Ahli United Bank aims at not only supporting the real estate sector in Kuwait but also supporting the full spectrum of economic activity in the country.

Ahli United Bank offers real estate financing solutions that conform to and comply with Islamic sharia principles through an integrated team of specialists offering a package of facilities and advantages aimed to meet the expectations of various customer groups.



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## SEDAN MODELS

MODEL	YEAR	EXT. COLOR	INT. COLOR	KM	PRICE KD.
ES350	2014	White Pearl CS	Beige	30,215	11,500
ES350	2014	Platinum Silver ME	Beige	44,213	11,000
ES350	2013	Sleek Ecru ME	Beige	41,045	10,250
ES350	2013	Sleek Ecru ME	Beige	52,715	9,750
GS350	2014	White Pearl CS	Beige	38,503	12,750
GS350	2013	Crimson CS. GF	Beige	49,199	11,750
IS350	2014	White Pearl CS	Beige	14,592	11,500
IS350	2014	Platinum Silver ME	Beige	45,782	11,000
IS300C	2013	White Pearl CS	Beige	54,701	8,500
LS460	2015	Sleek Ecru ME	Beige	31,286	22,500
LS460	2015	Fire Agate M.M	Tan	16,939	24,500
LS460	2015	Starlight Black GF	Beige	11,190	20,000
LS460	2014	White Pearl CS	Tan	20,938	21,750
LS460	2014	Fire Agate M.M	Beige	21,805	17,750
LS460	2013	White Pearl CS	Beige	40,673	17,000
LS460	2013	Starlight Black GF	Tan	44,989	18,000
LS460	2013	Sleek Ecru ME	Tan	63,648	16,500
LS460	2013	Starlight Black GF	Beige	34,919	18,500
LS460	2013	Fire Agate M.M	Beige	28,989	17,500
LS460	2013	Starlight Black GF	Beige	58,548	17,500
LS600h	2013	White Pearl CS	Beige	17,324	18,750
RC F	2015	White Nova GF	Beige	13,070	19,000

## SUV MODELS

MODEL	YEAR	EXT. COLOR	INT. COLOR	KM	PRICE KD.
GX460	2015	Platinum Silver ME	Beige	9,173	17,000
GX460	2013	SS Gray M.M	Beige	73,526	12,000
GX460	2013	Fire Agate M.M	Beige	24,023	12,750
LX570	2015	White Pearl CS	Beige	30,269	22,500
LX570	2015	White Pearl CS	Beige	18,364	23,750
LX570	2015	White Pearl CS	Beige	29,823	23,750
LX570	2015	Starlight Black GF	Beige	25,724	23,750
LX570	2015	White Pearl CS	Beige	23,731	24,000
LX570	2014	White Pearl CS	Beige	64,864	20,750
LX570	2014	Sleek Ecru ME	Beige	32,027	22,500
LX570	2014	Platinum Silver ME	Beige	40,790	21,750
LX570	2014	Platinum Silver ME	Beige	25,773	22,000
LX570	2014	Starlight Black GF	Beige	22,047	22,500
LX570	2014	Sleek Ecru ME	Beige	49,525	22,500
LX570	2014	Starlight Black GF	Beige	21,293	22,500
LX570	2014	Starlight Black GF	Beige	66,119	20,000
LX570	2014	Mercury Gray MC	Beige	56,314	20,500
RX350	2015	Mercury Gray MC	Tan	31,890	12,750
RX350	2015	Starlight Black GF	Beige	32,184	13,500
RX350	2013	Starlight Black GF	Tan	54,154	11,750
RX350	2013	Mercury Gray MC	Beige	22,291	10,500
RX350	2013	Quartz White CS	Beige	40,134	11,750

Cars mentioned in this advert might vary upon availability



# Kuwait Times International

TUESDAY, APRIL 19, 2016



**Syrian rebels launch offense against government**

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## US FORCES DELIVER AID TO JAPANESE QUAKE-HIT AREAS



TEL AVIV: Israeli soldier, Sgt. Elor Azaria, sits inside an Israeli military court yesterday.—AP

## ISRAELI ARMY CHARGES SOLDIER FOR KILLING WOUNDED PALESTINIAN CASE HAS POLARIZED ISRAELI SOCIETY

**JERUSALEM:** An Israeli military court charged a soldier on Monday with manslaughter for last month's fatal shooting of a wounded Palestinian attacker in the West Bank, an incident caught on tape that has deeply divided the nation.

The soldier, a medic, Sgt. Elor Azaria, has also been charged with inappropriate military conduct. The shooting took place last month in Hebron, a West Bank city that has been a focal point of a seven-month wave of Israeli-Palestinian violence.

Initially, the military had said two Palestinians stabbed and wounded a soldier before troops killed the pair. A video released later by the Israeli human rights group B'Tselem showed one of the attackers, still alive and lying on the ground, before a soldier calmly raised his rifle, cocked his weapon and fired at the assailant's head. An autopsy later determined the bullet to the head was the cause of death.

His attorney, Ilan Katz, said Azaria acted as expected from a combat soldier and would seek a full acquittal. It was not immediately clear what sentence the soldier faces, if convicted. Such indictments in the military are very rare, according to Israeli rights group Yesh Din.

The shooting has polarized Israeli society. The country's defense minister, its military chief and other top officials called it contrary to the army's values since the Palestinian attacker had been subdued and no longer posed a threat. That outcry in turn kicked up a torrent of support for the soldier who claims he feared the attacker was carrying an explosive belt.

Right-wing politicians have rushed to the soldier's defense, with many Israelis calling his actions

appropriate for a country reeling from months of Palestinian attacks, mostly stabbings, which have killed 28 Israelis and two Americans. At least 188 Palestinians have died by Israeli fire in the same period, including 142 who Israel says were attacking or trying to attack Israelis.

A Tel Aviv rally in solidarity with the soldier is scheduled for Tuesday night, with top Israeli musicians due to perform. However, Eyal Golan, one of Israel's most recognizable artists, later dropped out of the event and said he had intended to "support this soldier and embrace his family" but reconsidered so that he did not appear to be coming out against the military chief.

### Complex situations

Yohanan Plesner, head of the Israel Democracy Institute, said such a rally was an affront to the military, Israel's most hallowed institution. "Our soldiers are faced daily with complex situations and in the majority of cases they succeed in responding in a way that is consistent with proper ethical norms," he said. "Holding a support rally for a soldier that shot a neutralized terrorist harms the strength of the IDF because it erodes the very values on which the army stands."

The indictment against the soldier came just hours after the Israeli military said it had discovered and destroyed a tunnel burrowing from Gaza into Israel - the first tunnel to be discovered since Israel's 2014 war with the militant Islamic Hamas movement that rules the coastal strip.

Israeli troops detected the tunnel's exit, still underground, several days ago, according to military

spokesman Lt. Col. Peter Lerner, who added the tunnel is believed to have been built since the war's conclusion. It extended several hundred meters from Gaza into Israel and was lined with cement and outfitted with electricity, ventilation and rail tracks to cart away dirt from digging, Lerner said.

In 2014, Israel destroyed more than 30 tunnels Hamas had dug under the border. More than 2,200 Palestinians, about two-thirds of them civilians, were killed in the 50-day summer war. On the Israeli side, 66 soldiers and seven civilians were killed.

Hamas has vowed to rebuild the tunnel network. This year, 14 people died in Gaza while digging tunnels aimed at attacking Israelis or hiding weapons and rocket launch sites. Israelis living near the Gaza Strip have reported hearing digging sounds under their homes in recent months. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel has achieved a "global breakthrough in the ability to locate tunnels" and the government was investing considerable capital in countering the tunnel threat. "This is an ongoing effort that will not end overnight," he said. The Qassam Brigades, the armed wing of Hamas, said the newly discovered and destroyed tunnel was "just a drop in the ocean of what the resistance has prepared to defend its people, free its sanctuaries and prisoners."

Spokesman Eyal Brandeis of Kibbutz Sufa - just across the border from the southern Gaza Strip - told Israel Radio the tunnel's exit would have been near his community. In 2014, Palestinian gunmen attempted to attack Israel through another tunnel near the kibbutz. "All the worries and fears residents here had ... are coming back," Brandeis said.—AP

## EGYPTIAN POUND WEAKENS ON THE BLACK MARKET YESTERDAY

**CAIRO:** The Egyptian pound weakened further against the dollar on the black market yesterday, extending its recent decline despite central bank efforts to close the gap between demand and supply in the dollar-starved economy.

Egypt, which relies heavily on imports, is facing a shortage of foreign currency inflows after a 2011 uprising drove tourists and foreign investors away, causing the country's reserves to tumble to \$16.56 billion in March from \$36 billion in 2011.

Black market traders who quoted a range of 10.25-10.28 pounds per dollar last week raised their rates to a range of 10.50-10.65 per dollar on Monday, 8 traders told Reuters. "The price has been rising rapidly since Sunday evening. There is a lot of demand from some importers," said one trader, who said he made trades worth over two million dollars within the 10.55-10.60 per dollar pricing range.

A black market for dollars has sucked up liquidity from the banking system as the central bank kept the pound artificially strong and rationed dollars through weekly auctions, putting a strain on foreign reserves.

In an attempt to close the gap between official and black market rates, the central bank devalued the currency to 8.85 per dollar from 7.7301 last month. It later strengthened it to 8.78 per dollar, while adopting a more flexible exchange-rate policy.—Reuters

## OBAMA'S FIRST FAREWELL TOUR STARTS WITH DAMAGE CONTROL

**WASHINGTON:** President Barack Obama sets out this week on his first in a series of international farewell tours, a sometimes wistful tradition for presidents in legacy mode. But in a reminder of this president's uneven ties to allies, Obama's first stop will involve more damage control than nostalgia, more friction than fondness.

When Obama lands in Riyadh on Wednesday for a Persian Gulf summit, he'll be met by leaders roiled by his recent public complaints about global "free riders" and harboring deep distrust of his dealings with Iran and his posture in Syria. Before heading on to what will likely be valedictory visits to Great Britain and Germany, the White House will be tasked with providing some measure of reassurance to a set of allies that remain critical of US counterterrorism goals - even as they increasingly look to his successor. "I think the trip is to reassure Arab allies that the United States is there for the long run and not cut-

ting and running," said David Ottaway, a Middle East expert at the Wilson Center, a Washington think tank.

Obama has appeared to be more in the mood for frank talk than handholding. In an interview published in the Atlantic magazine this month, the president broadly blasted allies who don't pull their weight and too often look to the US to provide security. Even more eyebrow-raising in Riyadh, the president argued that the Saudis and Iran "need to find an effective way to share the neighborhood and institute some sort of cold peace" - an insult to the Saudis who view Tehran as a bitter, destabilizing foe.

### The Gulf

Obama's first meeting with the Gulf Cooperation Council last year at Camp David was focused on addressing these worries as the US tried to build support for its nuclear deal with Iran. His recent comments ensure

that reassuring them about Iran will remain a major piece of the follow up meeting this week with the group, which includes Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates and Oman.

In talks leading to the summit, officials from the United States and Persian Gulf states have discussed ways the US can back up that reassurance, including help with new counterterrorism, military, missile defense and cybersecurity capabilities. Secretary of State John Kerry, who will join Obama on the trip, has floated a possible partnership between the GCC and NATO and pledged \$139 million in humanitarian aid for Yemen, where the Saudis are embroiled in a proxy war with Iran.

"We're not at all going to take our eye off the ball when it comes to the threats posed by Iran," deputy national security adviser Ben Rhodes said. But he said the president's comments reflect the firm belief that "ultimately

there's not a military resolution to the challenges in the region."

The Saudis have long pushed, with no success, for more aggressive U.S. military action to counter Iran in Syria and Iraq, a position that sets up tense talks between Saudi King Salman and Obama over shaky prospects for negotiations about the political future in Syria. The U.S. and the Saudis are divided over what to do if the talks fall apart. Saudi Arabia and several gulf states maintain President Bashar Assad must go, under military threat, if necessary, while the U.S. backs a transition plan that would allow Assad to remain in power for months.

Saudi Arabia is cooperating with efforts to trim the population of prisoners being held at the US detention facility in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The Pentagon announced Saturday that nine Guantanamo detainees had been transferred to Saudi Arabia, cutting the number of detainees there to 80.—AP



WASHINGTON: President Barack Obama speaks in the Brady Press Briefing Room at the White House.—AP



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**BAGHDAD:** Iraqis gather at the entrance of the heavily-fortified Green Zone to protest for reforms yesterday. — AFP

## IRAQ PM CALLS ON FRACTIOUS PARLIAMENT TO DO ITS JOB

**BAGHDAD:** Yesterday Iraqi premier Haider al-Abadi called for the fractious parliament to put aside its differences and do its job, saying he hopes a new cabinet will be approved in days. Iraq has been hit by weeks of political turmoil surrounding Abadi's move to replace the current cabinet of party-affiliated ministers with a government of technocrats.

His efforts to change the cabinet, which have faced significant opposition from powerful political parties that rely on control of ministries for patronage and funds, were overshadowed by chaos in parliament last week.

Both the United States and the United Nations have warned that the political crisis could distract from efforts to combat the Islamic State (IS) jihadist group, which overran large areas of Iraq in 2014. "I call on parliament to convene immediately to overcome the obstacles and contribute to developing solutions to the challenges facing the country," Abadi said in a statement.

"I look forward to parliament being able to undertake its... legislative and supervisory role and voting on the cabinet reshuffle in the coming days," he said.

Abadi presented a list of cabinet nominees at the end of March, but the political blocs put forward their own candidates, and most of the premier's original list was replaced on a second presented to MPs

last week. 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 on Tuesday without a vote.

Dozens of lawmakers then began a sit-in and spent the night in parliament, while an "emergency" session on Wednesday ended with MPs shouting, shoving and throwing punches in the chamber.

And on Thursday, lawmakers voted to sack parliament speaker Salim al-Juburi and his deputies, but the speaker insists the session at which the vote was held lacked a quorum and was therefore invalid. Juburi opponents tried to meet on Saturday to select replacements for him and his deputies, but MPs from the Shiite Badr bloc said they would not attend, leaving it without a quorum.

Demonstrators then began a sit-in in central Baghdad for the second time in the past month, leading to increased security measures and major traffic jams.

The political turmoil comes as Iraqi forces battle to regain more ground from IS, which has lost significant territory but still holds a major chunk of western Iraq. An operation against IS west of Baghdad was apparently delayed in March after security forces were withdrawn to provide security for demonstrators in the capital. — AFP

## EU, TUNISIA AGREE TO STRENGTHEN BILATERAL TIES

**BRUSSELS:** The EU and Tunisia agreed yesterday to deepen their bilateral ties following a ministerial EU-Tunisia meeting in Luxembourg held on the sidelines of an EU foreign ministers meeting.

Speaking at a press conference after the meeting, Tunisian Foreign Minister Khemais Jhinaoui said: "They have agreed to further strengthen our relations and cooperation as part of a privileged partnership." He noted that yesterday's meeting is "an opportunity for them to set out to our European partners, their vision for future relations with the EU as part of the new neighborhood policy. Tunisia hopes with their European strategic partner to strengthen their relations to make them stronger, deeper and broader."

Jhinaoui also stressed the importance that they face up to the terrorism threat

which threatens the whole region, and also to meet the legitimate needs and expectations of the Libyan people who for years now have suffered from the absence for a central government.

On her part, EU High Representative Federica Mogherini told the joint press conference that they are very much aware of the fact that Tunisia is faced with immense and interconnected challenges, security, socio-economic challenges.

"Tunisia can count on the EU in particular on the light of this situation which young people in Tunisia and the youth of European Union are facing. EU's objective remains to provide the young Tunisians with prospects for the future so that they can see the day they have a genuine place in the society in their country," she added. — KUNA

## HRW WELCOMES SAUDI MOVE TO CURB VICE POLICE

**DUBAI:** Human Rights Watch yesterday hailed Saudi Arabia's decision to strip its frequently criticized religious police of many of their powers, urging the kingdom to also ease sex segregation rules. Under changes approved by the Saudi cabinet last week, religious officers will no longer be allowed to detain people and instead must report violators to police or drug squad officers. "This is a positive move for Saudi citizens and residents who have suffered years of harassment and abuse by the religious police," said Sarah Leah Whitson, HRW's Middle East director.

Members of the religious police, formally known as the Commission for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice and informally as Mutawaa, can no longer stop or arrest or chase people or ask for their IDs or follow them, under the new regulations. They should instead "carry out the duties of encouraging virtue and forbidding vice by advising kindly and gently," the official Saudi Press Agency reported.

The religious police enforce Saudi

Arabia's strict interpretation of Islam including segregation of the sexes and ensuring that women cover themselves from head-to-toe when in public.

They also patrol shops to make sure they are shuttered during Muslim prayers five times daily. "The authorities should go further and strip the religious police of the power to enforce sex segregation rules," said Whitson.

The commission's tactics have regularly been the subject of controversy, most recently in February when members were arrested for allegedly assaulting a young woman outside a Riyadh shopping mall, local media said at the time.

A five-member advisory committee will in future make suggestions to the Mutawaa president -appointed by King Salman - on holding officers to account for any violations or abuse. "Saudi Arabia has taken a step that could rein in longstanding religious police abuses, but authorities must enforce the new regulations for them to have any meaning," Whitson said. — AFP

# HOLLANDE TALKS BUSINESS ON SECOND DAY OF EGYPT VISIT

## REGIONAL TOUR CONTINUES WITH JORDAN NEXT

**CAIRO:** French President Francois Hollande discussed economic and cultural ties in Egypt yesterday, a day after he arrived to a lavish welcome quickly overshadowed by his host's controversial human rights record.

Hollande, who is visiting Cairo as part of a regional tour, attended a business forum with his Egyptian counterpart Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, with both countries hoping to boost trade and investments. Allegations of human rights abuses under Sisi's government dominated a joint press conference on Sunday, with Hollande insisting that respecting rights was not a hindrance to fighting "terrorism".

But Egypt—the most populous Arab country—is seen as a cornerstone of regional security as well as a key trade partner for France, a point Hollande raised at the business forum. "Trade, growth and investment are of course at stake, but also security and stability and development, not only in Egypt but throughout the region," he said. "France is the sixth largest foreign investor in Egypt," he added, addressing French and Egyptian business leaders and officials. Sisi, in his speech, said Cairo was "working seriously to create an attractive environment for foreign investors", adding that trade between the two countries was 2.58 billion euros (\$2.9 billion) last year.

The two leaders on Sunday oversaw the signing of 18 economic memorandums of understanding, and 1.2 billion Euros in financing for an extension of Cairo's metro system. The deals included financing for a wind farm and a solar power plant. Officials travelling with Hollande said new agreements which could include defense contracts were expected on Monday.

### 'Security and development'

Egypt has proved to be a lucrative market for French military hardware. It was the first foreign country to buy French-made Rafale warplanes, and also bought two Mistral helicopter carriers.



**CAIRO:** French President Francois Hollande (R) and Egypt's Antiquities Minister Khaled al-Anani visit the Mohamed Ali Mosque at the Citadel yesterday. — AFP

Hollande revisited the topic of human rights on Monday, saying "France has principles and values." "But we also want to ensure security and development," he said, referring to jihadist attacks in Egypt and the region.

On Sunday, Hollande said he had raised the case of Italian student Giulio Regeni, whose body was found covered in torture marks in February in Cairo, more than a week after his disappearance.

He said he also brought up the case of Eric Lang, a French teacher who was murdered in an Egyptian jail in 2013. Since the overthrow of Islamist president Mohamed Morsi in 2013 by the military then led by Sisi, police have waged a bloody crackdown on Islamists that has killed more than 1,000 protesters.

The crackdown has spread to secular and left-wing dissidents who had supported Morsi's overthrow but then turned on Sisi. Meanwhile, jihadists have mounted an insurgency based in the Sinai Peninsula that has killed hundreds of soldiers and policemen.

The Islamic State group's Egypt affiliate has also claimed responsibility for bombing a plane carrying Russian holidaymakers over Sinai last October, killing all 224 people on board. Sisi, who won a presidential election in 2014, has made his country a key player in the fight against IS, which a US-led coalition is battling in Iraq and Syria. After his Cairo trip, Hollande will on today visit Jordan's Prince Hassan air base, where French aircraft taking part in the coalition battling IS in Syria and Iraq are stationed. — AP

# ISRAEL FINDS TUNNEL FROM GAZA INTO ISRAELI TERRITORY

**JERUSALEM:** Israel's military said yesterday that it had located and destroyed a tunnel extending from the Gaza Strip into Israeli territory, in the first such discovery since a devastating 2014 conflict. Israeli military spokesman Peter Lerner said the tunnel he accused Hamas of building extended from the southern Gaza Strip several hundred meters into Israel though no exit had been constructed.

He declined to provide specifics on how it was "neutralized". "This tunnel is the first one to be found since Operation Protective Edge," Lerner told journalists, referring to the 2014 war. "It was built by Hamas in order to infiltrate and execute terror attacks against the people of the southern communities and (military) forces in that area." Hamas' military wing said the discovery, which it said was east of the southern Gazan city of Rafah, was "only a drop in the ocean of what the resistance has prepared in order defend our people, the freedom of the holy places and its land and captives."

Its armed wing, the Ezzedine al-Qassam Brigades, claimed the army had not "dared" to publish the full details of the tunnels for fear of scaring Israelis. According to Lerner, the tunnel was 30 to 40 meters underground and large enough for an adult to stand inside.

It included concrete slabs, "communication lines" and rails used to move rubble, he said. Lerner called it a "new tunnel," saying the military believed it was built after the 2014 war. Hamas forces have used tunnels in the past to avoid or carry out attacks, store weapons and at times to enter Israel and capture soldiers. Israel launched its 2014 operation in Gaza, run by Islamist movement Hamas, with the stated objectives of halting rocket fire and destroying attack tunnels into Israel. During the war, Israel discovered 32 tunnels, including 14 that extended into Israel, according to a UN report on the conflict.

It was the third war in Gaza since 2008 and the longest, deadliest and most destructive. It killed 2,251 Palestinians, while more than 10,000 were wounded and 100,000 were left homeless. On the Israeli side, 73 people were killed, of whom 67 were soldiers. Up to 1,600 were wounded, according to the United Nations.

### Tunnel collapses

A UN report in June said both Israeli and Palestinian militants may have committed war crimes during the conflict, decrying "unprecedented" devastation and human suffering. There have been a number of tunnel collapses within Gaza in recent months, including those extending toward Egypt. Several Gazans have been killed.

The tunnels toward Egypt are generally used for smuggling into and out of the Gaza Strip, which is under an Israeli blockade. Egypt's border with Gaza has also remained largely closed. In 2014, Egypt began setting up a buffer zone on its border with Gaza, and destroyed hundreds of tunnels it says were used for smuggling weapons and other items.

In September 2015, Egyptian forces carried



**ISRAEL-GAZA BORDER:** Israeli soldiers keeping watch as a machine drills holes in the ground on the Israeli side of the border with the Gaza Strip as they search for tunnels reportedly used by Palestinian militants for fighting Israel. — AFP

out excavations that Palestinians say caused the flooding of the last remaining tunnels there. Israel has been working on technology that could be used to better detect and destroy tunnels. Flooding cannot be employed because of the large amount of territory along the Israeli-Gaza border and because sea water that would be used would damage a reservoir in the area, an Israeli military official said.

Lieutenant Colonel Ohad Bachar, head of training for an Israeli military engineers unit involved in destroying such tunnels, told AFP last week that the flooding option was considered in the past, but abandoned due to those

concerns. He said that in general heavy equipment and explosives can be used in operations to destroy tunnels. "We are not sitting and waiting," he said. "We are always... getting new ways to deal with this kind of threat."

On April 4, Israel announced it had stopped private imports of cement to Gaza, accusing the deputy director of the economy ministry of diverting supplies. The official, Imad al-Baz, denied the charges and warned of a potential "explosion" unless the cement ban was lifted. UN officials say the cement is badly needed for rebuilding following the 2014 war, though Israel fears it could be used for tunnel construction. — AFP

## EIGHT DEAD, NEARLY 20 MISSING IN NEW MIGRANT BOAT TRAGEDY OFF LIBYA

**ROME:** At least eight African migrants, and possibly as many as 27, died in a new boat tragedy off the coast of Libya, a search and rescue organization said yesterday.

French charity SOS Mediterranee said its boat, the Aquarius, had rescued 108 migrants from a stricken dinghy in high seas on Sunday. One of the survivors told the Aquarius crew there had been at least 135 people on board when the overcrowded vessel left the Libyan port of Sabratha.

Eight of the passengers were confirmed dead: six corpses were recovered in the dinghy and two were carried away by the waves after a mass panic resulted in dozens falling into the water as the rescue boat approached.

The dinghy, at that point, was already half-deflated and taking on water with the motor

having given out some nine hours after it embarked on Libya on Sunday. The survivors were nationals of 11 different African countries. According to the International Organisation for Migration, a total of 352 migrants perished in the waters between Libya and Italy between the start of this year and April 15. More than 24,000 migrants have made it to Italy, almost all of them having been picked up at sea by boats participating in a multinational search and rescue operation coordinated by the Italian coastguard.

SOS Mediterranee operates the Aquarius in partnership with medical charity Doctors without Borders (MSF). Sunday's operation came a day after the boat rescued 116 migrants from another stricken dinghy, three of whom had bullet wounds. — AFP



## MAN PLANS TO SUE OVER MURDER CONVICTION IN 1957

**CHICAGO:** A 76-year-old Washington state man released from prison after a prosecutor concluded he was wrongly convicted in the 1957 killing of a schoolgirl says he intends to sue Illinois for the suffering five years of imprisonment caused him and his family.

Jack McCullough, a former security guard and Vietnam veteran, spoke to The Associated Press for several hours on Sunday, his second full day of freedom. On Friday, a county judge ordered his release and vacated his 2012 conviction in the slaying of 7-year-old Maria Ridulph in Sycamore, Illinois.

McCullough described spending 23 hours a day locked in an 11-by-5-foot cell. While imprisoned, he wrote to the Illinois governor and the US president, pleading for them to intervene. His letters were never answered, he said.

McCullough wasn't worried when he was first arrested in 2011 and his conscience was clear as he entered prison. "I know I didn't do it," he said. But the experience was still traumatic for him and his family, especially his wife. "They didn't just punish me, they punished ... my whole family," he said by telephone from an acquaintance's home outside Sycamore. "I want the state to be (held) responsible."

DeKalb County State's Attorney Richard Schmack said in a filing last month that McCullough couldn't possibly have killed Maria.

He said a review of old evidence and the discovery of some new evidence proved McCullough was 40 miles away at the time of Maria's abduction. Schmack, who became state's attorney only as McCullough's trial was ending, described the investigation and trial as deeply flawed.



**SYCAMORE, ILLINOIS:** Jack McCullough gives his stepdaughter Janey O'Connor the sign of "I love you" as he sits during a hearing in the DeKalb County Courthouse on Friday. — AP

McCullough said Sunday he thinks investigators wanted to be able to boast that they had a hand in securing a conviction in one of the oldest cold cases in the country to go to trial.

Schmack said during the hearing Friday that led to McCullough's release that his office would use its discretion and not retry McCullough. He said his office was fully convinced of McCullough's innocence.

Maria's disappearance made headlines nationwide in the 1950s. She had been playing outside in the snow with a friend on Dec. 3, 1957, when a young man approached, introduced himself as "Johnny" and offered them piggyback rides. Maria's friend dashed home to grab mittens, and when she came back, Maria and the man were gone. Forest hikers found her remains five months later. — AP

## SYRIAN REBELS LAUNCH OFFENSE AGAINST GOVT

'WE HAVE THE RIGHT TO RETALIATE AND DEFEND OURSELVES'

**BEIRUT:** Syrian opposition fighters launched a new offensive against government forces yesterday in a number of areas in the country's northwest, further straining a fragile cease-fire as peace talks resume in Geneva.

Around 10 rebels groups, including some represented at the talks, said in a statement that the attacks in rural parts of the Latakia province, a government stronghold, are in retaliation for vio-

lutions of their fighters lobbing rockets at government positions in the Jabal al-Akrad area, close to the rebel-held northwestern province of Idlib. In social media postings, the groups claim to have gained ground. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights confirmed the rebels seized control of at least two areas and said al-Qaida's branch in Syria, the Nusra Front, is taking part in the fighting. Neither the Nusra

Front nor the Islamic State group is included in the cease-fire. The cease-fire has reduced violence across Syria despite alleged violations on both sides. The opposition says the government has breached the agreement more than 2,000 times. The cease-fire was intended to facilitate

talks in Geneva, which resumed last week. The truce has held in most of Syria, except in the north, where it has practically collapsed. The Nusra Front is deeply rooted in the areas in northern Syria controlled by opposition forces, complicating the oversight of the truce.

Insurgents meanwhile attacked government positions in the rural part of the Hama province, adjacent to Latakia, activists said. The Observatory said government helicopters dropped barrel bombs on the village of Khirbet Naqous after fighters seized it earlier in the day.

### What the rebels say

A Syrian opposition member in Geneva, Mohammed al-Abboud, said the rebels have the right to defend themselves. "We have the right to retaliate and defend ourselves in case we are attacked and we will not be silent about any aggression and we will continue our main mission to defend civilians," al-Abboud said in comments published on the Syrian opposition High Negotiation Committee's Twitter account.

Syria's UN ambassador Bashar Ja'afari, who is leading the government's delegation in Geneva, accused rebel fighters of calling for a "revocation of the cessation of hostilities."

But the envoy devoted most of his public comments to criticizing Israel for holding a Cabinet meeting on Sunday in the Golan Heights, which Israel captured from Syria in the 1967 Middle East war and later annexed.

Russia's foreign minister meanwhile said the two sides meeting in Geneva should move to direct talks. Until now the two delegations have met in separate rooms, with a UN envoy shuttling between them. Speaking to reporters in Moscow, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov denied allegations that Moscow and Washington were negotiating the departure of Syrian President Bashar Assad behind closed doors. UN envoy Staffan de Mistura met with the government delegation in Geneva earlier on Monday and was to meet with the opposition later in the day. — AP



**GENEVA:** Syrian chief negotiator Bashar al-Jaafari, Ambassador of the Permanent Representative Mission of Syria to the United Nations speaks to the media during a press conference after a round of negotiations between the Syrian government and UN Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura yesterday. — AP

lations of a US and Russian-brokered cease-fire that took effect in late February.

The offensive, called "The Battle to Redress Injustices," is in response to government attacks against refugee camps and residential areas, the statement said. Different factions shared videos

of their fighters lobbing rockets at government positions in the Jabal al-Akrad area, close to the rebel-held northwestern province of Idlib. In social media postings, the groups claim to have gained ground. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights confirmed the rebels seized control of at least two areas and said al-Qaida's branch in Syria, the Nusra Front, is taking part in the fighting. Neither the Nusra



**BROOKLYN:** A supporter holds a cutout of Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders during "A Future To Believe In GOTV" rally on Sunday. — AFP

## NY TAKES CENTER STAGE IN US ELECTION SANDERS TO THROW A CONCERT

**NEW YORK:** US Democratic presidential hopeful Bernie Sanders is throwing a concert in a park with a dramatic view of Manhattan's skyscrapers. At the opposite end of New York state, Republican front-runner Donald Trump will be holding a rally in Buffalo, a Rust Belt city recovering from economic decline. The last official day of campaigning before voting in the state's Democratic and Republican primary elections begins today - thousands of New Yorkers will have heard the candidates' closing pitches.

New York's primary is set to be the most decisive such election in the state in decades in terms of picking the nominees for November's general election. The date for the contests was shifted back this year so they are no longer crowded out by the raft of other states that voted on so-called Super Tuesday last month.

Barring an upset on the Republican side, Trump,

whose name in giant letters adorns condominiums and hotels across New York City, is expected to win handily in his native state. "You're going to look back and say, 'That was the greatest vote I've ever cast, ever, ever, ever,'" the billionaire businessman promised a crowd of cheering supporters at a campaign event on Staten Island, one of New York City's five boroughs and its most solidly Republican one. The question is whether Trump will make a clean sweep of all 95 Republican delegates at stake by earning the majority of votes in all 27 congressional districts in the state. Total victory in New York may help Trump avoid the prospect of seeing the nomination wrested from him at the party's July 18-21 convention in Cleveland if he arrives without a clear majority of at least 1,237 delegates. In that scenario, another candid date could win on a second or subsequent convention ballot.

Trump's Republican rivals, Ted Cruz, a US senator from Texas, and Ohio Governor John Kasich, have no strong ties to New York, though they have gamely showed up at campaign events to be seen relishing local delicacies: pizza, pickles, matzo. Cruz, Trump's closest rival, has been given a particularly hard time by some voters for speaking disdainfully of "New York values" earlier this year in an attempt to discredit Trump.

While Trump holds his rally in Buffalo, Cruz will be campaigning in New York City. Kasich will make appearances in Syracuse and Schenectady, two upstate New York cities. On the Democratic side, former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who represented New York for eight years in the US Senate and whose main home is just north of New York City, remains the favorite to win her party's nomination. — Reuters



**MANTA, ECUADOR:** Rescue workers search a collapsed building on Sunday. — AP

## IN QUAKE-DEVASTATED ECUADOR, LOSS PILES UP AMID THE RUBBLE

'WE'RE NOT AFRAID. WE'RE DESPERATE'

**PORTOVIEJO:** It was supposed to be a family reunion to celebrate a young relative's start of college. But the gathering ended in tragedy when a collapsing building crushed 17-year-old Sayira Quinde, her mother, father and toddler brother in their rusting Chevy Blazer. A grief-stricken aunt, Johana Estupinan, now is making the longest journey of her life in a funeral hearse to the town of Esmeraldas, where she will bury her loved ones and break the news of the loss to her sister's three now-orphaned children.

As Ecuador digs out from its strongest earthquake in decades, tales of devastating loss are everywhere amid the rubble. The 7.8-magnitude earthquake left a trail of ruin along Ecuador's normally placid Pacific Ocean coast, buckling highways, knocking down an air traffic control tower and flattening homes and buildings. At least 272 people died, including two Canadians, and thousands are homeless.

President Rafael Correa said early yesterday that the death toll would "surely rise, and in a considerable way." "The Ecuadorean spirit knows how to move forward, and will know how to overcome these very difficult moments," Correa said.

Portoviejo, a provincial capital of nearly 300,000, was among the hardest hit, with the town's mayor reporting at least 100 deaths. The Quinde family drove there from their home hours north up the coast to drop off Sayira at Estupinan's house a week before she was to start classes at a public university on a scholarship to study medicine.

### Tragedies

"She was my favorite niece," Estupinan said, emotionally torn apart after waiting at the city's morgue for hours. "I thought I was getting a daughter for the six years it was going to take her to earn a degree." "I never thought my life would be destroyed in a minute," she added. Estupinan watched as her loved ones were loaded onto a truck-sized hearse for the nighttime drive, the three older ones in dark mahogany coffins and 8-month-old Matias in a casket painted white. "It was supposed to be a short moment of family happiness but it converted into a tragedy," she said.

She hoped to bury her relatives in Esmeraldas yesterday, but devastation there is also severe and she worried about whether the hearse could make it along roads ripped apart by the quake. The Saturday night quake knocked out power in many parts along the coast and some who fled to higher ground fearing a tsunami had no home to return to, or feared structures still standing might collapse. The country's Geophysics Institute said it recorded 230 aftershocks, some strong, as of Sunday night. With makeshift shelters in short supply, many hunkered down to spend a second straight night outdoors huddled among neighbors. Correa cut short a trip to the Vatican and flew directly to the city of Manta to oversee relief efforts. Even before touching Ecuadorean soil he signed a

### Social Media

decreed declaring a national emergency. Speaking from Portoviejo late Sunday he said the earthquake was the worst natural disaster to hit Ecuador since a 1949 earthquake in the Andean city of Ambato, which took over 5,000 lives. "Our grief is very large, the tragedy is very large, but we'll find the way to move forward," Correa said. "If our pain is immense, still larger is the spirit of our people."

As rescuers scrambled through the ruins near the epicenter, in some cases digging with their hands to look for survivors, humanitarian aid began trickling in. More than 3,000 packages of food and nearly 8,000 sleeping kits were being delivered Sunday. Correa's ally, Venezuela, and neighboring Colombia, where the quake was also felt, organized airlifts. Mexico and Chile sent teams of rescuers.

Spain's Red Cross said as many as 5,000 people may need temporary housing after the quake flattened homes, and 100,000 may need some sort of aid. "For God's sake help me find my family," pleaded Manuel Quijije, 27, standing next to a wrecked building in Portoviejo. He said his older brother, Junior, was trapped under a pile of twisted steel and concrete with two relatives. "We managed to see his arms and legs. They're his, they're buried, but the police kicked us out because they say there's a risk the rest of the building will collapse," Quijije said angrily as he looked on the ruins cordoned off by police. "We're not afraid. We're desperate. We want to pull out our family."

On social media, Ecuadoreans celebrated a video of a baby girl being pulled from beneath a collapsed home in Manta. But fear was also spreading of another night of looting after 180 prisoners from a jail near Portoviejo escaped amid the tumult. Authorities said some 20 inmates were recaptured and some others returned voluntarily. Seeking security from any unrest, about 400 residents of Portoviejo gathered Sunday night on the tarmac of the city's former airport, where authorities handed out water, mattresses and food. The airport was closed in 2011 and flights diverted to a larger facility in nearby Manta after Correa kicked out a US drug interdiction operation stationed there.

## FLORIDA MAN SHOTS SELF AFTER KILLING WIFE, 2 YOUNG CHILDREN

**SANFORD, FLORIDA:** Authorities say a central Florida man killed his estranged wife and two young children before fatally shooting himself as police pursued him.

Authorities say the spree began late Sunday when 30-year-old Henry Ramone Brown waited in the trunk of Chericia Brown's vehicle, outside a Chili's restaurant. In a news release, Seminole County Sheriff's officials say Brown stabbed her and ran over her with his car. She was

taken to a hospital where she died. Officials say Brown picked up the couple's children, ages 4 and 1, from a baby sitter and drove to Central Florida Regional Hospital to find Chericia Brown. He was confronted by deputies and Sanford police, fired at them and ran from the hospital. Deputies located him on Interstate 4 and used stop sticks on his vehicle. Inside they found the bodies of Brown and the children. — AP



# RUSSIAN SECURITY CHIEF WANTS TO COUNTER US INFLUENCE

**MOSCOW:** The powerful chief of Russia's equivalent to the FBI yesterday called for sweeping new rights restrictions, including curbing Internet freedoms and making it illegal to question Moscow's annexation of Crimea from Ukraine.

The head of Russia's Investigative Committee Alexander Bastrykin backed a radical crackdown citing the need to counteract the "destructive" influence of the United States. "It's time to stop playing at pseudo-democracy, following pseudo-liberal values," argued the official in charge of the country's most high-pro-

file criminal investigations in a comment piece in Kommersant Vlast weekly.

Calling for Russia to impose a strong national ideology, he condemned "falsification of information on historical facts" and proposed outlawing any criticism of Russia's controversial annexation of Crimea in 2014.

Russia should amend its extremism legislation to include "denial of the results of a public referendum," he said, likening this to an existing ban on Nazi propaganda. Russia is struggling with a "hybrid war, unleashed by the US and its

allies" and has entered a phase of "open confrontation," he said.

He accused the US of funding opposition parties that openly criticise the Kremlin, stirring up the recent fighting in breakaway Nagorno Karabakh and destabilising the Middle East by backing rebels in Syria. "I feel it is time to put up an effective barrier against this information war. We need a harsh, appropriate and symmetrical response," Bastrykin said.

Russia and the West have seen ties slump to their lowest point since the Cold War over the crisis in Ukraine.

Bastrykin praised China's blocks on websites of foreign media to "defend the national information space" and proposed that "to a reasonable degree we could very well add this experience to our armoury in Russia."

Bastrykin also called for all religious, cultural and youth organisations in the country to be subjected to a "wide-scale and detailed check" to see if they were supporting extremism.

He proposed stripping benefits to families of those convicted on charges of extremism and terrorism and confiscat-

ing their property, echoing Stalin-era practices.

"Someone who chooses to commit these crimes should know that not only will he be buried in an unmarked grave, but he will also strip his close relatives of support from the government," Bastrykin said. Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov in 2014 vowed to destroy the homes of relatives of insurgents, prompting the torching of several houses. He was rebuked by President Vladimir Putin, who has now backed him to serve another term. —AFP



**YANGON, MYANMAR:** A monk riding on a trishaw commutes past a commercial billboard by a local food company with portraits of Myanmar democracy figurehead Aung San Suu Kyi and President Htin Kyaw displayed on a street yesterday. — AFP

## MYANMAR'S SUU KYI REACHES OUT TO ETHNIC MINORITY REBELS

**YANGON:** Aung San Suu Kyi yesterday vowed to press for greater autonomy for Myanmar's ethnic minorities, in an early move to soothe the rebellions roiling the country after her party's ascent to power.

Myanmar has been swept up in optimism for a more peaceful and prosperous future since the National League for Democracy (NLD) took power on April 1, ending nearly a half century of military domination. But Suu Kyi warned its prospects hinge on ending ethnic conflicts that have blistered the country since its independence in 1948. To do so, the NLD government would seek "a real federal democratic union," the democracy figurehead said in a televised address marking Myanmar's New Year. "Peace and a federal democratic union are closely intertwined and that's why we need to change the constitution. The most important thing is national reconciliation." They were Suu Kyi's first major comments as "state counselor"—a role she took on following the handover to her civilian-led government.

The current charter, penned by the military in 2008, centralizes state power. The former junta in part justified its tight control of the country with fears that ethnic divisions would fracture the nation. But the concept of federalism has gradually become central to peace discussions steered by the quasi-civilian government that replaced outright military rule in 2011. Negotiations, which do not include all rebel groups, have yet to agree on exactly how powers such as policing or revenue raising might be shifted to regional authorities under a federal system. But by reiterating the federal pledge, Suu Kyi has sought to reassure ethnic leaders that the NLD will not squeeze out minority groups.

Though Suu Kyi belongs to the ethnic

Bamar majority, her party picked up seats in many of Myanmar's ethnic minority regions in last year's election. She has however come under fire from rights groups for not throwing her moral weight behind the plight of the embattled Rohingya, a largely stateless Muslim minority pushed into grim displacement camps by waves of communal violence in 2012.

### Daughter of a hero

Nobel laureate Suu Kyi is beloved by many in Myanmar but blocked from becoming president by the constitution as her two sons carry foreign citizenship. The 70-year-old is the daughter of the country's independence hero, who famously signed an agreement before his assassination that would have granted a level of autonomy to several ethnic minority regions. Attempts to amend the army's charter under the former quasi-civilian government were stymied by the military—which is gifted 25 percent of all parliamentary seats by the constitution it scripted.

Any fresh moves to change the charter are likely to meet stiff resistance from the military, which can veto amendments through its parliamentary bloc. Suu Kyi has taken a firm grip of the country's first civilian-led government in decades, taking on a string of senior roles in the new administration, including the powerful-if vaguely defined advisory role.

She has vowed to rule "above" the president, picking school friend and close aide Htin Kyaw as her proxy. Conflicts continue to rage in several areas between ethnic minority armed groups and the army, which operates beyond the reaches of civilian government, after a ceasefire pact signed late last year failed to include all of the country's fighters. —AFP

# AU MAY FINALIZE MALI COUNTER TERROR FORCE DETAILS BY JULY

## INSURGENTS MORE ACTIVE DESPITE EFFORTS

**BAHIR DAR:** Plans for a new African counter-terrorism force to support vulnerable UN peacekeepers in Mali, where militant Islamist groups are stepping up their activities, should be finalized by July, the African Union's special envoy to Mali said.

The government in Bamako and officials of the UN MINUSMA force in Mali have sought more help in combating al Qaeda-linked insurgents, who have become more active despite efforts by French, Malian and UN troops to quash them.

As the threat emerged in Mali from several Islamist groups, neighboring West African states agreed in late 2014 to form a mission along the lines of a special UN brigade sent to eastern Congo in 2013. Diplomats say a bid by the regional states - which include Mali, Burkina Faso, Chad, and Ivory Coast - to launch the force has been hampered by difficulties in harmonizing it with other security initiatives and regional rivalries for influence.

"My judgment is maybe in three months, we should have a clear idea of what will be done and how it will be done," Pierre Buyoya, the special representative to Mali, told Reuters in the Ethiopian city of Bahir Dar during a conference on security. "This terrorist threat is threatening not only Mali, but also the whole region. Northern Mali has become a base to



**BAMAKO:** Malian national Alou Doumbia, 32, the suspected "Number Two" of a group of Islamists accused of carrying out an attack last month on Ivory Coast's Grand Bassam resort. — AFP

attack Burkina Faso, to attack Ivory Coast, and maybe tomorrow other countries," he said in an interview.

### French forces role

French forces drove jihadists out of Mali's northern cities in 2013 but they have since regrouped, launching attacks such as one on a

Bamako luxury hotel in November in which 20 people were killed. In March, further south, fighters from al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb - the group's North African branch - shot swimmers and sunbathers before storming hotels in the Ivory Coast town of Grand Bassam, killing 19 people. Critics say the 10,000-strong UN force's ability to bring peace to Mali is hamstrung by its lack of an aggressive counter-terrorism mandate, so it cannot hunt militants to pre-empt attack. Buyoya said models such as those of the AU's AMISOM force in Somalia that is battling al Shabaab Islamists or the multi-national force tackling Boko Haram militants in Nigeria and neighbours were also being considered for the new mission.

The resurgence of Islamist groups such as the Massina Liberation Front (MLF) and al Qaeda-linked Movement for Unity and Jihad in West Africa (MUJWA) have also threatened to derail a Mali peace agreement signed by the government with Tuareg-led rebels last year, officials say. Buyoya said a preliminary study on the new force had been drawn up by regional defense ministers and chiefs of staff.

"The big challenge now is commitment of partners for funding, because clearly the African Union does not have the means to fund this force," he said, without suggesting who would finance the new force. — Reuters



**MILAN:** Rescued migrants are seen aboard MP01 ship of the Italian border police in the Mediterranean Sea, heading to the Island of Lampedusa, southern Italy on May 14, 2015. — AP

## ITALY AIMS TO RAISE SHIPWRECK CONTAINING DROWNED MIGRANTS

**MILAN:** Exactly one year after a fishing boat crowded with smuggled migrants capsized, sinking to the Mediterranean Sea floor with some 800 people trapped inside, Italy is launching efforts to raise up the ship and bring it to a Sicilian port.

Italian naval ships are to set sail yesterday evening from Sicily for the shipwreck site. There they will determine how best to lift the wreck, which still contains bodies, from a depth of 360 meters. It will then be towed to the Sicilian port

of Augusta in an operation expected to take the rest of the month. The Italian navy has already recovered 169 bodies found near the wreck, after Italy's premier vowed to recover the corpses out of respect for the dead. — AP

## SLOVAK PM FICO TO REMAIN IN HOSPITAL DUE TO CHEST PAINS

**BRATISLAVA:** Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico is to remain at a specialist clinic until at least the end of this week after suffering chest pains last week and will therefore miss presenting the new cabinet's program in parliament yesterday.

Deputy Prime Minister for Investments Peter Pellegrini will step in, government spokeswoman Beatrice Szaboova said. Parliament is expected to debate the program for several days before approving it and giving the new cabinet a vote of confidence later this week.

The four-party coalition has a comfortable majority of 81 votes in the 150-

member parliament. "His health hasn't worsened but we want to be sure," senior doctor Vasil Hricak said yesterday. "Fico made the decision to stay himself based on our recommendations."

Examinations at the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases did not confirm a heart attack. The 51-year-old Fico is a regular jogger and plays football. He has a history of spinal problems and sports-related injuries but no known heart issues. He was appointed prime minister for the third time last month following an election won by his leftist Smer party. — Reuters



**DRESDEN, GERMANY:** Lutz Bachmann, founder of the far-right PEGIDA movement (Patriotic Europeans Against the Islamisation) with his eyes covered (as if pixelated by media) arrives for a rally yesterday. Bachmann is due to face court tomorrow on hate speech charges for branding refugees "cattle" and "scum" on social media. — AFP

## FRENCH WRITER EXPELLED FROM CHAD AFTER CRITICIZING REGIME

**N'DJAMENA:** A French author who has denounced President Idriss Deby's regime in Chad and who was detained on arriving in N'Djamena, was expelled to neighboring Cameroon yesterday, an AFP journalist saw. Before boarding a flight to Douala, Thomas Dietrich claimed that he had been beaten up and deprived of his money and cell phone after his arrest, which was carried by agents of the National Security Agency, according to the Chadian opposition.

"His visa request was denied in Paris, so he went to (Cameroonian capital) Yaounde to get one. He was detained this morning," a police source told AFP on Sunday, the day after Dietrich arrived in the north central African nation.

Dietrich had announced his visit to N'Djamena on Facebook, where he criticized "the dictatorship that oppresses Chad" and "human rights violations", expressing solidarity with a "people who cry famine" despite oil revenues for more than a decade.

Last January he published a novel called "Les enfants de Toumai" ("The Children of Toumai"), a love story between a Chadian Muslim girl and a Maoist student from a Christian background.

Chad is still awaiting the official results of an April 10 presidential election in which a dozen candidates challenged Deby's 26-year grip on power, but he is expected to win comfortably. His regime has cracked down on public protest. — AFP



**STOCKHOLM:** Sweden's Housing Minister Mehmet Kaplan speaks at a press conference to announce his resignation yesterday. — AFP

## SWEDEN'S HOUSING MINISTER TO LEAVE AFTER COMMENTS ON ISRAEL

**STOCKHOLM:** Sweden's Housing Minister Mehmet Kaplan will resign following comments where he likened Israel's treatment of Palestinians to what happened to Jews in Nazi Germany, the prime minister said yesterday. The comments that daily Svenska Dagbladet first reported last week were made in 2009, before Kaplan entered the newly formed centre-left government to represent the minor coalition partner the Green Party in 2014.

The resignation comes amid reports of tensions within the centre-left minority coal-

ition government of Prime Minister Stefan Lofven's Social Democrats and the Green Party. The coalition had already been strained by an asylum crisis last year. Deputy Prime Minister Asa Romson of the Greens was close to tears when tougher asylum policies were presented late last year and criticism from within her party has been fierce. Kaplan, who was born in Turkey, has also been criticized for appearing on pictures from a dinner where representatives from an ultra-nationalist Turkish organization attended. — Reuters



## DUTERTE'S REMARKS MAY COST HIM SWING VOTES IN PHILIPPINE ELECTION

**MANILA:** A presidential election in the Philippines could go down to the wire after an offensive gaffe by frontrunner Rodrigo Duterte about a rape victim caused outrage and could mean losses of crucial swing votes with just three weeks to go.

The tough-talking mayor has the edge in opinion polls over Senator Grace Poe but as condemnation poured in for a second day, focus shifted to whether Duterte's remarks and his refusal to apologize could cost him the presidency. A clip appeared on YouTube over the weekend of Duterte at a recent rally recalling a

1989 prison riot in which an Australian missionary was killed, and inmates had lined up to rape her.

In what sounded like a joke, Duterte said the victim was "beautiful" and as mayor of Davao city where it took place, he should have been first in the queue. "He crossed the line," said Ramon Casiple of the Institute for Political and Electoral Reforms in the Philippines. "He may have given Poe the keys to the presidency."

Social media users expressed their outrage and echoed comments by Duterte's opponents denouncing him as crass and unfit to be president.

Australian ambassador to the Philippines Amanda Gorely said rape "should never be joked about" and US counterpart Philip Goldberg said his country would not condone any statement anywhere that trivialised rape and murder.

Duterte has cultivated an image as a crime-busting political hard man and his inflammatory campaign speeches and no-holds-barred approach have endeared him to many Filipinos. Poe's running mate, Francis Escudero, said he expected it would see Duterte lose "soft votes", or 5-8 points in polls.

Duterte moved ahead of school-

teacher-turned-senator Poe in opinion polls last week, but experts said the comment could be decisive in a tight race and push undecided women voters towards his main opponent.

"He has been testing the limits of civility ... but he's unleashed a hornets' nest with this rape joke," said Julio Teehanke, dean of political science at Manila's De La Salle University. "This will have an impact on him and it's too close, three weeks to go, then you make this major blunder. Last week, the momentum was on his side, he was about to break away."

Duterte reiterated his comment was taken out of context and refused to apologize for repeating words he had used in anger in 1989. He regretted the "gutter language" he used, but said that was part of his tough upbringing. The remark could make for a more exciting race, but Duterte's core support should remain intact. "It all goes back to this phenomenon: Voters in the Philippines are people-oriented, hardly issue-oriented," said Catholic priest Rahnilio Aquino, dean of the San Beda Graduate School of Law. "People who are committed to him will remain committed to him."—Reuters



**MASHIKI, JAPAN:** Japan's Ground Self Defense Force and U.S. military members load relief goods onto MV-22 Osprey which arrived in their Takayubaru vice camp yesterday.—AP

## US FORCES DELIVER AID TO JAPANESE QUAKE-HIT AREAS

42 PEOPLE DIED AND MORE THAN 1,000 WERE INJURED

**MINAMIASO:** US airlifts delivered water, bread, ready-to eat food and other emergency supplies Monday to a remote area of southern Japan stricken by two powerful earthquakes, as local rescuers searched for nine people still reported missing.

Authorities said at least 42 people died and more than 1,000 were injured in the quakes on Thursday and early Saturday. The flights by two MV-22 Ospreys were a gesture of cooperation between the two allies and a chance for the US military to demonstrate the utility of the tilt-rotor aircraft, whose deployment has raised controversy in Japan due to safety concerns.

Minamiaso, a town of 12,000 on the southern island of Kyushu, was partly cut off by landslides

and road and bridge damage. Residents there marked their location with chairs aligned in a giant "SOS" while awaiting the US relief flights, which also delivered tents and portable toilets and waste treatment kits.

Yachiyo Fuchigami, 64, was among those keeping a wary eye on puffs of smoke rising from nearby 1,592-meter (5,223-foot) Mount Aso, Japan's largest active volcano. Fuchigami suffered a broken arm when a bookshelf fell on her during the second earthquake. The first quake caused more damage in another, less remote city, Mashiki.

"The second earthquake caught us by surprise," she said. "We survived the first one and were watching the scenes in Mashiki on TV. I

never thought we were going to be next." Nine people died in the first, magnitude-6.4 earthquake, and 33 in the second quake, which registered 7.1, revised from an initial reading of 7.3.

### Search efforts

Rescuers were redoubling search efforts, shoveling through mud and debris as they rushed to beat forecast heavy rains that would make land and collapsed buildings even more unstable. The US has about 50,000 troops stationed in Japan, and the American military played a large role in rescue and relief in 2011 after a massive earthquake and tsunami hit the northeastern coast of the main island of Honshu.

"We're here to support the Japanese defense forces, and so whatever they need and we can provide that support, we're here to help," said US Marine Corps Lt. Col. Tom Chalkley. "We'll stay as long as we're needed, and that's our task, and that's our mission, to be here." Tatsuyuki Aramaki, 60, was among local residents who came from a nearby evacuation center to see the Ospreys' arrival.

It was "hugely appreciated," Aramaki said. "We have been living on rock-hard biscuits, old rice balls and bread," he said. "I heard Ospreys were coming to deliver supplies for us so I had to come and see. I couldn't wait."

The tilt-rotor MV-22 Osprey flies like an airplane but can take off and land like a helicopter, making it suited for mountainous areas like Minamiaso, said Lt. Yuichiro Inoue of the Japanese army.

The US military operates 24 Ospreys in the southernmost islands of Okinawa, where most of its Japan-based troops are stationed. The aircraft have been vehemently criticized by local residents already unhappy over the large US presence there. Crashes of Ospreys have raised concerns over their safety, though the US military says they are safe.

In other, less remote areas, utilities had teams out fixing electricity connections, and some local supermarkets reopened after getting their shelves back in order. Still, disruptions from damage to buildings and roads, and from outages of electricity and water supplies, were reverberating beyond Kyushu as manufacturers suspended output.

Toyota Motor Corp. said it would shut down most of its vehicle production in Japan over the course of this week because of parts shortages stemming from the earthquakes. Nissan Motor Corp. and Honda Motor Co. also temporarily halted production at some facilities. Japan's Nikkei stock average fell 3.4 percent to 16,270.89 yesterday. The decline stemmed from various reasons, including a surge in the yen after weekend talks among major oil producers on freezing oil output ended without an agreement.

Many in the quake zone whose homes were not seriously damaged sought shelter as the area was rocked by more than 500 aftershocks. As of late Monday, 93,874 people were still in shelters. With some quake evacuees complaining of having only rice balls and bread to eat, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe defended his government's handling of the crisis. "We are doing our best," Abe told lawmakers when challenged by the opposition over the government's relief efforts. "We are striving to improve living conditions for the people who have sought refuge."—AP

## INDONESIA TAKES STEP TOWARD RECKONING WITH '65-66 ATROCITIES

'TO BUILD OUR NATION IN THE FUTURE'

**JAKARTA:** Indonesia yesterday convened an unprecedented discussion of anti-communist massacres in 1965-66 that brought together survivors and representatives of the military that orchestrated the atrocities.

Protesters who say the two-day conference will help revive communism scuffled with police outside the tightly guarded venue, in a sign of the deep divisions within Indonesia over what rights groups say was one of the worst atrocities of the last century. Researchers estimate that the military and religious groups killed half a million people in the attacks on communists and sympathizers that ushered in the 32-year rule of the dictator Suharto. Conference organizer Agus Widjojo, a retired general, said at the meeting that Indonesia is "torn apart" by the massacres and called for the government to establish a commission for truth and reconciliation.

Within Indonesia, widely accepted accounts of the era gloss over the deaths, and descendants of Communist Party members are stigmatized and face legal discrimination that prevents them from holding government jobs. But the conference, being held at a hotel in Jakarta, the capital, has the backing of government figures and was opened by the Cabinet minister in charge of security and political affairs, Luhut Pandjaitan. Indonesia's attorney general, police chief and justice minister also attended.

### When did it begin

The killings began in October 1965, shortly after an apparent abortive coup in which six right-wing generals were killed. Suharto, an unknown major general at the time, filled the power vacuum and blamed the assassinations on Indonesia's Communist Party, which was then the largest outside the Soviet Union and China, with 3 million members.

"Let's open this history together so we can all find out what has been wrong in our national system, why this nation could have the ability to commit mass killings," said Widjojo, whose father was one of the generals killed. Abdul Rashid, 71, was one of the thousands who escaped death but suffered years of imprisonment without trial or exile in remote corners of Indonesia because of a tenuous connection to the Communist Party.

Rashid's crime was joining a youth group in South Sulawesi province that didn't advertise its links to communists. Four years later, when he was 21, he was seized by troops while teaching an elementary school class, and lost more than a decade

of his life to detention and exile.

"I still remember how a dozen military troops pushed into my class," he said in an interview. "They pushed in and pointed their rifles at me in front of my students." After being freed, a special stamp in his identity card made life difficult, stigmatizing Rashid and his family and making it hard to find work.

"This stigma is a too heavy burden," he said. "There are so many innocent people who became victims of a black history. I want this stigma to be ended." Despite government backing for the conference, Pandjaitan, the security minister, said there would be no government apology to victims and also questioned whether estimates of the death toll were accurate.

"I believe that this meeting will produce positive results to build our nation in the future," he said. "We must be able to create peace with our past. But don't ever think that the government will offer any apology." Andreas Harsono, Indonesia researcher for Human Rights Watch, said the two-day symposium by itself is not sufficient to come to terms with a buried past.

"At the least, what the government can do is stop discrimination against the victims - the survivors and their children and their grandchildren," he said. Millions of people are affected by a 1981 presidential decree barring communists and their descendants from serving in the police, military or civil service. Before the conference, rights groups urged the United States to release all of its secret files on the massacres, which could help reveal facts about the period.

### They were aware

Declassified documents held at the National Security Archive of George Washington University show that the US Embassy in Jakarta was aware of extensive killings in Java and other parts of Indonesia and passed lists of communists it had compiled to Indonesia's military. It also organized the supply of radios to the military and secretly gave money to a military-linked group involved in the repression.

At the time, the US viewed Indonesia as a bulwark in its efforts to thwart the influence of the Soviet Union and China in Southeast Asia. An embassy communication to the Department of State on April 15, 1966, about the number of deaths said: "We frankly do not know whether the real figure is closer to 100,000 or 1,000,000 but believe it wiser to err on the side of the lower estimates, especially when questioned by the press."—AP

## AUSTRALIAN PM TURNBULL HANDED EARLY ELECTION TRIGGER

**SYDNEY:** Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull handed his trigger yesterday to call July elections after the Senate for a second time rejected government legislation to re-establish a construction industry watchdog.

Turnbull, who wrested the leadership from conservative Liberal Party colleague Tony Abbott in September, has threatened to hold national polls for both houses of parliament on July 2 unless the Senate passed two stalled bills relating to unions.

But the Senate on Monday evening rejected for a second time legislation to reestablish a construction watchdog. It has already twice blocked a second industrial relations bill. "The result of the decision in the Senate a short while ago... means that the constitutional grounds for a double dissolution election exist," Attorney-General George Brandis said.

But Brandis said this did not equate with Australia being in an election campaign. "It is not really an election cam-

paign until the parliament is dissolved and the writs are issued, in my view," he told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

Last month Turnbull recalled parliament to consider the bills and said if the Senate failed to pass them, he would set in train the process to dissolve both houses of parliament and issue writs for an election. The government is set to deliver its annual budget on May 3, and Brandis said this would be a priority.

Turnbull's Liberal/National coalition government has been wavering in opinion polls, with a Newspoll published in The Australian on Monday showing the opposition Labor Party ahead of the government 51 percent to 49 percent. But Brandis said almost all Australian elections fell within a 52-48 margin and were generally "extremely contestable by both sides." "As we move into the home stretch, you would expect the race to tighten because that is what always happens," he said.—AFP

## THAILAND SAYS SONGKRAN HOLIDAY ROAD DEATHS ROSE 21 PERCENT

**BANGKOK:** Authorities in Thailand said yesterday that 442 people died in traffic accidents during the just concluded traditional New Year holiday - a 21 percent rise over the same period last year despite stern efforts to curb drunken and unsafe driving.

It was the highest number of Songkran holiday deaths since 476 were reported in 2006. The weeklong holiday has been dubbed the "Seven Days of Death," though Thailand has the second-worst record in the world for annual traffic fatalities.

There were 3,337 accidents during the week ending Sunday, with motorcycles accounting for more than 81 percent of the total, followed by pickup trucks, the Road Safety Directing Centre announced. Drunken driving was blamed for just over one-third of

the accidents, and speeding for just under another third. Road injuries for the week totaled 3,656. The government had sought to curb accidents during the holiday by deploying 20,000 officials to checkpoints and ordering drunken drivers' vehicles to be impounded and their licenses revoked. Rewards were also offered to police making the most number of drunken-driving arrests. Deputy Government Spokesman Weerachon Sukondhapatipak blamed the high accident rate on unsafe road design and lack of discipline among Thai drivers. "Not only villagers, but educated people, who have been to developed countries, they obey laws in those countries but they don't do it here no matter how strict the laws are, how many officers were patrolling or doing their jobs at checkpoints," he said.—AP



**BANGKOK:** people riding on a motorbike react as a boy splashes water on them during the traditional Thai New Year celebrations or Songkran water festival.—AP



**JAKARTA:** Muslim women holds a banner which reads "Refuse neo-communism" during a rally opposing the discussion of anti-communist massacres in 1965-66 outside the venue of the event yesterday.—AP





An Indian elephant takes a dust bath amid rising temperatures at Zirakpur Chattbira Zoo, some 13 km from Chandigarh yesterday. — AFP

## BOMB RIPS THROUGH JERUSALEM BUS

Continued from Page 1

contingent of firefighters battling to extinguish the blaze. Police said 21 people were injured, with medics reporting at least two hurt seriously. Police were investigating whether any of the wounded were behind the bombing. Authorities initially said most of the wounded were passengers on the second bus, though conflicting information later emerged.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said "we'll find whoever prepared this explosive device." "We'll reach the dispatchers and those behind them. We'll settle the score with these terrorists. We're in an ongoing struggle against terror, knife terror, shooting terror, bombs, rockets and tunnel terror." The Palestinian Islamist group Hamas, which rules the Israeli-blockaded Gaza Strip, welcomed the attack as "a natural response to Zionist crimes", but there was no claim of responsibility for the bombing.

The blast struck in an area of the city without any major buildings or homes and which is not heavily used by pedestrians. The location was on Moshe Baram Street close to the so-called Green Line dividing mainly Jewish west Jerusalem from predominately Palestinian east Jerusalem. Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat called on residents to be vigilant, "but continue with your plans." "Here in Jerusalem and in Israel, we go back to normal life as fast as possible," he said. "It's part of the

deep understanding that if it's a terror attack, they want to deter us from our normal life, and what we must do... is go back to normal life as fast as possible."

The explosion comes with tensions high following a wave of violence that began in October that has killed 201 Palestinians and 28 Israelis. Most of the Palestinians killed were carrying out knife, gun or car-ramming attacks, according to Israeli authorities. The last bomb targeting a bus in Jerusalem dates back to 2011, when a British tourist was killed. In Tel Aviv, a bomb exploded on an empty bus in 2013 in what Israeli authorities called a "terrorist" attack. Suicide bombings were frequent during the second Palestinian intifada between 2000-2005. Speaking before the bomb was confirmed, police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld said "if it was a terrorist attack, the implications are very great in terms of security on the ground."

Attacks have steadily declined in recent weeks, though there have been concerns the Passover holiday beginning on Friday could lead to a new surge in violence. Many analysts say Palestinian frustration with Israeli occupation and settlement building in the West Bank, the complete lack of progress in peace efforts and their own fractured leadership have fed the recent unrest. Israel blames incitement by Palestinian leaders and media as a main cause of the violence. — AFP

## OIL FALLS OVER DOHA FAILURE

Continued from Page 1

analyst Miswin Mahesh in a research note. "Though Iran initially planned to send their OPEC minister, his participation was cancelled when the Qataris insisted that all attendees would also be signatories to any deal." "The political tension between Saudi Arabia and Iran trumped the economics for agreeing to a deal."

In both June and December last year, the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries - which pumps about 40 percent of the world's oil - refused to cut output. The Saudi-backed policy is aimed at pushing the market lower to hurt less-competitive players, including US shale producers, and maintain precious market share. Major exporters from Nigeria to Venezuela, and even Saudi Arabia, have suffered billions of dollars in lost revenue as prices have collapsed.

Iran - which only recently returned to world oil markets after the lifting of nuclear-linked Western sanctions in January - has ruled out capping its own production. "Iran are more likely to increase their output, after years of sanctions,

and this is the issue," added Hughes. "Iran are in no place to start to cut their output and abide by an OPEC rule after already stating they want to increase output to pre-sanction levels, levels they are nowhere near currently."

Opinion had been split over whether a deal on Sunday would be enough to tackle the global oversupply, which is also due to slowing demand in major consumer China and burgeoning US shale production. Rebecca O'Keeffe, head of investment at online broker Interactive Investor, cautioned yesterday that global oil supply was being constrained by industrial action in Kuwait and Saturday's deadly earthquake in Ecuador.

"While there are a number of factors that might curb oil supply in the short-term - including a strike in Kuwait and the earthquake in Ecuador - OPEC's main problem is the relationship between Saudi Arabia and Iran and this problem is not going to go away," O'Keeffe told AFP. "Indeed, Saudi Arabia may move to increase supply in response to higher Iranian output in an effort to maintain their market share. "This impasse could see a sustained medium-term depression in oil prices." — AFP

## ROUSSEFF LOSES KEY IMPEACHMENT VOTE

Continued from Page 1

Rousseff allies say the president would fight to the end against what they see as a bid by the opposition defeated in 2014 elections to take power by other means. "The coup plotters have won here in the house," said Jose Guimaraes, leader of the Workers' Party in the lower house of Congress. The government "recognizes this temporary defeat but that does not mean that the war is over," Guimaraes said. "The fight will continue in the streets and in the Senate."

Cardozo described Rousseff, who was imprisoned and

tortured under military rule in the 1970s, as "very strong" and able "to fight a good fight". Huge opposition rallies over recent months have played a big role in turning pressure against Rousseff into an unstoppable avalanche. Now anger on the streets could again play a role as the stakes in the crisis rise even higher.

Sylvio Costa, who heads the specialist politics website Congresso em Foco, told AFP that Brazil's troubles are only starting. "Whoever loses will keep protesting in the streets," he said. "What's certain is that the crisis will not end today." — AFP

## HOUTHIS BACK OUT OF PEACE TALKS

Continued from Page 1

Saudi Arabia is leading a military coalition of Arab Sunni states which has been supporting pro-government forces with air strikes, weapons and troops since March last year. Speaking from Yemen's rebel-held capital, a source from the Houthi political bureau confirmed to AFP that the rebels, expected in Kuwait alongside representatives from Saleh's General People's Congress party, had not left Sanaa.

A statement from the government delegation in Kuwait accused the rebels of "irresponsible behavior", and called for the international community to show "firmness in the face of their contempt for the peace efforts". "Due to developments over the last few hours, the start of the Yemeni-Yemeni peace negotiations scheduled to begin today... will be delayed," UN envoy Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed said in a statement, without specifying when they might take place. "The next few hours are crucial," he said, calling on all parties to "take their responsibilities seriously and agree on comprehensive solutions".

Saudi Arabia launched the intervention after the rebels, a minority group that has long complained of marginalization, descended from their northern stronghold in Yemen to seize control of Sanaa in 2014. As they advanced into other areas, President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi and other officials fled first to the main southern city of Aden and eventually to Riyadh. The loyalists have since managed to reclaim large parts of the south, establishing a temporary capital in Aden, but have failed to dislodge the Houthis from Sanaa and other key areas. Before the UN announcement of a delay,

the Saudi government voiced hope for "the success of consultations" in Kuwait, in a statement published on the official Saudi Press Agency. The UN's Ould Cheikh Ahmed urged the Houthis and their allies not to "miss this opportunity that could save Yemen the loss of more lives". He had earlier expressed hopes for the talks, telling the UN Security Council on Friday that Yemen has "never been so close to peace".

The ceasefire, in place since April 11, has been repeatedly violated but the rebels, the government and the Saudi-led coalition have avoided talk of it collapsing, as happened with three earlier truces. The situation across Yemen was relatively calm yesterday despite skirmishes in several areas, local sources said. Military sources said a rebel attack killed three soldiers in the eastern Marib province, including a colonel.

There was continued fighting in Nahm, northeast of Sanaa, sources said, and sporadic clashes in the south-western Taz province. In Aden, thousands of supporters of the Southern Movement demonstrated for the south's secession, in the second such rally in as many days. Previous attempts at peace talks - including a failed round in January - have been unable to stop Yemen's conflict, which the United Nations says has killed more than 6,400 people and forced almost 2.8 million from their homes.

Among the issues meant to be tackled in Kuwait are security arrangements, the withdrawal of militias and armed groups, the handover of heavy weapons and the release of detainees. Jihadists including from Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), the powerful Yemeni branch of the extremist network, have exploited the conflict to seize territory and gain influence. — AFP

Kuwait Times

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## Focus

INTEGRATING  
REFUGEES ONE  
FRIEND AT A TIME

By Eloi Rouyer

As Germany seeks to integrate over one million refugees and migrants who arrived last year, one Berlin non-profit group argues that the first step is simple: "Start with a Friend". That message is the name of the small but fast-growing organization which teams up newcomers who fled war and misery with local volunteers who can lend them a hand as they start their new lives. "At our first meeting, there were 10 people," said its founder Franziska Birnbach. "And then, when more and more people arrived in Germany... last year, we were literally inundated with offers (from volunteers), and it hasn't stopped since."

The concept mirrors language-study "tandem" partnerships between locals and foreigners, except that the emphasis is beyond swapping vocabulary and grammar tips. In Start with a Friend, the local volunteers also help migrants find internships, jobs or apartments, or to navigate the bureaucratic thicket of German asylum procedures. The aim is to also help them get to know Germany better and, in an exchange of equals, build relationships that are mutually rewarding and long-lasting.

Last year the group facilitated some 200 partnerships, and it aims for more than 1,000 this year. Such has been its success that Birnbach, 27, and her project partner Sarah Rosenthal, 31, have now left their jobs to devote themselves full-time to "Start with a Friend". The group now has seven coordinators and has branched out from Berlin to the cities of Cologne and Freiburg, with plans to also launch soon in Hamburg, Munich and Dresden.

## 'I Have Everything'

In the cosy kitchen of a central Berlin apartment, Nina Winzen, 27, is chatting and cooking with her new Syrian friend Ehab Masood, 26, as "Everybody's Got to Learn Sometime" by British pop band The Korgis is playing. "When I met Nina, I asked her: Why are you doing this for me?" said Masood, speaking in the German he has learnt since arriving in Berlin more than one year ago. "She said: 'I have everything in Germany.'"

Winzen added: "Here we grow up with such a privileged background, we have so much. And, parallel to that, people arrive with nothing and are trying to build a new life." It seemed only logical to her to get involved in the program, she said. "We speak a lot about Syria," said Winzen. "We hear about it every day, we see images on television. But to have direct contact with someone who is actually from there opens up a whole new perspective. "For me, this exchange is a real enrichment, not only because of what I bring to Ehab, but also because of the things he teaches me."

## 'This Can be Done'

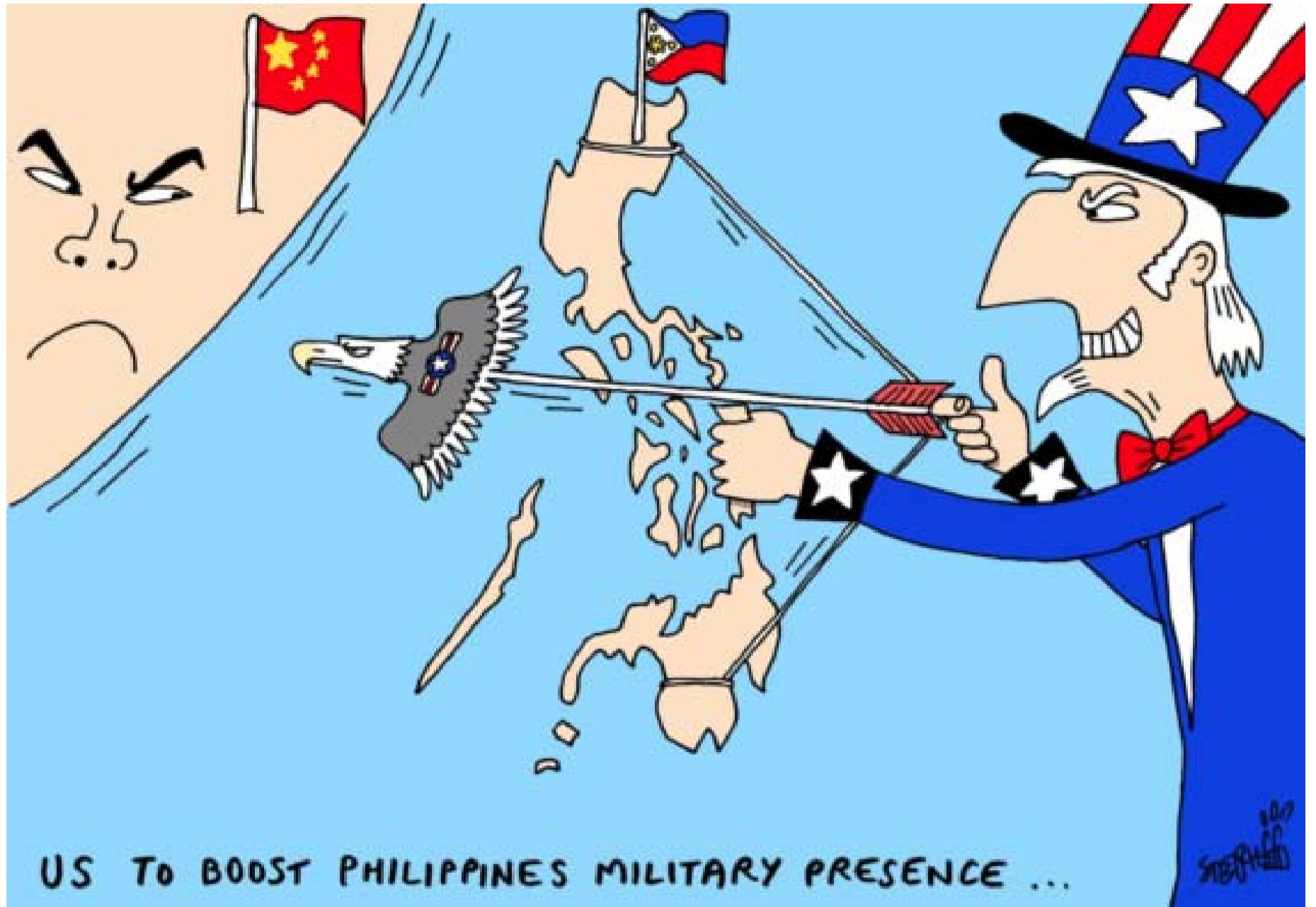
The project in people-to-people cultural bridge building comes as Germany takes a breather from last year's mass influx and searches for practical ways to turn into reality Chancellor Angela Merkel's motto of "we can do it".

Merkel's coalition government last Thursday approved a package of measures governing the integration of refugees, their rights and duties, which she labelled "a first in the history" of post-war Germany. "This can be done," agreed Winzen, insisting however that "this will only be possible together" and "if everybody plays their part".

Merkel's liberal refugee policy has drawn heavy fire from within her own conservative camp and fuelled the rise of the right-wing populist Alternative for Germany party. Rosenthal, of Start with a Friend, said that "this uncertainty which many people feel and that leads some to vote for extreme parties is very much related to a lack of knowledge about new arrivals". She deplored a growing trend toward generalizations about migrants, especially in the wake of sexual and other attacks by mostly North African men against hundreds of women in Cologne on New Year's Eve.

Rosenthal said she hopes groups like hers will help Germans and, more broadly, Europeans "realise that 'I don't have to be afraid'" and understand that a migrant "is a person who is completely normal, like me, who wants to take care of his family and build a future for them". In short, she said, people will understand that a migrant can be no more and no less than "my new neighbor". — AFP

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## DOES PREMATURE PARIS DEAL RISK PAINFUL BIRTH?

By Megan Rowling

When ministers and climate change negotiators from the world's poorest countries gathered in Kinshasa recently, they were dismayed at a proposal from the Third World Network (TWN) urging them not to rush into signing the new Paris climate agreement at a UN ceremony this week. TWN, a Malaysia-based policy group, had suggested developing countries wait a little, to make sure richer nations follow through on existing pledges of funding and technical help for them shift to greener growth, and adapt to more extreme weather and rising seas.

The ministers and officials representing the group of 48 least developed countries (LDCs) instead issued a statement urging all countries to participate in the signing ceremony in New York on Friday. They called on them to ratify the Paris Agreement "at the earliest possible date", in an effort to ensure implementation "as soon possible". Achala Aboysinghe, a legal expert on climate change negotiations with the UK-based International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), said the 37 or so countries at the Kinshasa meeting all indicated they would head to New York.

With around 155 countries now expected to ink the agreement this week - and a handful of them, mainly small island states, well on the way to ratification - there is optimism that the climate deal will come into force earlier than envisaged. The agreement was negotiated under the understanding it would take effect from 2020. This date was removed from the final text, apparently to create room for the deal to come into effect earlier. "Early entry into force is a positive sign, but there are also some concerns that need to be addressed," said Aboysinghe, who advises the chair of the LDC group at UN climate talks.

For poorer countries - as for others - signing the agreement is one thing but ratifying it another. The Paris accord will enter into force when at least 55 countries representing at least 55 percent of global emissions ratify or formally join it in another way. But while major emitters, notably China and the United

States, have said they will pursue steps to adopt the agreement as early as possible, domestic politics may make that a challenge.

In some countries, including the United States, leaders are expected to use their executive authority to accede to the Paris deal. But in others, it will have to be discussed in parliament or congress and, in some cases, will require new legislation, Aboysinghe noted. "For some of our countries, sensitising the parliaments and the parliamentarians itself is a big challenge. The concern our countries have is that it will take time for them to ratify," she said.

Agreement takes effect early - with bets ranging from this year to 2018 - before the bulk of countries ratify it is troubling experts beyond the developing world. According to lawyers with the UN climate change secretariat, only countries that have formally joined the agreement could make decisions affecting it. But those that have not could participate as observers, which may allow them to make interventions and submit proposals on draft texts.

Another option would be to convene the first session of the parties to the agreement, and then suspend it. That would give more countries time to ratify, while discussions on

other parties to the Paris agreement would not very much want the EU to be part of the decision-making for the critical rules under the agreement, so I think a way forward will be found to include them," said David Waskow, WRI's international climate director. Given that all countries have a vested interest in influencing how mechanisms for transparency and compliance with the agreement will work, among other issues, they will likely want to join it as soon as they can, said Michael Dobson, a former advisor to the Marshall Islands at U.N. climate talks. "There is going to be an incentive for countries to ratify once it becomes clear that entry into force is imminent," he said.

## Pre-2020 Promises

Many people think that will come sooner rather than later, especially with China and the United States - which account for around 38 percent of global emissions - having signalled they will adopt it. That makes the Paris deal different from the current emissions reduction treaty, the Kyoto Protocol, which applied only to developed countries. It took more than seven years to come into force in 2005 after Russia used ratification as a bargaining chip to gain EU support for Moscow's membership of the World Trade Organisation.

This time around, the political leverage to be gained from delaying may be minimal. TWN later clarified its controversial advice, saying states should not feel obliged to sign the Paris deal right now if they are not yet ready to put into practice the climate action promises made as their contribution to it. TWN also urged wealthy nations to deliver on things they have promised to do before 2020, when the Paris agreement had been expected to start, such as boosting climate finance to \$100 billion per year. Other experts agree.

Rich governments "have to make some effort to show that even if the Paris Agreement comes into force early, they are not going to forget about their pre-2020 commitments," said IIED's Aboysinghe. Amid all the fanfare around the signing ceremony this week, it is worth remembering that premature entry into force could yet bring political and technical birth pains for some. — Reuters



A picture taken on April 16, 2016 shows pastoralists looking at animals that died as a result of drought in Sitti Zone in the Somali region of Ethiopia. — AFP

If the agreement comes into force before they can join it, they are worried they may be excluded from making crucial decisions, she added. The LDC group is talking to the Inter-Parliamentary Union about how to raise awareness of the climate change agreement among members of parliament in developing countries, which could help expedite ratification, Aboysinghe said.

The question of what happens if the Paris

rules and guidelines for the new agreement proceeded under a working group. Experts with the World Resources Institute (WRI) told journalists the European Union is unlikely to be in the first wave of ratifiers because it will require all 28 member states to go through their own processes first before approving the deal as a bloc - a process that could take some time.

"It is hard to imagine a situation in which

## CAN BRAZIL OPPOSITION LIFT THE NATION?

By Sebastian Smith and Rosa Sulleiro

Firing confetti, singing and cheering, Brazilian opposition politicians were in party mood after voting to authorize an impeachment trial of President Dilma Rousseff. But the hangover looks painful. Sunday's vote by the lower house of Congress to send Rousseff to the Senate for an impeachment trial left her just two steps from being forced out of office. As early as next month, the Senate could launch impeachment proceedings, at which point Rousseff, only in the second year of her second mandate, would have to step temporarily aside.

She could still survive the ensuing trial, but most analysts say the Senate would surely follow the lower house lead and drive her out - permanently. No wonder Rousseff opponents grinned on Sunday as they raised placards up to television cameras reading: "Goodbye sweetie."

## Revenge Scenario

The immediate winner is Rousseff's vice president, Michel Temer, who has become her leading opponent and under the constitution would take power the moment a Senate trial started. Temer clearly sees himself as a president in waiting, even

accidentally releasing a recording of himself practicing his first speech to the nation. But the reality of the top job might not be so attractive. Deeply unpopular with most Brazilians, the unelected Temer would face a credibility problem.

Analysts say the constitutional lawyer and his PMDB party would find themselves facing a bitter, vengeful opposition if Rousseff were forced out by the Senate. And that would be before he even tried to address the structural problems at the heart of Brazil's worst recession for decades - a slide that has transformed Latin America's biggest economy from emerging markets darling into investment horror story.

## 'Nightmare'

"The crisis will continue. In fact it will become even more serious because the losing side will use all instruments at its disposal to block the winners. Brazil will wake up worse tomorrow," independent political analyst Andre Cesar told AFP. Temer has talked of establishing a national unity coalition, but "this will not be easy. It will be a nightmare," Cesar said.

Diego Werneck, at the Getulio Vargas Foundation, a think tank, pointed out that Temer

may even find himself fighting to stay in power. Allies of Rousseff have lodged an impeachment petition against him, alleging that he is just as involved as Rousseff in the allegedly illegal accounting practices that are at the base of the case against her.

Although impeachment proceedings would be unlikely to move quickly - Temer's close ally Eduardo Cunha is in charge as speaker of the lower house - they would dog him. Possibly more seriously, Temer is named along with Rousseff as a target of a case at the Supreme Electoral Court contending that their 2014 election ticket was partly funded by bribe money. In theory, the court could declare the elections void and call new polls, stripping Temer of his post.

## No End to Crisis

The most immediate hurdle, though, would be governing such a fractured nation. Rousseff has ended up almost powerless inside her presidential palace as relations with Congress break down and her personal popularity plummets, leading to huge street demonstrations.

Temer, analysts say, would risk some of the same problems. His PMDB is a mishmash of ideologies and has always played a kingmaking role, not even presenting a presidential candidate since 1994.

With potential partners also eying 2018, when the next elections are scheduled, alliances might prove fragile. Temer's "eventual government will be in a better position than Rousseff's but still with a lot of complications," Werneck said.

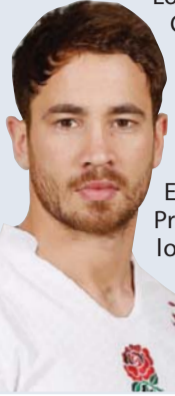
Sylvio Costa, who heads the specialist politics website Congresso em Foco, told AFP that Rousseff was nearly sure to go, but that more trouble lies ahead. "Whoever loses will keep protesting in the streets," he said. "What's certain is that the crisis will not end today." — AFP





### CIPRIANI HAD ALCOHOL ON BREATH AFTER CRASH

**LONDON:** Former Melbourne Rebels star Danny Cipriani's breath smelt of alcohol and he had "glazed" eyes after crashing his car into a taxi, a court was told yesterday. The England international, now with Premiership side Sale, has denied a charge of drink-driving relating to an incident that took place at 5.15 am (0415 GMT) on Imperial Road in Fulham, west London, on June 1 last year. London's Westminster Magistrates Court was told yesterday that Cipriani's Mercedes car was travelling "very fast" and "swerving and swinging" between the left and right hand sides of the road, and hit a Toyota Prius which had slowed down to try to avoid it. Taxi driver Muhammad Qasim, said he suffered injuries to his neck, shoulder and lower back in the crash with Cipriani, who will rejoin Wasps-the club where he launched his career-from English Premiership rivals Sale at the end of the season. Prosecutor Katie Weiss told the court that police were called following reports of a collision and that police constable Shane Elsworth questioned Cipriani, who allegedly admitted he had been out drinking. "Questions were put to the defendant, he said he was the driver of the vehicle.—AFP



### INDONESIAN FOOTBALL LAUNCHES INTERIM LEAGUE

**JAKARTA:** Indonesia will launch an interim football league at the end of this month, an official said yesterday, as the game struggles to survive an ongoing crisis in the Southeast Asian nation. Indonesia has been without a national football competition for the better part of a year, after a feud between the country's soccer association and its sports ministry saw the top-grade tournament suspended. Talks failed to break the impasse and in May the sport's global governing body FIFA banned Indonesia from international football—a suspension that still hasn't been lifted. The head of the new league, Joko Driyono, told AFP the competition named the Torabika Soccer Championship after its main sponsor-would not replace Indonesia's regular top-grade tournament but was a temporary substitute while the crisis remained unresolved. The championship will involve 18 teams, including top-flight clubs Arema, Persib Bandung and Semen Padang, and already has the blessing of President Joko Widodo and the sports minister, Driyono said. —AFP

### STOSUR SPLITS WITH COACH TAYLOR AGAIN

**MELBOURNE:** Former US Open champion Sam Stosur will end a second stint with coach David Taylor after the French Open, local media reported yesterday. Australian Stosur, a former finalist at Roland Garros, reunited with Taylor in 2015, two years after parting ways with the coach that helped guide her to the 2011 title at Flushing Meadows. Europe-based Taylor said it was becoming more difficult logistically to keep working with 32-year-old Stosur, who is based in the United States. "It's all very amicable and I'm even working with her at finding a suitable replacement, which she hasn't finalised yet," Taylor told Australian Associated Press. "I know Sam has still got some great tennis left inside her and she continues to work harder than anyone." The world number 26, Australia's last grand slam winner, has struggled with consistency in recent seasons and always battled nerves playing in front of home fans. She lost both her singles rubbers to lower-ranked players during the 4-0 Fed Cup defeat at home to the United States over the weekend, ending Australia's hopes of rejoining the top-tier World Group for another year. — Reuters



### MARATHON BOMBING SURVIVOR TO RUN USING PROSTHETIC LEG

**BOSTON:** Adrienne Haslet heard all the talk about taking back Boylston Street in the years after the Boston Marathon bombings. Her mind was 26.2 miles away. After losing her left leg in the 2013 finish-line explosions, Haslet decided that she would return to the course - this time as a runner. When the race leaves Hopkinton on Monday, Haslet will be one of 31 members of the One Fund community - survivors of the attacks, their families and supporters-who will be in the field.

"A lot of people think about the finish line," she said. "I think about the start line." More than 30,000 runners are scheduled to head to Hopkinton for the 120th edition of the race this Patriots Day. Among them are Haslet and Patrick Downes, a Boston College graduate who had his left leg amputated after the bombings.

Downes, 32, was a runner before the bombing, having completed the race in 2005 with his wife, who lost both legs in the attacks. Haslet, 35, was a professional ballroom dancer who received a prosthetic blade to the quickstep and the jive, and only then decided to take up running.

Haslet overcame a hip flexor injury while training; running with the blade also requires extra energy, because one leg is slightly longer than the other. She will run with a team of four people on behalf of the Oklahoma City-based Limbs for Life Foundation, which provides prosthetics for those who can't afford them.

"It was about finding another challenge, and finding a new day," she said. "There was a point in my life I wasn't a ballroom dancer, either." Three years after the attacks, the Boston Marathon is returning to its new normal, with more security and more runners but the focus returned to the race itself. Here are some more things to look for in this year's race.

#### BACK FOR MORE

Defending champion Lelisa Desisa of Ethiopia, who also won in 2013, is running again, along with women's winner Carolina Rotich of Kenya. Defending wheelchair champions Marcel Hug and Tatyana McFadden will also return. But most of the top Americans will sit out the race, having run in the US Olympic Trials in Los Angeles in February.

#### 50 YEARS OF WOMEN

The Boston Athletic Association is commemorating the 50th anniversary of the

first woman to complete the Boston Marathon. Bobbi Gibb sneaked onto the course in 1966 to break the race's gender barrier. She also ran the race in 1967-68 and has been recognized as a three-time winner in the "Unofficial Era." Race organizers said last week they would now acknowledge her accomplishments as part of the "Pioneer Era."

#### NATIVE AMERICAN HISTORY

Organizers also took time in race week to recognize the 80th anniversary of Ellison "Tarzan" Brown's 1936 victory. A member of the Narragansett Tribe in Rhode Island, Brown's 1936 victory is best remembered for the coining of the term "Heartbreak Hill." Defending champion Johnny Kelley tapped Brown on the back as he prepared to pass him, but Brown responded by accelerating into the Newton hills on his way to victory. He also won in 1939.

At the time, Native Americans were widely perceived as lazy, according to Mikki Wosencroft, who will serve as an honor runner for Brown this year.

"He broke a lot of barriers in the way Native Americans were perceived," Wosencroft said, "and he did it with ease."

#### AMERICAN HOPEFUL

Meb Keflezighi, who in 2014 became the first American man or woman to win the race since 1985, is resting up for the Rio Olympics. So are Desi Linden (fourth last year) and Shalane Flanagan (ninth), with Amy Cragg.

That leaves Neely Spence Gracey, who is making her marathon debut, as perhaps the best American hope to reach the podium. Gracey, 26, of Superior, Colorado, is an eight-time NCAA Division II national champion who decided last fall to try the 26.2-mile distance. A problem with her left foot kept her from running in the trials, putting her on schedule instead for Boston.

The daughter of 1991 world championship bronze medalist Steve Spence, Gracey was almost destined to run Boston. Her father finished 19th - the No. 2 American overall - in the 1989 Boston Marathon, and Gracey was born on Patriots Day in 1990 while her father was running the race.

"I grew up hearing all about that story," she said. "I always knew once I started running competitively that I was going to be running Boston. But I didn't know it would be this soon." — AP



**BOSTON:** Defending champion Lelisa Desisa, of Ethiopia, center, runs at the head of the pack in the 120th Boston Marathon yesterday, in Hopkinton, Mass. — AP

## ETHIOPIANS COMPLETE FIRST EVER SWEEP OF BOSTON MARATHON

**BOSTON:** Ethiopians nearly swept the Kenyans off the podium at the Boston Marathon yesterday, winning both the men's and women's races for the first time in history and taking five of the six spots on the victory stand.

Lemi Berhanu Hayle won the men's race in 2 hours, 12 minutes, 45 seconds, pulling away from defending champion Lelisa Desisa as they crossed over the Massachusetts Turnpike heading into Kenmore Square. Hayle won by 47 seconds, with Yemane Adhane Tsegay another 30 seconds back to round out an all-Ethiopian men's top three.

Atsede Baysa won the women's race, coming from 37 seconds behind with less than five miles to go. The two-time Chicago Marathon champion finished in 2:29:19 hours, 44 seconds ahead of fellow Ethiopian Tifir Tsegay.

Joyce Chepkirui was third in the women's race, the lone Kenyan to medal in a race that had been dominated by her countrymen for decades. The results come as the World Anti-Doping Agency put Kenya on probation after more than 40 athletes tested positive for performance-enhancing drugs since the 2012 Olympics - nearly one a month.

Most of the top Americans, including 2014 winner Meb Keflezighi, skipped the race after running in the US Olympic trials in February. Other countries pick their teams for the Summer Games by committee, and the performances in Boston could help Desisa and Hayle earn a ticket to Rio de Janeiro.

Zachary Hine of Dallas was the top US man, finishing 10th. Neely Spence Gracey, of Superior, Colorado, was the first American woman to finish, coming in ninth.

On a clear and windless day, cool temperatures at the start warmed to 62 degrees by the time the winners reached the Back Bay. It was supposed to reach the mid-70s later in the afternoon - an added challenge for the rest of the 30,000-runner field that left Hopkinton in four waves Monday morning.

Defending women's champion Caroline Rotich was among the first to fall out, dropping away from the leaders at a water station about 5 miles in and walking to the side of the road. No reason for her withdrawal was immediately available. — AFP



**BOSTON:** Women's winner Atsede Baysa of Ethiopia and men's winner Lemi Berhanu Hayle of Ethiopia pose at the finish line after winning the 120th Boston Marathon yesterday in Boston, Massachusetts. — AFP



**BOSTON:** Boston Marathon bombing survivor Adrienne Haslet, center, poses yesterday, in Hopkinton, Mass, before running in the 120th Boston Marathon. — AP

### 14 ATHLETES HAVE SUSPENSIONS LIFTED AFTER MELDONIUM RULING

**TBILISI:** At least 14 athletes from Russia and Georgia had their doping suspensions lifted Friday, two days after officials relaxed the rules about meldonium.

The drug was banned for 2016, prompting at least 172 failed tests worldwide. But the World Anti-Doping Agency changed its guidance on Wednesday, saying athletes could be cleared if only minute traces of the drug were found in their system.

Many athletes who tested positive had argued they stopped taking meldonium, which is typically recommended for heart disease patients, before it was banned.

In the former Soviet nation of Georgia, six athletes from the national wrestling team had provisional suspensions lifted, including Olympic silver medalist Davit Modzmanishvili and European silver medalist Beka Lomtadze.

"In their blood, less than one microgram

of meldonium was found," Temuri Ukleba, vice president of the Georgian anti-doping agency, told The Associated Press. "They took it before the ban." In Russia, the national Olympic committee said eight suspensions were lifted. Those who benefited include 400-meter runner Nadezhda Kotlyarova, who was a semifinalist at last year's world championships, plus track cyclists, a bobsledder and a skeleton racer.

The announcements Friday follow a case on Thursday when the International Weightlifting Federation said two-time Olympic medalist Andrei Rybakov of Belarus had his suspension lifted.

Lifting a provisional suspension doesn't mean the case is dismissed in full, but athletes are typically able to compete and train as part of their teams until final decisions are issued. The WADA ruling means future bans in such cases are unlikely. — AP

### MCFADDEN WINS WHEELCHAIR RACE

**BOSTON:** Tatyana McFadden has won the women's wheelchair race at the Boston Marathon. It was her fourth victory in a row. McFadden completed the 26.2-mile course from Hopkinton to Copley Square in an official time of 1 hour, 42 minutes, 16 seconds. That is 8:10 behind the record pace because of a headwind. McFadden was born in Russia and adopted by an American woman as a small child. The 26-year-old McFadden lives in Clarksville, Maryland. She was wearing a singlet honoring Martin Richard, the 8-year-old boy killed in the 2013 finish line bombings. Meanwhile, Switzerland's Marcel Hug has won his second straight men's wheelchair title at the Boston Marathon. Hug crossed the finish line in 1 hour, 24 minutes and 1 second, which was just 5:36 off the course and world record. The 30-year-old edged second place Ernst Van Dyk, of South Africa, and Australian Kurt Fearnley, who was third.

The top three finished within a second of each other. Hug overtook the 10-time champion Van Dyk in the final turn off Boylston Street and outspurred Van Dyk and Fearnley to the line. Hug's time was nearly five minutes faster than his 2015 win. — AP



**BOSTON:** Tatyana McFadden, of Clarksville, Md., receives her victor's wreath and trophy after winning the women's wheelchair division of the 120th Boston Marathon yesterday, in Boston. — AP



## RAMPANT ROSBERG WARY OF HAMILTON BACKLASH

**SHANGHAI:** Nico Rosberg is refusing to get ahead of himself after extending his perfect start to the 2016 Formula One season with a crushing victory at the Chinese Grand Prix. The German became the 10th driver to win the first three races of the season in Shanghai—the previous nine all going on to win the world title. Rosberg quickly dismissed that statistic, however, pointing at the brooding figure of Mercedes rival Lewis Hamilton, who has form when it comes to wiping out chunky leads.

"They didn't have Lewis Hamilton as a team-mate, those other nine," Rosberg told reporters after pushing his champi-

onship lead over Hamilton to 36 points. "It's a handful of races in the longest season ever, another 18 to go. To win the first three is awesome, but I never expected it to go that way," he added with the next race in Russia on May 1 already looking pivotal. "It's great to win, it's what I race for. But Lewis Hamilton is my team-mate, double world champion, hard to beat in the previous two, three years. Lewis will never give up."

Rosberg also became only the fourth driver to win six consecutive races—joining Sebastian Vettel (nine), Alberto Ascari (seven) and Michael Schumacher (six) — after winning the last three of

2015. Hamilton, yet to win since clinching his third world title in Texas last October, was licking his wounds after he battled back to finish seventh from last on the grid after a mechanical failure in qualifying.

### STARK REMINDER

The Briton erased a 29-point Rosberg lead to win the 2014 championship, a stark reminder to Rosberg of the danger lurking on the other side of the Mercedes garage. "It doesn't feel any nicer than it did back then," said Hamilton. "There are lots of different emotions when you see your season go the wrong way. But it's

part of the journey and it makes you stronger." As Rosberg celebrated, Ferrari were hopping mad after their race was compromised by a clash between Vettel, Kimi Raikkonen and the Red Bull of Daniil Kvyat at turn one.

Vettel, who slammed the Russian as "a madman" and "suicidal" in a withering attack, fought back brilliantly from 15th to take second, while Raikkonen took fifth despite damaging his front wing and sustaining a puncture in the mayhem. But after struggling with engine trouble in Australia and Bahrain, it was scant consolation for Ferrari after a weekend when the Italian team had shown

real pace. "Ferrari really haven't shown what they can do at all yet," warned Rosberg. "We really think that they're very, very close to us so we have to keep our heads down and keep pushing." Red Bull made strides with Kvyat finishing on the podium and Daniel Ricciardo taking fourth after suffering an early puncture when leading, suggesting they too could be a threat at the next stop in Sochi. "I definitely feel I would've been spraying champagne," said the Australian Ricciardo, who qualified second on the grid. "But part of me is smiling inside because I know that can happen more times this year." — AFP



**HILTON HEAD ISLAND:** Branden Grace reacts to a putt on the 16th hole during the final round of the 2016 RBC Heritage at Harbour Town Golf Links on Sunday in Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. —AFP

## S AFRICA'S GRACE GRABS FIRST US PGA TOUR TITLE

**HILTON HEAD ISLAND:** Branden Grace shot a 5-under 66 to overtake Luke Donald and win the RBC Heritage on Sunday for his first PGA Tour title and 11th worldwide victory. Three shots behind Donald entering the day, Grace moved to the top with four birdies on his first six holes. The South African pulled three shots in front of Donald after birdies on the 12th and 13 holes. Grace finished at 9-under 275, two shots ahead of Donald and Russell Knox. Donald shot a 71, and Knox had a 67. Grace earned \$1,062,000 and a PGA Tour exemption through the 2017-18 season. He also became the latest to rally past hard-luck leader Donald at Harbour Town Golf Links. The Englishman has finished second four times and third twice in the past eight events here.

Brandt Snedeker shot a final-round 64 to catch Donald and win in a playoff in 2011. Matt Kuchar shot a 64 in 2014, overtaking Donald for the win with a chip-in from the bunker on the 72nd hole.

Bryson DeChambeau, the former SMU star who won the NCAA and U.S. Amateur last year, tied for fourth in his first event since turning pro, four shots behind Grace after a 68. Top-ranked Jason Day rebounded from a season-worst 79 on Saturday with a 68 to tie for 23rd at 1 under.

### MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC CLASSIC

Woody Austin tied the tournament record with an 8-under 64 and beat Wes Short Jr. with a par on the second hole of a sudden-death playoff in the PGA Tour Champions' Mitsubishi Electric Classic. The 52-year-old Austin has two victories in the last three events on the 50-and-over tour, also winning in Tucson, Arizona, last month. He won the 2013 Sanderson Farms Championship at age 49 for the last of his four PGA Tour titles.

Short bogeyed the second playoff after

pulling his tee shot left into tall grass for the second time. Short finished with a 68. He could have avoided the playoff at TPC Sugarloaf, but missed a 6 foot birdie putt on No. 18, leaving him tied with Austin at 11 under. Paul Goydos had a 67 to finish third at 10 under. Joey Sindelar (67), Tom Lehman (67), Miguel Angel Jimenez (68) and Colin Montgomerie (69) were another stroke back.

### SPANISH OPEN

England's Andrew Johnston won the Spanish Open at Valderrama for his first European Tour title, closing with a 1-under 70 for a one-stroke victory.

Johnston finished at 1-over 285. The strong wind that had made conditions tough during the first three rounds subsided Sunday. Joost Luiten of the Netherlands was second after a 71. Tournament host Sergio Garcia was third at 3 over after a 67, the 67 - the best rounds of the day.

### CHICO'S PATTY BERG MEMORIAL

Madelene Sagstrom won the Chico's Patty Berg Memorial at Cypress Lake for her first Symetra Tour title, and Lorie Kane took the Legends Tour event. The 23-year-old Sagstrom, the Southeastern Conference player of the year last season at LSU, closed with a 3-over 75 in strong wind for a one-stroke victory. She earned \$30,000 to take the season money lead with \$52,914, breaking the \$50,000 mark in a tour-record three events. Sagstrom finished at 9-under 279 after opening with rounds of 69, 66 and 69. Germany's Sophia Popov was second after a 73. Kane finished with a 71 for a three-stroke victory in the 36-hole Legends Tour event. The 51-year-old Canadian had a 1-under 143 total. Jane Crafter and Barb Mucha tied for second, each shooting 74. — AP



**LANGFORD:** New Zealand (black) vies with England (white) on the final day of HSBC World Rugby Women's Sevens Series in Langford, BC, Canada on Sunday. England won 31-14. — AFP

## HACKETT SORRY AFTER CLAIMS OF MID-AIR NIPPLE TWEAK

**SYDNEY:** Australian swimming great Grant Hackett apologised for his "poor behaviour" yesterday after he was accused of drunkenly squeezing a fellow airline passenger's nipple because he reclined his seat. Hackett, 35, said he was embarrassed at reports of his actions, which came after this month's failed attempt to qualify for the Rio Olympics at the Australian trials in Adelaide.

"I seriously and genuinely regret my poor behaviour," said the former long-time 1500m world record-holder. "I have stuffed up more than once and am working on these issues. It is embarrassing to hear and read the consequences of my actions. I apologise unreservedly to the gentleman on the flight." Reports of events in the business class section of the Virgin Australia flight from Adelaide were splashed across Australian media. Australian Federal Police confirmed that they spoke to a 35-year-old man at Melbourne airport and that no charges were laid. Various media said the incident was sparked when the passenger in front of Hackett reclined his seat.

The male passenger, who was not named, told Melbourne's Herald-Sun newspaper that as he reclined his chair, Hackett "grabbed it and yanked it back".

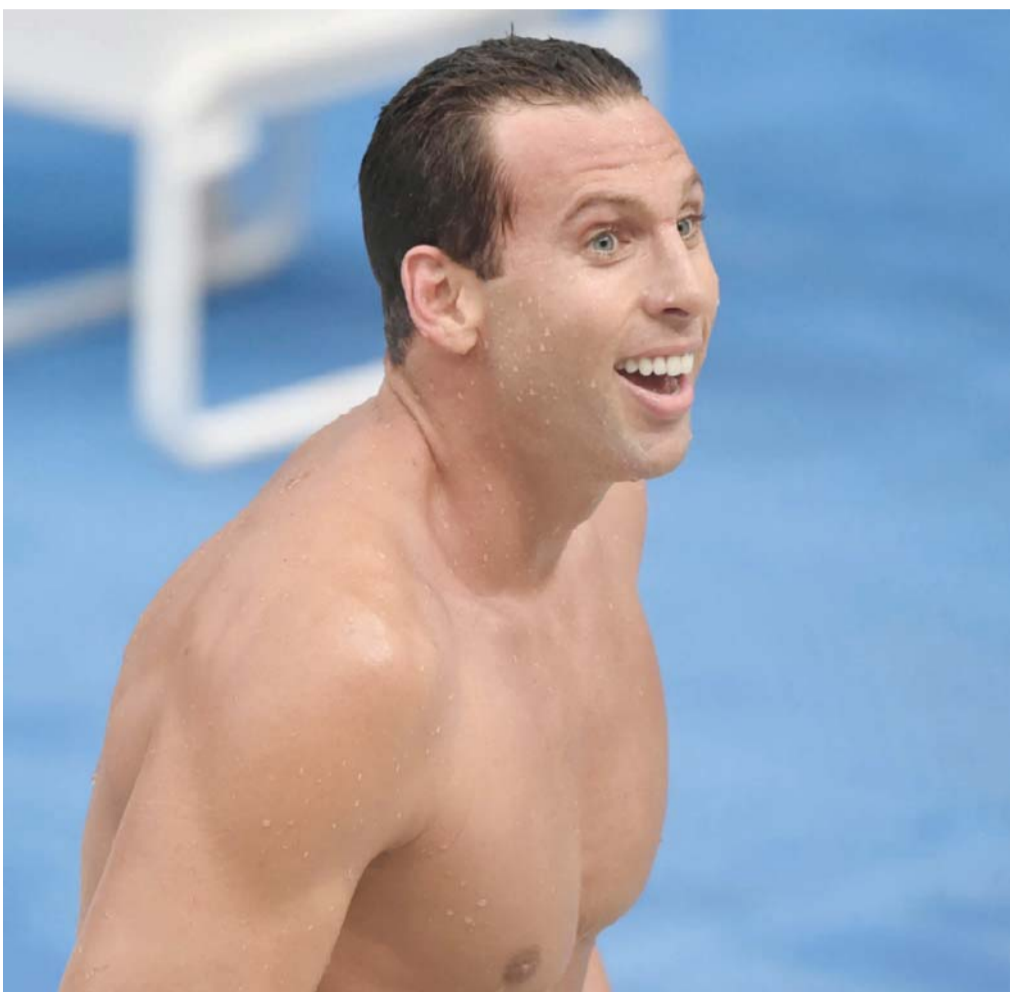
"Then he put his hand through and groped my chest and tweaked my nipple quite forcefully," he alleged. Gary Pert, the chief executive of the Collingwood Football Club, said he was seated across the aisle from Hackett and saw the incident unfold. "He (Hackett) was not aggressive or upset," Pert told Melbourne radio station 3AW. "One of the passengers in front of him put his chair back and Grant just leant forward, put his hand between the seat and appeared to just tap the person."

Pert said that he later helped Hackett off the plane. "I think he would be the first one to say he was affected by alcohol and literally was asleep or passed out on the flight for the majority of the time," he added.

### 'EXTREMELY DISAPPOINTED'

Hackett, one of the greats of Australian swimming, retired after the 2008 Beijing Olympics after winning the 1500m freestyle at both the 2000 and 2004 Games.

He went through a divorce and underwent rehab in 2014 after seeking help for an addiction to sleeping pills.



Grant Hackett

Hackett came out of retirement with hopes of becoming the oldest Australian swimmer to qualify for an Olympics, but missed out when he failed to qualify for the 200 metres freestyle final at the Australian Swimming Championships. Swimming Australia said it was "extremely disappointed" to hear the reports after the sport's positive week in Adelaide, where a number of young stars qualified for Rio.

"The reported incident was particularly surprising, given the manner in which Grant conducted himself over the duration of the event," a statement said. "Given Grant's recent experiences, we are concerned for Grant's welfare and

believe that it is very important that we provide Grant with all the support we can provide to ensure his progress as a person remains on track," it added. Hackett said that for now, he was trying to make direct contact with his fellow passenger. "I know I have to front the media and discuss my actions in a more appropriate and accountable way," he said.

"I just have to sort a few things first so I can be as frank and open as I need to be." Australian swimming is trying to turn the corner after a flop at the 2012 Olympics when their campaign was marred by ill-discipline, drug use and drunkenness. — AFP

## ROMANIA FAIL TO MAKE RIO OLYMPICS TEAM CUT

**BUCHAREST:** Romania's remarkable four-decade long Olympic medal streak in women's gymnastics ended in bitter tears at the Rio test event after they failed to qualify a full team for the Brazil Games.

Romania—a country used to showcasing perfection in gymnastics ever since Nadia Comaneci landed the first 10.0 score at the Montreal Games—had scooped a team medal at every Olympics since 1976, including gold in 1984, 2000 and 2004.

However, they will not be lining up in the women's team competition in Rio as they followed up their doomed outing in last year's Glasgow world championships, when they placed 13th, by failing to finish in the top four in the test event on Sunday.

The top eight teams from the 2015 world championships gained automatic Olympic qualification and were joined by the top four — Brazil, Germany, Belgium, France—from the Rio test event.

The women's teams from United States, Russia, Britain, China, Italy, Japan, Canada, Netherlands had already secured their berths last year.

It proved to be a weekend to forget for former gymnastics powerhouse Romania as the men's team also failed to make the Olympic cut, leaving the country with the consolation prize of sending just one female and two male gymnasts to the August 5-21 Games.

While Romania's chances of adding to the 24 golds their women have won since 1976 will now lie with a sole representative in Brazil, Uzbekistan's Oksana Chusovitina and India's Dipa Karmakar will be celebrating milestones in South America.

The 40-year-old, well-travelled Chusovitina will become the first gymnast to compete at seven successive Olympics, adding another chapter to a glittering career in which she has represented the Soviet Union, the Unified Team, Uzbekistan, Germany and finally Uzbekistan again.

At the end of the other spectrum, Karmakar will become the first Indian woman to compete at the Olympics after she capitalised on her late inclusion in the test event field to make the cut.

Olympic horizontal bar champion Epke Zonderland was also forced to make the long journey to Rio a few months before he would have wanted to after flopping in Glasgow last year.

But the Dutchman made the most of his second chance as his high-flying antics helped the Netherlands to secure qualification for the Olympic men's team competition for the first time. — Reuters

## PISTORIUS SENTENCING HEARING SET FOR JUNE

**PRETORIA:** A South African court will convene in June to determine disgraced Paralympic athlete Oscar Pistorius's sentence for murdering his girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp, a judge ruled in Pretoria yesterday. Pistorius's lawyers last month failed in their final legal bid to reverse a Supreme Court of Appeal (SCA) ruling that upgraded his conviction from culpable homicide—the equivalent of manslaughter—to murder. The double-amputee killed Steenkamp, a model and law graduate, in the early hours of Valentine's Day three years ago, saying he mistook her for an intruder when he shot four times through the door of his bedroom toilet. "Your matter is postponed until June 13, and it will be heard until June 17, do you understand?" Judge Aubrey Ledwaba told Pistorius, who answered "Yes." Pistorius, wearing a black suit, black tie and white shirt, left the court after the brief hearing and walked through a scrum of television camera crews outside to get into a vehicle.

The former Paralympic champion, 29, faces a minimum 15-year jail term for murder, which may be reduced due to time he has already spent in prison. He was released from prison in October to live under house arrest at his uncle's property in Pretoria after serving one year of his

five-year prison sentence for culpable homicide.

The SCA judges in December described his testimony at his trial in 2014 as "untruthful" and delivered a damning indictment of the original verdict. They found him guilty of murder, overruling the culpable homicide conviction.

Pistorius's lawyers tried to appeal to the Constitutional Court, the highest court in South Africa, but it declined to hear the case. Pistorius was last seen in public at a bail hearing in December, after which he was fitted with an electronic monitoring tag. Under his bail conditions, he has been allowed to leave his uncle's house at set times with official permission, but not travel further than 20 kilometres (12 miles). Pistorius denied killing Steenkamp in a rage and, during his trial, sobbed in the dock as details of his lover's death were examined in excruciating detail.

"I was overcome with fear," he told his trial. "Before I knew it, I'd fired four shots at the door." He has since lost his glittering sports career, lucrative contracts and status as a global role model for the disabled. Steenkamp's family previously welcomed his murder conviction and described his Constitutional Court appeal as a "delaying tactic" to keep him out of jail. — AFP



**PRETORIA:** South African Paralympian Oscar Pistorius (C) leaves Pretoria High Court after yesterday's postponement hearing in his murder case yesterday in Pretoria. Disgraced South African athlete Oscar Pistorius sentence for the murder of his girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp will be handed down in June, a judge said during a brief hearing. — AFP



## 'SUPERWOMAN' RATCHANOK INTANON SET SIGHTS ON OLYMPICS

**SINGAPORE:** Ratchanok Intanon set her sights on Olympic glory after becoming world number one and said she would be seen as "superwoman" if she wins Thailand's first ever badminton medal in Rio. The 21-year-old, who won the Singapore Open to reach the women's singles top ranking for the first time, said a medal of any colour would be a triumph at the Games in August.

"My target is gold medal at the Olympic Games... But I think that getting a medal would be like (becoming) superwoman," she said yesterday at Singapore's Changi Airport before boarding a flight home.

Ratchanok beat defending champion Sun Yu of China in three sets on Sunday

to seal her third successive Superseries title in as many weeks, after triumphs in India and Malaysia.

Ratchanok, who became badminton's youngest ever world champion in 2013, will displace Spain's Carolina Marin as number one when the rankings are updated on Thursday.

"I didn't think about winning three (tournaments) in a row, I just wanted to try my best and if I could do it, I would just do it," she said.

"I feel the same now that I am world number one. There's still room for improvement and I want to be stronger. I don't want to think of the top ranking, but rather that I have more to learn."

Olympic success would mean

redemption for Ratchanok, who was heartbroken after she was eliminated in the London 2012 quarter-finals.

"After I lost, I felt bad and I couldn't sleep. I've never felt that way before," she said. "I wanted to close my eyes but I could not stop thinking about the loss." Ratchanok added: "I don't want to pressure myself but I think I have a chance to get an Olympic medal for Thailand."

"Now that I have become world number one, I have reached the dream. I have completed one step but I still have one more step."

### DESSERT FACTORY

The soft-spoken Thai, who started this month ranked fifth in the world,

said her body is starting to feel the strain from playing consecutive competitions.

"When I woke up, I felt like my legs were weaker," said the native of Thailand's Yasothorn province. "I may be tired but if I can make people in Thailand smile and be happy, that's okay." Despite her fatigue, Ratchanok will be competing at the Badminton Asia Championship in Wuhan, China next week where she aims to defend her title. "I think now there will be a bit more pressure because I will have to protect my ranking. But I will take it one step at a time," she said.

Ratchanok picked up the sport at an early age, when she used to play in the

grounds of the Bangkok dessert factory where her parents worked.

"I didn't enjoy badminton at first. I just did training but didn't feel that I wanted to be athlete. I just trained not to disturb my parents while they were working," she said.

"Now, I enjoy it because it is my career. I don't have to bother my parents for money and I can support them financially." Following her success in the sport, Ratchanok said she now hopes she can inspire more and more young Thais to pick up a racquet.

"I am very proud to be the idol for young people in Thailand, that more parents are sending their children to play badminton," she said. —AFP

## RESURGENT NADAL TARGETS VILAS RECORD IN BARCELONA

**BARCELONA:** Fresh from claiming his first title in nearly two years at the Monte Carlo Masters, Rafael Nadal can tie Guillermo Vilas's record of 49 clay court titles on home soil at the Barcelona Open this week.

Nadal is a serial winner in the Catalan capital having won the title eight times, but has slumped to shock defeats in each of the past two years to Nicolas Pietrangeli and Fabio Fognini.

"I had a tough season in the last few years, but I've had better preparation this year, even with a tough start to the season," said Nadal after lifting his 28th Masters title. "I hope it helps my season with confidence for the next few tournaments. I've been able to play well for two events in a row-Indian Wells and here-winning against very tough opponents so that is very good for my confidence."

Enigmatic Italian Fognini has been a thorn in Nadal's side in the past two years as he has twice defeated the Spaniard on clay and came from two sets down to beat the 14-time Grand Slam champion at the US Open last September.

The two could meet again in the quarter-finals as Nadal has been handed a tricky draw with compatriot David Ferrer also potentially awaiting in the semis. "I've been

given a tough route and, moreover, I am coming back from injury," said Fognini.

"I hope I can have a good tournament and take advantage of some players arriving a little tired after playing in the past few weeks." Nadal will start against another fellow Spaniard with the winner of Marcel Granollers and Daniel Munoz de la Navas awaiting him in round two.

Japan's Kei Nishikori has occupied Nadal's throne for the past two years and the world number six is seeded second on the other half of the draw.

Nishikori is making his debut on clay this season having skipped Monte Carlo after reaching the final of the Miami Masters earlier this month.

"I am happy to be back in Barcelona," said Nishikori. "I feel good and hope to win my third consecutive title here." Nishikori appears to have an easier route to the final than Nadal as he starts against either Dutchman Thiemo de Bakker or Sweden's Elias Ymer with the fourth top 10 player in the field Richard Gasquet potentially awaiting in the semi-finals.

World number eight Ferrer starts against Santiago Giraldo or veteran Radek Stepanek, whilst Gasquet will face Malek Jaziri or Hyeon Chung in round two. —AFP



**CLEVELAND:** Kyrie Irving #2 of the Cleveland Cavaliers shoots over Andre Drummond #0 of the Detroit Pistons during the first half of the NBA Eastern Conference Quarterfinals at Quicken Loans Arena on April 17, 2016 in Cleveland, Ohio. The Cavaliers defeated the Pistons 106-101. —AFP

## CAVS EDGE PISTONS IN PLAYOFF OPENER

**CLEVELAND:** Kyrie Irving scored 31 points in his first playoff game since being injured last year in the NBA Finals and Kevin Love added 28, leading the Cleveland Cavaliers to a 106-101 victory over the Detroit Pistons on Sunday in Game 1 of their first-round playoff series. LeBron James added 22 points and 11 assists for the top-seeded Cavs. They are favored to win the Eastern Conference again but got all they could handle from the Pistons. Love, knocked out of the playoffs with a shoulder injury in the first round a year ago, made two critical 3-pointers in the fourth quarter. Kentavious Caldwell-Pope scored 21 points and Marcus Morris 20 - but just one after half-time for the Pistons, making their first playoff appearance since 2009. Andre Drummond had 13 points and 11 rebounds. Detroit made 15 3-pointers, but the Pistons' playoff inexperience showed in the final minutes. Game 2 is Wednesday night in Cleveland.

### HEAT 123, HORNETS 91

Luol Deng scored 31 points on 11-for-13 shooting, Hassan Whiteside added 21 points and 11 rebounds in his postseason debut, and Miami

routed Charlotte in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference series. Dwyane Wade scored 16 points in 26 minutes, Joe Johnson and Amare Stoudemire each had 11 points, and Goran Dragic finished with 10 assists. Miami scored 41 points in the first quarter to tie one franchise playoff record, set another with the 123 points - topping the 121 in the 2012 NBA Finals clincher against Oklahoma City - and never trailed. Nic Batum scored 24 points for the Hornets. Kemba Walker added 19. Game 2 is Wednesday night in Miami.

### SPURS 106, GRIZZLIES 74

Kawhi Leonard had 20 points and San Antonio beat Memphis in Game 1 of their Western Conference series, handing the Grizzlies their worst postseason loss. LaMarcus Aldridge added 17 points, and Tony Parker had 15 points and six assists for San Antonio. The Spurs sat their starters in the fourth quarter to rest them for Game 2 on Tuesday night in San Antonio. San Antonio shot 68 percent in the third quarter, outscoring Memphis 33-14 to break open what had been a relatively close game against the

short-handed Grizzlies. Memphis matched a postseason low in the first quarter with 13 points, and only Xavier Munford's 15-foot jumper with 46.1 seconds remaining kept it from matching the worst output in any quarter. Vince Carter had 16 points to lead Memphis. Zach Randolph was held to six points on 3-for-13 shooting. Memphis' previous largest losing margin was 27 points against Oklahoma City on May 11, 2011.

### CLIPPERS 115, TRAIL BLAZERS 95

Chris Paul had 28 points and 11 assists as one of three Clippers with a double-double, leading Los Angeles over the Portland Trail Blazers in the opener of their first-round playoff series. Blake Griffin had 19 points and 12 rebounds, DeAndre Jordan added 18 points and 12 rebounds and J.J. Redick had 17 points. The Clippers are 6-0 with Griffin in the lineup since he returned from a 45-game absence two weeks ago. Damian Lillard led the Blazers with 21 points, while backcourt mate CJ McCollum was held to nine points. Game 2 is tomorrow night at Staples Center. —AP

### CRICKET ROUND UP

## INZAMAM APPOINTED AS CHIEF SELECTOR

**LAHORE:** Pakistan yesterday appointed former captain and batting great Inzamam-ul-Haq as their new chief selector, part of wholesale changes following the team's disastrous exit from the World Twenty20 in India.

The 46 year old resigned as Afghanistan coach on Sunday to take on his new job, arguably among the most thankless in the sport with the holder routinely turfed out following the team's failure in a high profile event.

Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Shaharyar Khan told reporters: "Inzamam agreed to take over as chief selector and we are thankful to Afghanistan cricket board for releasing him," adding his tenure will be "until further orders".

During his six months as Afghanistan's coach, Inzamam led cricket's up-and-comers to one-day and Twenty20 series victories over Zimbabwe and qualification for the main rounds of the World Twenty20 - the high point of which was their win over eventual champions the West Indies in the group stages. Former spinner Tauseef Ahmed, allrounder Wasim Haider and opener Wajahatullah Wasti will round out the selection committee whose first task will be to pick squads for the tour of England where they play four Tests, five one-day and a Twenty20 starting in July.

### Windies turn down Pakistan T20 tour

Recently crowned World Twenty20 champions the West Indies have turned down a request from Pakistan to play matches in the militancy-ravaged South Asian country due to security fears, a senior official said yesterday.

Pakistan are due to host the West Indies in two Tests, five one-day and two Twenty20 internationals in September and October this year. Nearly all the country's home series have been played in

the neutral grounds of the UAE since a 2009 militant attack on the Sri Lankan cricket team, but Pakistan had hoped the T20 leg of West Indies' tour could be played in Lahore. Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Shaharyar Khan said: "We wanted the Twenty20s to be played in Pakistan and made an effort but the West Indies Cricket Board have refused saying they have security fears, so the full series will be played in (the) United Arab Emirates." The West Indies' refusal came after a suicide bomber killed 73 people in a park in Lahore on Easter Sunday last month. Jamaat-ul-Ahrar, the Taliban faction that carried out the bombing, said Christians were the target of the attack.

Pakistan hosted Zimbabwe for two Twenty20s and three one-day internationals in Lahore last year hoping the tour would pave the way for more international teams to visit-a hope that has yet to be realised.

### England propose points system for S Lanka series

England have attempted a minor shake-up of the largely conventional world of test cricket by offering to use a points-based system to determine the winner of their home series against Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) secretary Mohan de Silva confirmed receiving the proposals covering the three tests, five one-dayers and a Twenty20 International set to be played between the teams from May 19 to July 5.

"We have received the proposals but we haven't decided yet," De Silva told Reuters by telephone. "We'll discuss it in our next board meeting and announce our decision in a week or two," said the official, declining to elaborate, saying he had not gone through the details yet.

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB)

introduced the points-based scoring for the women's Ashes in 2013, awarding six points for every test victory, while two points were on offer for a one-day or Twenty20 International victory.

For the women's Ashes last year, ECB and Cricket Australia (CA) decided test wins were worth four points, while a draw earned the teams two each. The points-based system is aimed at injecting more excitement into the tour and add context to matches that otherwise maybe of merely academic interests.

### Malinga ruled out of IPL

Sri Lankan fast bowler Lasith Malinga has been ruled out of this season's Indian Premier League because of the lingering knee injury that also sidelined him at the World Twenty20.

Malinga, the IPL's highest all-time wicket-taker, has flown back to Sri Lanka from India where he had been with his Mumbai Indians team, but had not played in any of their three matches.

"MI's star pacer, Lasith Malinga has been ruled out of IPL 2016 due to a knee injury," the team wrote on their official Twitter handle late Sunday.

"Malinga was expected to miss the first few matches of MI's IPL '16 campaign but the recovery period is longer than previously expected. "MI will now look for a worthy replacement for Lasith Malinga this season," the team said.

Sri Lankan Cricket on Sunday warned Malinga against playing in the lucrative Twenty20 league without first getting clearance from the board.

Malinga is slated to undergo a fitness assessment on Wednesday in Colombo after which "the board will decide what course of action will be taken." The injury casts doubt over his availability for Sri Lanka's tour of England starting next month. —Agencies



Misbah Ul-Haq



## WADA OPENS WAY FOR ATHLETES TO AVOID SANCTIONS FOR MELDONIUM

**LONDON:** In a dramatic change that could lead to numerous doping cases being thrown out, athletes who tested positive for meldonium may be able to avoid sanctions because of a lack of scientific evidence on how long the recently banned drug stays in the system.

The World Anti-Doping Agency said Wednesday provisional suspensions can be lifted if it is determined that an athlete took meldonium before it was placed on the list of banned substances on Jan. 1.

"It's not an amnesty as such," WADA President Craig Reddie told The Associated Press. WADA said 172 positive tests for meldonium have been recorded so far in various sports and countries - many in Russia - since the drug was prohibited. The highest profile case involves Maria Sharapova, who announced last month that she tested positive during the Australian Open in January. Some athletes who have tested positive have claimed meldonium remained in their systems for months even though they stopped using it last year. Sharapova did not specify when she had last used meldonium.

The Latvian-made drug, which is typically prescribed for heart conditions, was widely used as a supplement by athletes

in Eastern European countries. The drug increases blood flow, which improves exercise capacity by carrying more oxygen to the muscles.

In a notice to national anti-doping agencies, WADA acknowledged that "there is a lack of clear scientific information" on how long it takes for meldonium to clear the system.

While several studies are currently being carried out by WADA-accredited laboratories, preliminary results show that long-term excretion of meldonium can take weeks or months, it said.

As a result, it is possible that athletes who took meldonium before Jan. 1 "could not reasonably have known or suspected" that the drug would still be present in their bodies after that date, WADA said. "In these circumstances WADA considers that there may be grounds for no fault or negligence on the part of the athlete," the statement said. Reddie said the notice was sent out to all national anti-doping bodies on Tuesday. It was released first publicly by Russia's anti-doping agency on Wednesday before being posted on WADA's website.

### ATHLETES FACE STRICT LIABILITY

"It is designed to explain the science

that we know," Reddie told the AP in a telephone interview. "The issue that it deals with is the time this drug takes to come out of the system. It's an attempt to clarify the many questions that we've been asked."

In a separate statement, WADA stressed that meldonium remains a banned substance and athletes face the rule of strict liability whereby they are responsible for any prohibited drug found in their body.

"Meldonium is a particular substance, which has created an unprecedented situation and therefore warranted additional guidance for the anti-doping community," Reddie said.

The Russian sports ministry and national Olympic committee welcomed the WADA statement, and the country's officials suggested there could be a mass amnesty of Russian athletes.

Russian tennis federation head Shamil Tarpishchev told the R-Sport agency he hoped that Sharapova would be able to play at the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro in August, while the head of the Russian swimming federation suggested there could be a swift return to competition for suspended world champion Yulia Efimova.

"In no way does this serve as an

'amnesty' for athletes that are asserted to have committed an anti-doping rule violation," WADA spokesman Ben Nichols told the AP in an email. "Rather, it serves as guidance for how anti-doping organizations should assess the particular circumstances of each individual case under their jurisdiction."

The meldonium cases have no bearing on the ongoing suspension of Russia's track and field team following a WADA commission report into what it called state-sponsored doping.

### NOTICE

Sharapova, a winner of five Grand Slam titles, said she had been taking meldonium for medical reasons over a 10-year period and had not seen a WADA notice last year that the drug would be banned starting in 2016. Sharapova was provisionally suspended by the International Tennis Federation pending a disciplinary hearing.

"We can confirm that the case is ongoing and that there will be a hearing," ITF spokesman Nick Imison told the AP on Wednesday. "I have seen the statement from WADA and obviously any ongoing cases will take that information from WADA, but it won't affect the fact that there is an ongoing case."

Sharapova's lawyer said WADA's statement was "proof of how poorly" the agency handled meldonium issues in 2015. "The notice underscores why so many legitimate questions have been raised concerning WADA's process in banning meldonium as well as the manner in which they notified players," attorney John Haggerty said in a statement. "This notice should have been widely distributed in 2015, when it would have made a difference in the lives of many athletes." WADA said prosecution of meldonium cases can be "stayed" and provisional suspensions lifted if the concentration of the drug in the system is between 1 and 15 micrograms per milliliter and the test was carried out before March 1, or if the level is below 1 microgram per milliliter and the doping control was conducted after March 1. In both cases, the drug could still be in the athletes' system from before Jan. 1.

The agency said doping cases should be pursued, however, in the case of athletes who admit having taken meldonium on or after Jan. 1. The same applies to cases where the concentration of the drug is above 15 micrograms per milliliter and where the level is between 1 and 15 and the drug test was after March 1. —AP



**NEW YORK:** Thomas Greiss #1 of the New York Islanders makes the stop against Jonathan Huberdeau #11 of the Florida Panthers in the first overtime period during Game Three of the Eastern Conference Quarterfinals during the 2015 NHL Stanley Cup Playoffs at the Barclays Center on Sunday in the Brooklyn borough of New York City. — AFP

## HICKEY SCORES IN OT TO LIFT ISLANDERS PAST PANTHERS 4-3

**NEW YORK:** Thomas Hickey scored 12:31 into overtime to give the New York Islanders a 4-3 victory over the Florida Panthers on Sunday night in Game 3 of their Eastern Conference first-round series. Hickey scored on a one-timer off a pass from Brock Nelson from behind the net to lift the Islanders to a 2-1 lead in the best-of-seven series. Game 4 is in Brooklyn on Wednesday night. Ryan Pulock, Shane Prince and Frans Nielsen also scored for the Islanders in their first playoff game in Brooklyn. Thomas Greiss made 36 saves, and John Tavares and Kyle Okposo each had two assists. Reilly Smith had a goal and two assists, and Aleksander Barkov and Nick Bjugstad also scored for the Panthers. Smith has four goals and four assists in the series. Roberto Luongo stopped 35 shots.

### RED WINGS 3, BLACKHAWKS 2

Jaden Schwartz scored at 13:32 of the third period with Patrick Kane in the penalty box for high-sticking, and St. Louis beat Chicago for a 2-1 lead in the Western Conference series. Patrik Berglund also scored in the third as St. Louis rallied for the win after a difficult 3-2 loss in Game 2 that included two key coach's challenges that went against the Blues. Brian Elliott made 44 saves, keeping St. Louis in the game during Chicago's strong second period. Kane, the NHL's leading scorer this season and one of the favorites for league MVP, got four minutes for a high stick on defenseman Alex Pietrangolo, and St. Louis made the most of the chance to go in front. Vladimir Tarasenko passed down low to David Backes, who sent it right to

Schwartz in the slot. He beat Crawford low on the glove side for his third career playoff goal and a 3-2 lead with 6:38 left. Colton Parayko also scored for St. Louis. Brent Seabrook and Artem Anisimov scored for Chicago. Game 4 is Tuesday night in Chicago.

### RED WINGS 2, LIGHTNING 0

Andreas Athanasiou and Henrik Zetterberg scored, Petr Mrazek made 16 saves and Detroit beat Tampa Bay to cut its deficit to 2-1 in the Eastern Conference series. Game 4 is Tuesday night at Joe Louis Arena. Game 5, which is now necessary, will be at Tampa Bay. After brawling late in the last game, gloves were dropped, fists flew and there were piles of players on the ice when the Game 3 ended. Ben Bishop made 28 saves for the Lightning. Their top line of Tyler Johnson, Nikita Kucherov and Alex Killorn was shut down after each of the three had six points in the first two games.

### PREDATORS 3, DUCKS 2

Craig Smith had a goal and an assist, Pekka Rinne made 27 saves and the Nashville Predators confidently claimed their second straight road victory to open their first-round series against the Anaheim Ducks. Shea Weber and Mattias Ekholm also scored as the Predators took a 2-0 playoff series lead for the first time in franchise history with another win over the Pacific Division champions. Nate Thompson cut into the lead with 2:42 to play, but Nashville closed out just its second road playoff victory since 2012. Game 3 is Tuesday night in Nashville. — AP

## ENGLAND LEGEND BARNES QUESTIONS 'INTEGRITY' OF CHINA'S BIG SIGNINGS

**HONG KONG:** England legend John Barnes has questioned the integrity of the Chinese Super League's recent big-money imports, suggesting they lack the desire to be top-quality footballers.

Brazilian Alex Teixeira headlined China's massive 331 million euros (\$374 million) January-February splurge on players after being tempted away from signing for Barnes's former club Liverpool by the 50 million euros dangled by Jiangsu Suning.

International stars Jackson Martinez, Ramires, Ezequiel Lavezzi and Gervinho were also among those who signed for Chinese clubs-joining players such as Paulinho, Tim Cahill and Asamoah Gyan who had made the move in the past.

But Barnes cast doubt on the players' motives after President Xi Jinping's drive to turn China into a footballing power prompted a flood of investment into the game. "This is the first year of the investment coming in," said Barnes told reporters Monday after a weekend coaching children in a Liverpool FC Soccer Clinic in Hong Kong. "They are getting younger players at 25, for 25 million (euros). Unfortunately

what that then does is question those players' integrity. "So rather than thinking: 'Yes they're going to China. They're 24 or 25 at the peak of their career.' It's like: 'Huh? They're not interested in football, they're going for the money.'"

"For me that shows that you haven't got that heart and desire and determination to be a top quality footballer." Teixeira opting for China, said Barnes, showed he might have turned out to be an expensive flop at Liverpool anyway.

"Teixeira is a typical example," said the former flying winger, now 52, who won 79 caps for England and was part of the last Liverpool side to win the English league title, back in 1990. "Because for Teixeira to be going to Liverpool, or maybe Juventus, and then all of a sudden he signs to play in China, it's questionable. I think you can see the character of the player. Had he gone to Liverpool, he still would have been the same character."

"So if an opportunity like China came later and he was, say, a bit cold, or he wasn't playing well, he would have just thrown the towel in." —AFP

# PHILADELPHIA HOLD ON TO BEAT WASHINGTON 3-2

**PHILADELPHIA:** Freddy Galvis hit an RBI double off Jonathan Papelbon with two outs in the 10th inning to lift the Philadelphia Phillies over Washington 3-2 Sunday, ending the Nationals' seven-game winning streak. Bryce Harper set a career high by homering in his fourth straight game, hitting a solo shot against Jeanmar Gomez (1-0) for a 2-1 lead in the 10th. The Phillies then rallied off Papelbon (0-1), their former closer. Pinch-hitter Andres Blanco hit an RBI single with two outs to tie it. He scored when Galvis drove a ball over left fielder Jayson Werth.

### DOGERS 3, GIANTS 1

Kenta Maeda pitched seven strong innings, Joc Pederson drove in the tying and go-ahead runs with a fifth-inning homer, and Los Angeles beat San Francisco. Maeda (2-0) allowed a run and four hits, struck out seven and walked three. The Japanese-born right-hander had pitched six scoreless innings of five-hit ball in each of his two previous starts and extended his shutout streak to 14 2/3 innings before Joe Panik ended it with a third-inning homer. Chris Hatcher pitched a perfect eighth inning and Kenley Jansen got three outs in the ninth to pick up his fifth save in as many appearances. Jeff Samardzija (1-1) allowed three runs and six hits in six-plus innings.

### YANKEES 4, MARINERS 3

Alex Rodriguez, dropped three spots to sixth in the batting order, hit a two-run homer that snapped an 0-for-19, two at-bats shy of his career high, and New York stopped a four-game losing streak. Masahiro Tanaka (1-0) topped old pal Hisashi Iwakuma (0-2) in the first major league pitching matchup of former Japanese teammates, a game that was broadcast live on television back home - at 2 am in Tokyo. The two played with Rakuten in Japan from 2007-11. Brett Gardner had three hits, including an RBI double, and scored the tiebreaking run on a fifth-inning wild pitch. Dellin Betances and Andrew Miller combined to strike out all six batters they faced, with Miller working the ninth for his third save.

### RAYS 3, WHITE SOX 2

Matt Moore (1-0) struck out 10 over 6 1/3 innings, allowing two runs and five hits, and Brandon Guyer tied a career high with four hits. Moore (improved to 4-1 in five starts against the White Sox, Alex Colome got five outs for the Rays' first save this season. Jose Quintana (1-1) gave up three runs, seven hits and had six strikeouts in six innings for Chicago, which has lost two straight after winning five in a row.

### METS 6, INDIANS 0

Steven Matz (1-1) struck out a career-high nine and allowed three hits over seven innings. Given a six-run, second-inning lead, Matz retired the side in order three times and allowed two runners in the same inning once. Corey Kluber (0-3) gave up six runs and nine hits in six innings, struck out eight and walked one. He is 9-19 since winning the 2014 AL Cy Young Award. New York scored three runs in the first and three more in the second. The Mets were helped in the second when center fielder Rajai Davis two fly balls in the sun and Kluber made a throwing error. Michael Conforto and Lucas Duda both drove in two runs.

### BRAVES 6, MARLINS 5

Rookie Mallex Smith hit an RBI single against Edwin Jackson (0-1) with two outs in the 10th inning as Atlanta completed a three-game sweep after arriving in Miami 0-9. Atlanta blew a 5-0 lead, and Ichiro Suzuki's RBI single on an 0-2 pitch from Jason Grilli (1-0) with two outs in the ninth tied the game for Miami, which is 0-5 at home this year under new manager Don Mattingly. Matt Wisler, playing catch in the bullpen between starts, came and pitched a 1-2-3 10th for his first career save.

### TWINS 3, ANGELS 2

Oswaldo Arcia's single down the left field line scored Byron Buxton in the 12th as Minnesota completed a three-game sweep. Trevor Plouffe had three hits and an RBI and Kyle Gibson gave up two runs on four hits in seven innings for the Twins, who have won three straight after starting the season 0-9. Michael Tonkin (1-0) struck out four in two innings for his first win. Albert Pujols hit his 562nd career home run.



**PHILADELPHIA:** This April 14, 2016 file photo shows Philadelphia Phillies' Vince Velasquez pitching during the first inning of a baseball game against the San Diego Padres in Philadelphia. The 23-year-old right-hander dominated the San Diego Padres, striking out 16 and allowing three singles in Philadelphia's 3-0 win. —AP

### PIRATES 9, BREWERS 3

Andrew McCutchen homered for the second straight day, and Matt Joyce and Gregory Polanco each had three of Pittsburgh's 17 hits. Juan Nicasio (2-1) allowed three runs over six innings for Pittsburgh, giving up all the Milwaukee offense in the fourth after three perfect innings to start the game. Zach Davies (0-1) was pounded by the Pirates for the third time in seven career starts, getting charged with six runs - five earned - nine hits and three walks in 2 1/3 innings.

### BLUE JAYS 5, RED SOX 3

Aaron Sanchez (1-0) allowed two hits in seven innings of one-run ball, and Jose Bautista drove in two runs with a solo homer and a double.

Edwin Encarnacion added two singles and an RBI for the Blue Jays, who had lost two straight and were 1-4 against the Red Sox. Kevin Pillar had three singles and made two nice catches in center after being dropped from leadoff to eighth in the batting order. Travis Shaw hit a two-run homer off closer Roberto Osuna for Boston, which had won three straight.

Steven Wright (0-2) gave up two runs and six hits in six innings.

### ASTROS 5, TIGERS 4

Jose Altuve led off Houston's first inning with a solo home run and had three RBIs, and George Springer also hit a solo homer as Houston won its first series this season. Mike Fiers (1-1) gave up four runs and seven hits in 5 2/3 innings with five strikeouts. Anibal Sanchez (2-1) was tagged for five runs - four earned - and eight hits in five innings with eight strikeouts.

### CARDINALS 4, REDS 3

Eric Fryer had three hits, including the go-

ahead double with two outs in the eighth off Ross Ohlendorf (2-1). A backup to All-Star catcher Yadier Molina, Fryer got his first start this season and is 6 for 6 at the plate. Matt Carpenter and Jedd Gyorko hit solo homers for St. Louis, which has won three of last four. Ten of the Cardinals' 21 homers this season were hit in the three-game series against the Reds, who have lost five of six. Kevin Siegrist (2-0) got four straight outs, and Trevor Rosenthal struck out his last two batters in a perfect ninth for his third save.

### ROCKIES 2, CUBS 0

Nolan Arenado homered twice off Jon Lester (1-1), and Tyler Chatwood pitched seven innings in combining with Miguel Castro and Jake McGee on a three-hitter. Jason Heyward doubled with one out in the ninth and Anthony Rizzo was hit by a pitch with two outs before McGee struck out Kris Bryant for his third save.

### ATHLETICS 3, ROYALS 2

Reddick's sacrifice fly off Joakim Soria (1-1) broke an eighth-inning tie after Billy Burns tripled into the right-field corner. John Axford (2-0) induced three consecutive groundouts in the eighth, and Ryan Madson pitched a one-hit ninth for his fourth save.

### DIAMONDBACKS 7, PADRES 3

Yasmany Tomas homered twice, drove in three runs and scored three times Brandon Drury had a two-run homer, a triple and scored twice for the Diamondbacks, who bounced back from Saturday night's 5-3, 14-inning loss to take two of three. Patrick Corbin (1-1) outduelled Robbie Erlin (1-2) in a matchup of lefties, allowing three runs, one earned, on six hits in 6 2/3 innings. — AP

## MLB Results/Standings

NY Yankees 4, Seattle 3; Atlanta 6, Miami 5 (10 innings); Tampa Bay 3, Chicago White Sox 2; NY Mets 6, Cleveland 0; Pittsburgh 9, Milwaukee 3; Toronto 5, Boston 3; Philadelphia 3, Washington 2 (10 innings); Houston 5, Detroit 4; Minnesota 3, LA Angels 2 (12 innings); St. Louis 4, Cincinnati 3; Colorado 2, Chicago Cubs 0; Oakland 3, Kansas City 2; Arizona 7, San Diego 3; LA Dodgers 3, San Francisco 1.

American League Eastern Division				National League Eastern Division			
W	L	PCT	GB	W	L	PCT	GB
Baltimore	8	3	.727	Washington	9	2	.818
Boston	6	5	.545	Philadelphia	6	7	.462
Toronto	6	7	.462	NY Mets	5	6	.455
NY Yankees	5	6	.455	Miami	3	7	.300
Tampa Bay	5	7	.417	Atlanta	3	9	.250
Central Division				Central Division			
Chicago White Sox	8	4	.667	Chicago Cubs	9	3	.750
Kansas City	8	4	.667	St. Louis	7	5	.583
Detroit	7	4	.636	Pittsburgh	7	6	.538
Cleveland	5	5	.500	Cincinnati	6	6	.500
Minnesota	3	9	.250	Milwaukee	5	7	.417
Western Division				Western Division			
Texas	7	6	.538	LA Dodgers	8	5	.615
Oakland	6	7	.462	Colorado	7	5	.583
LA Angels	5	7	.417	San Francisco	7	6	.538
Seattle	5	7	.417	Arizona	5	8	.385



## END IN SIGHT FOR TOTTI AHEAD OF CRUNCH ROMA TALKS

**MILAN:** Italian football icon Francesco Totti is set for crunch talks amid signs Roma are ready to let the 39-year-old playmaker walk out of the club he has served faithfully for his entire 23-year career. A late cameo appearance on Sunday saw Totti score his 245th goal in Serie A, his 301st for Roma, to secure a 3-3 draw at Atalanta.

The goal maintained Roma's push to snatch the league's second automatic Champions League spot from Napoli, who sit in second place with a five-point cushion and five games to play.

But Roma sporting director Walter Sabatini said Totti's 86th-minute strike changed "nothing" as far as ongoing talks about his future are concerned.

Totti's wish for an extra year's deal at

Roma has fallen on deaf ears, with the club's American president, James Pallotta, reportedly keen to see him join the board or take up an ambassador's role. But in an interview with Il Messaggero newspaper, Sabatini indicated Totti's ongoing contribution to the team will not sway Pallotta. "The president has given his point of view, there will be a decisive meeting and then we'll see what happens," said Sabatini. "We're grateful to Totti for what he has done and what he continues to do at the club."

Referring to Totti's goal on Sunday, Sabatini added: "I don't think it will change things, but we still have to give credit to the player and to the coach for letting him play." Italy's leading

sports daily, La Gazzetta dello Sport, said both Totti and striker Edin Dzeko are set to leave the club this summer.

While Roma midfielder Daniele De Rossi is Serie A's highest-paid player on a reported annual salary of 6.5 million euros (\$7.3 million), misfiring striker Dzeko earns 4.5m and Totti 2.5m.

### DEPARTURE

Although some fans won't be unhappy to see Dzeko leave after seeing him score only eight times in 28 league appearances, Totti's departure would spell the end of an era.

For the player heralded as 'Il Re di Roma' (The King of Rome) and who is still adored by the fans, an unceremonious departure awaits following a

series of rows with coach Luciano Spalletti. Spalletti and Totti were famously close during the coach's previous spell at the club in 2005-2009, during which Totti lifted the Italian Cup twice in succession in 2007 and 2008 — the latter Roma's last piece of silverware and the Italian Super Cup (2007).

When Spalletti quit Roma before moving to the Russian Premier League, Totti even left a heartfelt message on the club's website: "Thanks for everything Luciano, I would have liked to finish my career with you."

Although Totti's wish may ultimately come true, Spalletti's second spell at the club has produced less amity between the pair. Spalletti did not take kindly to Totti complaining in a televi-

sion interview last February that he deserved to be playing more and shown more respect by the club.

The Italian reacted by claiming Totti would be given no special treatment and on Sunday the 57-year-old stuck the boot in further when he refused to credit Totti for Roma's draw in Bergamo.

Indeed, amid reports of a post-match clash, Spalletti suggested the undercurrents at the club were far more relevant than Totti's goal. "The goal that Totti scored, he could score one like that in three years' time, but it's the other things going on that haven't yet come to light. "Maybe if you (media) worked a little bit harder (on it), you would find out." —AFP

## RANGERS VICTORY WILL SILENCE CRITICS: WARBURTON

**GLASGOW:** Rangers manager Mark Warburton says his side's Scottish Cup semi-final win over Old Firm rivals Celtic should silence some of the club's critics.

The Gers gaffer, who led his side to a 5-4 penalty shoot-out win against their fierce rivals after extra-time ended 2-2, was irritated by some sceptics who had suggested before the game that the fallen Glasgow giants had no chance against the Scottish Premiership leaders.

However, after booking their place in a first Scottish Cup final since 2009 Warburton said his players, who have also clinched the Scottish Championship and Challenge Cup this season, deserved more respect. "Celtic were the favourites and I can understand this," the Rangers manager said. "But I was irritated by people underestimating Rangers. We've been good this season. We're not clear in the league by 13 points by chance. "We deserve to be and the young squad has come together quickly. All credit to the players, I think they deserved a little bit more respect. "I read some outrageous reports about them getting battered by Celtic today. Well they showed today that they've got quality, they've got the commitment and the work ethic and that gap is a lot, lot narrower than people are talking about." The match at Hampden was just the second time in four years that the Glasgow giants have clashed since Rangers were forced to start life again in the country's bottom tier following an amazing fall from grace that resulted in liquidation in June 2012. The match was seen as a gauge of how big the gap between the sides is, but despite victory Warburton warned against any sort of complacency in the Rangers ranks.

### HIGHLY COMPETITIVE

"The best team won on the day but Celtic are a team packed with international players with European experience and we have to recognise that," the former

Brentford boss, whose side could end their four-year European exile with victory against Hibernian in May's final, said. "Nothing has changed; we've got to work hard to close the gap. "We can't go into next season being satisfied with coming second, third or fourth or whatever it may be. We have to go in next season to be highly competitive.

"To do that we've got to keep working hard on and off the pitch." Kenny Miller opened the scoring in the 16th minute before Erik Sviatchenko's 50th minute header took the match to extra time. Barrie McKay restored Rangers advantage in the 96th minute and Australian international Tom Rogic levelled matters 10 minutes later before the Socceroo star missed the decisive spot-kick in the penalty shoot-out. The defeat heaps more pressure on Celtic manager Ronny Deila, who has come in for criticism this season for some lacklustre displays culminating in another early European exit and a defeat to Ross County in the League Cup semi-final.

However, Deila refused to discuss his future after the game. "You know you are going to get that pressure all the time when you don't get the results you wanted but after this game it is hard to talk about those things," the Norwegian said.

"There are a lot of emotions going on but with bad results you of course get the questions. Now, the only thought is to lift ourselves and get the league title to Celtic Park." Rangers' promotion will see the resumption of regular Old Firm matches in the Scottish Premiership from next season, but Deila said his side would be ready for them. "We will see next year what they have to offer. It is a totally different thing to do something over 38 games that do it over one," the Celtic boss said. "Of course they have improved and they are the second largest budget in the country so of course they will have pressure on them to perform." —AFP



**MUNICH:** Schalke's defender Dennis Aogo (L) and Bayern Munich's French defender Kingsley Coman vie for the ball during the German first division Bundesliga football match FC Bayern Munich vs Schalke 04 in Munich, southern Germany, on Sunday. — AFP

## GOAL-HUNGRY LEWANDOWSKI EYES CUP FINAL BERTH

**BERLIN:** Robert Lewandowski is firmly focused on adding to his impressive goal-haul when Bayern Munich hunt a place in the German Cup final in today's semi-final at home to Werder Bremen. Having drawn Atletico Madrid in the last four of the Champions League, Bayern are chasing a repeat of their 2013 treble when they added the Bundesliga and cup titles to their European crown. They host Bremen, who are fighting for survival in Germany's top flight, at the Allianz Arena for a place in the May 21 final at Berlin's Olympic Stadium.

"Now comes the important phase of the season," said Bayern hot-shot Lewandowski, the Bundesliga's top-scorer with 27 goals this season — 38 in all competitions.

"We simply have to win after we bowed out against Borussia Dortmund at the same stage. We want to go to Berlin." Bayern, who have won the German Cup a record 17 times, lost at home to Dortmund on penalties in last season's semi-finals. Borussia are away to Hertha Berlin in the other semi-final tomorrow. On Saturday, Lewandowski scored twice within 12 minutes in Bayern's 3-0 league win over Schalke 04 having previously gone 390 minutes, and four games, without scoring. Now the Poland hot-shot has turned his sights on Bremen, who are third from bottom in the Bundesliga. "I'm really pleased," he said after refinding his scoring touch.

"I hope I will shoot a few more goals in the coming weeks." Unusually for him, Lewandowski

was on the bench for Bayern's 2-2 draw at Benfica last Wednesday which confirmed their 3-2 aggregate quarter-final win in Europe.

"You can't give hundred percent in every game when you play a game every three days," he said. "Sometimes it's good to stop and then really go for it when you play again."

### BITTER DISAPPOINTED

Dortmund are at Berlin 24 hours later in their semi-final looking to exorcise the bitter disappointment of their last-gasp 4-3 Europa League defeat at Liverpool. Having bowed out of Europe at the last eight stage, Borussia want to reach this year's German Cup final having lost 3-1 to Wolfsburg in the 2015 edition.

Like Lewandowski, Dortmund coach Thomas Tuchel said the goal is now to make sure his side beat Hertha to return to Berlin's Olympic Stadium for the final. The Borussia boss rested his stars Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang and Marco Reus in Sunday's 3-0 league win over Hamburg. He started 17-year-old Felix Passlack at left-back and goal-scorer Christian Pulisic, already a US international who only turns 18 in September on the left wing. "We had a few changes and initially found it hard work," said Tuchel as Colombia striker Adrian Ramos netted twice. "We're happy with the 3-0 win and now we're looking forward to the German Cup semi-final. The task is clear: we want to reach the final."

Hertha crashed to a 2-1 league defeat at

Hoffenheim on Saturday, hardly the ideal preparation as they attempt to reach the German Cup final for the first time since 1993. Hertha coach Pal Dardai lives within a stone's throw of the Olympic Stadium and is desperate to lead his team out for the cup final having always attended as a fan. "The defeat was a wake-up call for us," said Dardai. "We conceded two goals from dead-ball situations and we have to be very careful that the same thing doesn't happen against Dortmund at home." —AFP



**PARIS:** Caen's French defender Dennis Appiah (L) vies with Paris Saint-Germain's Uruguayan forward Edinson Cavani during the French L1 football match between Paris Saint-Germain and Caen at the Parc des Princes stadium in Paris on April 16, 2016. —AFP

## PSG RESUME QUEST FOR DOMESTIC CLEAN SWEEP

**PARIS:** Paris Saint-Germain continue their bid for a second successive clean sweep of the domestic honours when they make the trip to Lorient for a French Cup semi-final today, a week after their Champions League exit at the hands of Manchester City. Laurent Blanc's Ligue 1 champions bounced back from becoming the first team to bow out of the Champions League at the quarter-final stage for four years in a row when they thrashed Caen 6-0 in the league on Saturday. Zlatan Ibrahimovic returned to form with a brace at the Parc des Princes to take his tally for the season to 41 goals in all competitions, and he will be confident of causing problems for a Lorient team who have lost their last seven meetings with PSG.

Caen were perfect opponents at the weekend as they had little to play for and PSG looked back to their best after Blanc returned to a familiar 4-3-3 formation.

The main target this term was to conquer Europe, but despite Blanc appearing pleased to avoid the "ogres of European football" in Barcelona and Bayern Munich, PSG failed to make the most of the last-eight draw and were beaten by a Kevin De Bruyne strike at the Etihad Stadium. Now the coach says that they are fully focused on repeating their domestic clean sweep of last season, having

already wrapped up the Ligue 1 title in record time and won the season-opening Champions Trophy. After facing Lorient, they take on Lille in the French League Cup final at the Stade de France on Saturday.

"At the start of the season the objective was to go as far as possible in the Champions League and especially get to the semi-finals, but also to win one of the domestic cups as well as the league," said Blanc, who last week claimed that his job is always under threat.

"But the reality is that we want to try to win everything. We still have a final and a semi-final to play, so the end of the season is still exciting. "For PSG, as we are out of the Champions League, people say that it is all finished. But we still have two trophies to win." Extra motivation for PSG is the fact that a successful defence of the French Cup would draw them level alongside arch-rivals Marseille as the competition's record 10-time winners. Lorient are looking to emulate the heroes of 2002, when Jean-Claude Darcheville scored the only goal in the final against Bastia.

Marseille and their under-fire coach Michel have the chance to put a silver lining on an otherwise woeful campaign and they go to second-tier Sochaux in the second semi-final on Wednesday. —AFP



**BERLIN:** Former German World Cup alpine ski racer Maria Hoefel-Riesch shows a trophy after she was introduced as new Academy member at the Laureus World Sports 2016 Awards Ceremony in Berlin yesterday. — AFP

Live		Matches on TV	
		(Local Timings)	
<b>ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE</b>			
Newcastle United v Man City	21:45		
beIN SPORTS 2 HD			
<b>SPANISH LEAGUE</b>			
Espanyol v Celta de Vigo	21:00		
beIN SPORTS 3 HD			
Real Betis v Las Palmas	22:00		
beIN SPORTS			
<b>ITALIAN CALCIO LEAGUE</b>			
SSC Napoli v Bologna FC	21:00		
beIN SPORTS 4 HD			



# Sports

Ethiopians complete first ever sweep of Boston Marathon



Philadelphia hold on to beat Washington 3-2



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'SUPERWOMAN' RATCHANOK INTANON SET SIGHTS ON OLYMPICS

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LEICESTER: Leicester City's English striker Jamie Vardy (3L) reacts after referee Jonathan Moss (C) showed Vardy his second yellow card for simulation to send him off during the English Premier League football match between Leicester City and West Ham United at King Power Stadium in Leicester, central England on Sunday. — AFP

## VARDY CHARGED BY FA OVER REACTION TO RED CARD

LONDON: Jamie Vardy faces having his mandatory one-match ban lengthened, potentially ruling the striker out of more of Leicester's title run-in, after he was charged yesterday by the English Football Association over his angry reaction to a red card.

The Premier League's joint top scorer was sent off during Sunday's draw with West Ham after being booked twice, the second time for diving in the penalty area after tangling with Angelo Ogbonna.

Vardy confronted referee Jon Moss, jabbing a finger at the

match official while appearing to express his anger at receiving his first red card of the season. The FA's improper conduct charge means Vardy is likely to miss at least two of Leicester's last four league games if he is found guilty.

Vardy had netted his 22nd goal of the campaign in the first half to put Leicester in front before being dismissed 11 minutes into the second half. Leicester has also been charged by the FA with failing to control its players over the reaction to a penalty being awarded in the 84th minute, which led to Andy Carroll leveling.

Although Aaron Cresswell put West Ham in front, Leicester equalized deep in stoppage time when it was awarded a soft penalty that substitute Leonardo Ulloa converted.

Leicester and Vardy have until Thursday afternoon to respond to the FA charges. Leicester's remaining games in its pursuit of a first-ever top flight title are against Swansea, Manchester United, Everton and Chelsea. Leicester had an eight-point lead over Tottenham ahead of the second-place London club playing Stoke yesterday.

Leicester manager Claudio Ranieri now has to consider

how to reconfigure the team without Vardy. One option is to partner Shinji Okazaki with Ulloa if Ranieri sticks with his favored 4-4-2 formation. Okazaki has netted only six goals this season, while Ulloa's penalty took his tally to four.

"It was a difficult moment because we were down to 10 men, but we defended well and then attacked when we could," Ulloa said. "I love to play with this team because they have this character when we are losing or in a bad situation. We are always fighting together. We are a team and that is more important, not for me but for everyone." — AP



BARCELONA: Barcelona's Uruguayan forward Luis Suarez kneels in the goal during the Spanish league football match FC Barcelona vs Valencia CF at the Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona on Sunday. — AFP

## BARCA CAN WIN FINAL FIVE DESPITE DRAMATIC SLUMP

BARCELONA: Barcelona boss Luis Enrique claimed his side are capable of winning their final five La Liga games to claim the title despite slipping to a fourth defeat in five games as they were beaten 2-1 by Valencia on Sunday.

The Catalans hadn't tasted defeat in 39 games until losing to Real Madrid earlier this month, but have since thrown away a nine-point lead at the top of La Liga and been dumped out of the Champions League by Atletico Madrid. Barca still lead La Liga thanks to their superior head-to-head record with Atletico with Real a point behind in third, but now need to win all five remaining games against Deportivo la Coruna, Sporting Gijon, Real Betis, Espanyol and Granada to keep matters in their own hands. Moreover, they have now lost three consecutive La Liga games for the first time in 13 years.

"If there is a team capable of doing it and much more given what they have done, it is this Barca," said Enrique. "Perhaps it is more difficult than normal when the team loses, for me, unjustly some of the games we have lost. We lost two games in the first 30 and now three in a row, it is not normal."

"This sport generates a lot of surprises, I think we have criticised ourselves when it has been necessary, but today is not a day to criticise my players, it is a day to congratulate them."

Barca dominated from start to finish against a Valencia side that had been dispatched 7-0 on their last visit to the Camp Nou just two months ago under the tutelage of Gary Neville. However, they enjoyed better luck in Pako Ayestaran's third game in charge as Ivan Rakitic's own goal and Santi Mina's fine finish put them 2-0 up at half-time despite having just one

shot on target. Lionel Messi's 500th career goal gave Barca hope after the break, but an inspired goalkeeper display from Diego Alves and a shocking miss two minutes from time by Gerard Pique consigned the hosts to defeat. "Feeling sorry for ourselves we won't win anything," added Enrique. "The players have given a lesson in the second-half of how to face a situation like this. Until the 93rd minute they were trying to equalise and that is something to highlight."

However, Enrique was elusive on whether he would consider stepping down at the end of the campaign if Barca's incredible collapse costs them the title. "I am only interested in football. There is nothing more important for Barca fans than turning around this situation and we know the difficulty of the challenge, so I'm not interested in anything else." — AFP

## MAN CITY AIM TO FINISH WITH A FLOURISH

MANCHESTER: Manchester City look to be saving their best until last as they aim to finish a testing season on a high. Manuel Pellegrini's side have a Champions League semi-final against Real Madrid to look forward to in the Chilean's last few weeks in charge at the Etihad Stadium.

And when City travel to relegation-threatened Newcastle United on Tuesday, they will be chasing a fourth successive Premier League win.

A sustained title challenge never really materialised as City suffered from injuries and a loss of form at key moments as both Leicester City and Tottenham Hotspur got away from them at the top of the table.

But City's late burst should be enough to secure them a top-four place and guaranteed Champions League football for next season. Saturday's 3-0 win over soon-to-be-deposed English champions Chelsea, which featured Sergio Aguero's hat-trick, suggested City are nearing top form and midfielder Yaya Toure said: "We played very well. I thought the whole team played really well."

"I think it was one of the best games we've played this season, because it is not easy to dominate the way we did when playing at Stamford Bridge."

Toure was back in City's starting line-up for the first time in five games following a spell out with a knee injury. De Bruyne and Nasri boost - City have also benefitted from the recent return to fitness of creative midfielders Kevin de Bruyne and Samir Nasri.

And Toure believes that if all City's key men avoid further injury to offer continued support to top scorer-Aguero, then Pellegrini's side will take some stopping.

The Ivory Coast international added: "When Samir, de Bruyne and Aguero are on the field together they play very well and can hurt the opposition."

"I've missed two or three games through injury and it's always difficult for me to watch my team-mates play without me."

"I always want to be involved and help my team whenever I can. I always want to work hard and that's what I will continue to do because we want to finish the season as strongly as possible."

### INJURIES

City should also be buoyed at St James' Park, where they are unbeaten since 2005 and have won on eight of their last nine visits, by the return of captain Vincent Kompany and winger Raheem Sterling.

Kompany has missed City's last six games with the latest in a long line of calf injuries, while England international Sterling has been out for five games with a groin problem. Meanwhile, Andros Townsend has set Newcastle a minimum target of three wins from their remaining five games to clinch Premier League safety.

Victory against City will see Rafa Benitez's side climb out of the bottom three for the first time since early February as they look to build on Saturday's 3-0 home win over Swansea. Second-bottom Newcastle are aiming to avoid a second relegation form the top flight in seven years, and England midfielder Townsend said: "A lot of people have already written us off but the Swansea result has given us a lift and we take a lot of confidence from having three of our last five games at home."

One of their two remaining away matches is at already-relegated Aston Villa, and Townsend added: "Winning three of those final five will be difficult, but if we perform like we did against Swansea, then we've got a chance. There's a belief in the dressing room that we can go on a run and get ourselves out of trouble." — AFP



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Honda Alghanim unveils All-new 2016 Honda Civic, new Africa Twin motorbike

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BRISTOL: British Environment Secretary Liz Truss (left), British Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne (second left), British Energy Secretary and Climate Change Secretary Amber Rudd (2R) and British Work and Pensions Secretary Stephen Crabb, speak following a tour of the National Composites Centre at the Bristol and Bath Science Park in Bristol, south-west England yesterday. — AFP

## UK TREASURY WARNS OF ECONOMIC COSTS OF BREXIT

BRITAIN WILL BE PERMANENTLY POORER: OSBORNE

**LONDON:** Britain will be "permanently poorer" if it leaves the EU in a June referendum and the cost to households could be £4,300 (5,400 euros, \$6,100) a year, finance minister George Osborne warned yesterday.

Osborne said the short-term effect would be a "profound economic shock and real instability" and it was "complete fantasy" to expect that Britain could negotiate an advantageous trade deal with the EU if it withdrew. "Britain would be permanently poorer if we left the European Union," Chancellor of the Exchequer Osborne said in a speech at a factory in Bristol in western England, presenting a 200-page Treasury report on the financial impact of a so-called Brexit. "It's the biggest decision for a generation," he said, as Britain prepares for a closely fought June 23 referendum on whether to leave or remain in the European Union. The Treasury analysis outlined three possible scenarios following a Brexit.

Under the first scenario, Britain would remain a member of the European Economic Area like Norway and would have broad access to the single market but with no say in the policy decisions that shape it. Under the second, it would negotiate a bilateral deal like Canada or Switzerland—a scenario that the report said would lead to growth being six percentage points smaller than it would otherwise be by 2030. The most radical outcome examined was Britain having no deal with the EU and relying only on its World Trade Organization (WTO) membership status to trade with the EU, like Brazil or Russia.

The annual loss of gross domestic product (GDP) per household would be £2,600 under the first scenario, £4,300 under the second and £5,200 under the third, the report said.

"The conclusion is clear: for Britain's economy and for families, leaving the EU would be

the most extraordinary self-inflicted wound," Osborne said. "There would be less trade, less investment and less business... Leave the EU, and the facts are: Britain would be permanently poorer," he wrote in *The Times*.

Under all scenarios, Britain would have a "less open and interconnected economy," he said in the newspaper. "It's a complete fantasy to suppose that there is some radically different other arrangement that Britain could negotiate, where we have access to the single market but don't accept any costs or obligations of EU membership," Osborne wrote.

In an interview with BBC radio, he also said that expecting a favourable trade deal to result from Brexit would be "economically illiterate." The Treasury report has been months in the making and is the starkest warning yet from the government. The polls show the "Leave" and "Remain" camps are evenly split at around

50 percent each. Around a fifth of voters remain undecided, however, as the campaign officially got started last week.

### Vote on a 'knife-edge'

The run-up to the referendum is being closely watched across Europe and beyond because of its potentially far-reaching economic and political consequences. The Treasury report is being published just days before US President Barack Obama is due in London on a visit in which he is expected to underline the importance of Britain staying in the EU. The world's G20 top economies last week warned that one of the risks to the global economy was "the shock of a potential UK exit from the European Union."

International Monetary Fund chief Christine Lagarde also called on Britain and the EU to save a "long marriage." The IMF last week

downgraded its forecast for British economic growth by 0.3 percentage points to 1.9 percent for 2016, although it held its 2017 forecast at 2.2 percent.

Charismatic London mayor Boris Johnson, who is campaigning for Britain to leave the EU, wrote in the *Daily Telegraph* that the vote was on a "knife-edge." "All the usual suspects are out there, trying to confuse the British public and to persuade them that they must accept the accelerating loss of democratic self-government as the price of economic prosperity," he said. John Redwood, a pro-Brexit lawmaker and former government minister, dismissed the Treasury analysis, comparing it to arguments made in favour of staying in the EU's Exchange Rate Mechanism. "The remainers were wrong then and they are wrong now—people should not trust their judgment on the EU," Redwood said. — AFP

## GULF ENDS FIRM DESPITE DOHA SUMMIT FAILURE

MIDEAST STOCK MARKETS

**DUBAI:** Major stock markets in the Gulf rebounded in late trade yesterday to close higher despite the collapse of oil producers' talks in Doha, while Egypt's bourse surged to a six-month closing high.

The failure of Sunday's Doha meeting to agree on an oil output freeze was a blow to sentiment in the oil market, and Brent crude tumbled more than 5 percent at one stage. But it later came well off its lows to stand only 2.6 percent down at \$42 a barrel. This was a relief to Gulf bourses, which were also encouraged by some positive first-quarter earnings in Saudi Arabia that suggested the region's economic slowdown was not hurting corporate profits as much as feared.

The Saudi stock index, which fell as much as 1.6 percent in early trade, rebounded to close 0.2 percent higher, led by the petrochemical sector. Petrochemical producer National Industrialisation Co (Tasnee) surged 9.8 percent after posting a first-quarter net loss of 94.8 million riyals (\$25.3 million), beating analysts' forecasts of a 272.9 million riyal loss.

NCB Capital attributed the result to higher-than-expected gross margins on the back of improved efficiency and higher operating rates. But the second largest listed petrochemical producer, Saudi Arabia Fertilisers Co (SAFCO), slumped 3.8 percent to 62.75 riyals

after reporting a 51.5 percent decline in net profit to 286 million riyals. Analysts had expected the unit of Saudi Basic Industries to make 314.6 million riyals. Riyadh Capital attributed the fall mainly to lower urea prices and revised its target price for the stock to 70.0 riyals from 80.0, maintaining a "hold" rating.

### BANKS ON THE UP

Another commodity producer, Saudi Arabian Mining Co (Ma'aden), climbed 6.3 percent after reporting a 35.3 percent fall in first-quarter net profit to 168.9 million riyals versus analysts' average estimate of just 1.13 million riyals. Saudi banking sector earnings have mostly been above analysts' expectations, and Arab National Bank, one of the last in the sector to report, also came in ahead of forecasts. Its shares rose 1.3 percent after it posted a first-quarter net profit of 749.2 million riyals, a 2.8 percent drop. Analysts polled by Reuters had forecast 685.8 million riyals.

Other Gulf bourses also bounced from early lows. Dubai's index was down as much as 2.5 percent but finished 0.1 percent higher. Builder Drake & Scull, the most heavily traded stock on the bourse, added 3.5 percent. Emirates NBD, the biggest bank, gained 2.5 percent. In Abu Dhabi, the index edged up 0.03 percent, helped by banks. — Reuters

## GULF GROWTH FORECASTS SLASHED AMID OIL CRISIS

**DUBAI:** Analysts have cut their economic growth forecasts for the Gulf Arab oil exporting states further despite a rebound in crude prices, because of the impact of governments' austerity policies, a Reuters poll found. Brent crude oil has climbed to around \$40 a barrel from about \$30 since the last poll was conducted in early January. But that will not boost growth in the short term because governments are continuing to impose new austerity measures to curb budget deficits caused by cheap oil.

Since January, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Oman have introduced fresh spending cuts or rises in taxes and fees; other countries are considering such steps.

"The Gulf is experiencing a slowdown for a couple of years while things steady in the oil market and the region digests low oil prices and fiscal reforms," said Elias Bikhazi, group chief economist at National Bank of Kuwait. "The extent of the process varies a bit between countries, but it's a common theme." The latest poll of 19 analysts found them cutting their median 2016 growth forecasts for five of the six Gulf Cooperation Council countries, with the exception of Kuwait. Forecasts for 2017 were cut for all six countries.

Saudi Arabia's gross domestic product is now expected to grow a median 1.5 percent this year, down from the previous estimate of

1.9 percent. Next year's outlook has been lowered to 1.9 percent from 2.2 percent. The United Arab Emirates' economy is expected to grow 2.8 percent this year instead of 3.0 percent, while its 2017 forecast has been cut sharply to 2.9 percent from 3.4 percent.

All of the six GCC states are expected to avoid recessions by comfortable margins. Bikhazi said there were delays and cuts to government projects in the region, with the exception of Kuwait. But major projects are still going ahead, he added.

He also said that while cuts in energy subsidies were dampening consumer spending, the effect was still relatively limited. "These changes are gradual enough that while the impact is negative, the economies can handle it." Nevertheless, the cost of keeping government spending high enough to avoid recession is expected to produce hefty budget deficits in all GCC states this year.

After running a whopping deficit of 15 percent of GDP last year, Saudi Arabia is projected to post a 15.5 percent deficit in 2016 with only a moderate improvement to a 9.7 percent gap in 2017, the poll showed.

### Iran call

Meanwhile, Iran urged other oil producers yesterday to continue talks on an output freeze to prop up crude prices, but insisted it

was justified in not freezing its own output. Iranian OPEC Governor Hossein Kazempour Ardebili was speaking to his oil ministry's Shana news agency after talks on Sunday between producers in Doha collapsed when Saudi Arabia demanded that Iran join a freeze. Iranian representatives were not present at the talks. "We support cooperation between OPEC and non-OPEC member countries and efforts to bring stability to the oil market, and we urge all producers to continue their negotiations," Ardebili said.

But he also said Iran had made it clear that it wanted to regain its share of the oil market lost when it was hit by economic sanctions, and that "its position is supported by most OPEC and non-OPEC members around the world." The sanctions were lifted in January after Iran and the group of world powers known as the P5+1 agreed on curbs to Tehran's nuclear program.

Ardebili said that if Iran participated in the proposed output freeze, it would in effect be maintaining sanctions on itself.

"Those who opposed the nuclear deal between Iran and the P5+1 and the lifting of cruel sanctions on the Islamic Republic... proposed the oil output freeze in January 2016, having the illusion that Iran has no other choice but to accept," he said, in an apparent reference to Saudi Arabia. — Agencies



# FLYDUBAI REFLECTS ON ONE-MONTH ANNIVERSARY OF FZ981

**KUWAIT:** Reflecting on the one-month anniversary since the tragic loss of flight FZ981 flydubai will launch its memorial website 'withgreatsadness.com' today. The website commemorates the memory of the passengers and crew of flight FZ981 and collects the thoughts and photographs of those who wish to express their condolences following the tragic accident.

Ahead of the one-month anniversary tomorrow, Ghaith Al Ghaith, Chief Executive Officer, flydubai, said; "Saturday 19 March brought news you hope never to hear. My daily thoughts remain with the families and loved ones

enduring a period of great sadness and sorrow. We are focused on supporting the bereaved families and we continue to do everything we can for them."

flydubai's focus over this last month has been the mobilisation of its Family Assistance Team and the ongoing support to the investigating authorities.

Within 30 minutes of being alerted to the accident, flydubai's Crisis Centre in Dubai mobilised its Emergency Response team and, later that day, they left for Rostov-on-Don. This initial team included both technical and humanitarian specialists working alongside the Russian Emergency Services to assist in

their relief efforts and opened the Family Assistance Centre in Rostov-On-Don.

In the first week following the accident the Family Assistance Team was established to communicate directly with bereaved families and address their very individual needs on a longer term basis. As part of the long term Family Assistance each family has a dedicated Care Team member. flydubai's Family Assistance Team will continue their work for as long as necessary which includes identification, repatriation and the support required for personal effects. flydubai also launched a website which is a source of information for the families.

Commenting on flydubai's Family Assistance Team, Ghaith Al Ghaith said: "We are here to support whenever required and at a time deemed appropriate by those in need. It is important to recognise that every family and each circumstance is different and we remain respectful of that. All our staff join me in standing united in our grief as our hearts go out to all the families."

flydubai will continue to work alongside the investigating authorities in their continued efforts to identify the cause of the accident and its support to the families will continue for as long as necessary.



Ghaith Al Ghaith



**AMRITSAR:** An Indian laborer pushes a cart loaded with drums along a road in Amritsar yesterday.— AFP

## DISRUPTIONS FROM TWIN QUAKES IN SOUTHERN JAPAN HIT ECONOMY

**TOKYO:** The twin earthquakes that struck southern Japan were having ripple effects far beyond the disaster zone, forcing Toyota to suspend production at most of its factories across the country, and affecting other manufacturers as well. The quake damaged Honda's motorcycle plant in Kumamoto, the largest city affected by the two quakes that hit late Thursday and early Saturday, killing at least 42 people. Japan's Nikkei 225 stock index tumbled more than 3 percent yesterday in part on worries over quake repercussions as well as a spike in the yen and a drop in oil prices.

But the economic impact is nowhere near as large as the havoc wreaked by the 2011 quake and tsunami disasters, which slammed supply chains so badly that Japanese automakers' production was halted even in the US. They learned the hard way about their vulnerability to such interruptions, especially from second- and third-tier suppliers, and have worked to create contingency plans. Disasters tend to hobble Japan's mighty manufacturers because they are supported by small machine shops that provide components to bigger suppliers, which in turn supply bigger players.

"That kind of lesson has been learned," said Nissan Motor Co spokesman Dion Corbett. "We now have maps that show where exactly the suppliers are." Nissan's two plants in Kyushu were temporarily shut down after the quakes for checkups. The checks found damage was minor, allowing the plants to be resume operations on Monday, Corbett said.

Some of the worst-affected areas are deep in the mountains surrounding Mount Aso, Japan's largest active volcano, an area renowned for dairy farming. But one of the hardest-hit cities was Mashiki, a center for semiconductor fabrication and other manufacturing. Sony Corp. said its sensor and device plant in Kumamoto was closed. Although the building's structure was intact and no employees were injured, the precise nature of the production processes requires that delicately calibrated equip-

ment must be checked carefully. "The impact to near-term economic activity looks inevitable, while the comprehensive picture is difficult to gauge now, particularly due to the continued aftershocks," Masamichi Adachi of JP Morgan said in a commentary.

Overall, the risk to the outlook for growth is "to the downside," he said. In trading yesterday, Toyota's shares lost 4.8 percent, Nissan lost 2.8 percent and Sony shed 6.8 percent. Renesas Electronics Corp.'s computer chip plant in Kumamoto city was also shuttered, spokeswoman Makie Uehara said. It was unclear when production would resume. Gases that can be dangerous are used to maintain antiseptic conditions for chip production, and so safety had to be confirmed before other damage could be checked. Toyota Motor Corp, the most heavily affected of the big car makers, has stopped production not only at a factory in Kyushu but at 15 others in Japan through Friday. Output will resume depending on the availability of parts.

Toyota's Japan output will drop by 50,000 vehicles in April, or about 7 percent of Japan production, according to a report on the quake's effects on automakers by SMBC Nikko. Toyota declined to comment on that estimate. Critically affected parts include door frames, door hinges and cast-aluminum engine parts, said Toyota spokesman Itsuki Kurosu. The maker of the Camry sedan, Prius hybrid and Lexus luxury models was working hard to get substitute parts, he said.

Honda Motor Corp.'s motorcycle plant was severely damaged. Due to repeated aftershocks, it was unsafe even to go inside to carefully inspect the damage, said company spokesman Teruhiko Tatebe. Production has been stopped until at least Friday. So far, production at Honda's auto plants has not been affected, Tatebe said. The company did not rule out future supply problems. Associated Press Business Writer Elaine Kurtenbach contributed to this report. — AP

# GLOBAL EQUITY MARKETS RECOVER AFTER HORRID START TO 2016

## NBK ECONOMIC REPORT

**KUWAIT:** After a horrid start to the year, equity markets recovered some ground in March, to levels that left them "flat" or down slightly on the year. Besides technical factors, the markets' recovery was driven by more encouraging US data, further QE efforts by the ECB (European Central Bank), dovish signs by the Fed, as well as recovering oil markets. Two primary sources of uncertainty and volatility, which lingered from last year, were thus somewhat removed. First, the Fed, which was signaling (not so credibly) four 25-basis point (bp) hikes for 2016, finally toned down its rhetoric. It is now looking for two hikes. And second, oil prices that seemed to have no floor underneath them back in January finally appeared to bottom in the mid-20s and are currently trading near the \$40 pb level (on a Brent basis). Further market help came from the ECB and the BOJ. Both central banks eased further with more QE action and/or lower (negative) interest rates, on top of other measures.

To a large extent, the "perfect storm" (weak US growth, lower oil prices, stronger US dollar) that had hit markets in mid-2015 and again in January 2016 faded in light of better economic news and of a more soothing stance by the Fed. We seem to be back to a benign, though unimpressive, global environment. Other sources of concerns that had pressured markets, namely fears of a US recession and a Chinese hard landing, were also assuaged and allowed the markets, and oil prices, to regain some footing in March. China appeared to grow a little under 7 percent in 2015. Moreover, yes, China is slowing, and yes, the growth rate is very likely well below official numbers, but the slowdown appears contained and confidence in the Chinese authorities' ability to reboot the system, if needed, remains solid among investors.

As for the US, GDP growth is currently close to the 2 percent mark year-on-year (y/y), the average growth pace since the recovery of 2010. The first quarter appears to have been flat for GDP, which will comfort those looking for a dovish Fed. Employment continues to be in line with the Fed's view. Namely that labor slack is tightening, wages are firming slightly (over 2 percent for 7 months), and employment gains are reasonably robust (monthly gains over 200K). March nonfarm payroll saw a gain of 215K and unemployment stayed near 5.0 percent. The labor data allows the Fed to hang on to its relative hawkishness for a while, and still support or justify the need for further normalization. We think that two 25-bp hikes are reasonable this year, around mid-year and year-end.

We do note, however, that non-US inflation remains weaker and that the Fed's favorite inflation measure, the PCE deflator, is in check and below target. The more alarming data that had raised recession fears such as weak or weakening PMI data (manufacturing and non-manufacturing) have since firmed up. European growth data was also "cooperative" as Europe had its best growth year since 2010, at 1.8 percent for GDP. Nevertheless, the infla-

tion data (especially non-US) and lower oil prices are keeping the pressure on all central banks to stay in super-easy mode or for the Fed to remain slow and cautious when tightening or "normalizing" further. The ECB went deeper into QE territory in March by increasing the size of its monthly purchases of securities from EUR 60 billion to 80 billion per month, and by cutting some rates even deeper into negative territory. Earlier in January, the BOJ had gone into negative rates territory for the first time. It was a surprising preemptive move by the BOJ, the most deflation-sensitive central bank. All of these moves kept international interest rates low, and are preventing US rates from rising, if at all. The US spreads to European and Japanese bonds remain very attractive (well over 100 bps). These spreads failed to help the USD in Q1, though we also note that headline US inflation is higher than that of its peers. US CPI inflation was 1.0 percent in February, versus -0.2 percent for the eurozone. In other words, the "real" interest rate spreads are not as favorable to the USD.

### Fed expectations

With the return to more reasonable Fed expectations, short-term US interest rates are down from the week the Fed moved to raise rates back in December 2015. The 2-year rate is down 20 bps at 72 bps while the 10-year rate is down 45 bps since that time, to about 1.75 percent. In the same period, the USD, contrary to conventional wisdom, fell against the euro and the yen (3-5 percent) while the GBP lost some 4 percent on dovish BOE news and uncertainty surrounding Brexit (June 23 referendum). The decline of the dollar versus the euro is important, as it is a major factor allowing the Fed to

pursue normalization, if needed, without undue dollar strength.

Analysts and markets are back to expecting an "OK" 2016 for economies, in line with the last two years when world growth averaged 3.2 percent. In its revised outlook, the IMF is looking for world GDP growth of 3.2 percent. The outlook was revised 0.2 percent lower, and most countries saw a downward revision with the notable exception of China. For the large economies, the US is expected to grow 2.4 percent, the euro area 1.5 percent, Japan 0.5 percent, China 6.5 percent and EMs at 4.1 percent. In our view, the US and emerging markets are more prone to downward revisions. We thus expect the Fed to be targeting a fed funds rate of 75-100 bps in December 2016 (in 2 rate hikes).

The somewhat recovering commodity prices seemed to help the outlook for some commodity economies, though Brazil is still mired in recession and political problems. Markets, spreads, and CDS rates have recovered somewhat as well in the GCC countries, thanks to recovering oil prices in March.

For the GCC economies, we expect moderate GDP growth in 2016, as governments remain committed in large part to government spending, notwithstanding adjustments and cuts already implemented or upcoming. The adjustments should be gradual, as policy makers are keen on keeping growth smooth and ongoing. Non-oil GDP growth should post 4-4.5 percent for the region. All GCC countries are gearing up to issue sovereign debt in order to finance their deficits. Debt issuance is pressuring liquidity but is also creating an opportunity for the region to further open up and develop its fixed-income markets.

## SAUDI FLAG CARRIER TO LAUNCH LOW-COST OFFSHOOT FLYADEAL

**RIYADH:** State-owned Saudi Arabian Airlines plans to launch a low-cost offshoot next year under initiatives to restructure the kingdom's oil-dependent economy, official media said yesterday.

Known as "Flyadeal", the low-cost carrier will begin operations from the middle of next year, Saudi Arabian Airlines chief Saleh Al-Jasser said. It will operate independently of its parent firm, Jasser was quoted as saying by the official Saudi Press Agency at a ceremony on Sunday.

The report gave no further details of its financing or administrative structure. It also did not specify whether Flyadeal would serve domestic or international routes. Jasser said the airline would be "an addition to the list of strategic initiatives that are being implemented towards the National Transformation Program."

Saudi Arabia is to announce a wide-ranging plan to redevelop its economy on April 25, the Arab News daily reported

yesterday. The National Transformation Program, a key part of the plan, will be launched in subsequent weeks, it said. The global collapse in oil prices over the past two years has intensified efforts by the world's biggest oil exporter to find economic alternatives to its biggest revenue source. Oil prices have fallen by more than half from above \$100 a barrel in early 2014, with benchmark crudes trading at around \$40 yesterday. Projecting a deficit of \$87 billion this year, the government raised retail fuel prices by up to 80 percent in December and cut subsidies for electricity, water and other services. It has delayed some major projects and mooted measures including privatizations and imposing taxes. Saudi Arabia, the largest economy in the Arab world, is already home to the nine-year-old low-cost carrier flynas, which operates domestic and international routes. — AFP

## EXCHANGE RATES

### AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

#### ASIAN COUNTRIES

Japanese Yen	2.777
Indian Rupees	4.572
Pakistani Rupees	2.886
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.092
Nepali Rupees	2.847
Singapore Dollar	225.390
Hongkong Dollar	38.975
Bangladesh Taka	3.853
Philippine Peso	6.581
Thai Baht	8.642

#### GCC COUNTRIES

Saudi Riyal	80.643
Qatari Riyal	83.070
Omani Riyal	785.473
Bahraini Dinar	803.110
UAE Dirham	82.335

#### ARAB COUNTRIES

Egyptian Pound - Cash	33.675
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	34.427
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.411
Tunisian Dinar	151.430
Jordanian Dinar	426.090
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.015
Syrian Lira	2.155
Morocco Dirham	31.883

#### EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer	302.250
Euro	344.870
Sterling Pound	432.220
Canadian dollar	237.710

Turkish lira	107.180
Swiss Franc	317.320
Australian Dollar	234.240
US Dollar Buying	301.050

#### GOLD

20 Gram	252.300
10 Gram	129.070
5 Gram	65.380

### DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	302.750
Canadian Dollar	238.170
Sterling Pound	431.240
Euro	342.830
Swiss Frank	294.080
Bahraini Dinar	800.935
UAE Dirhams	82.670
Qatari Riyals	83.880
Saudi Riyals	81.410
Jordanian Dinar	426.480
Egyptian Pound	33.996
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.094
Indian Rupees	4.543
Pakistani Rupees	2.886
Bangladesh Taka	3.851
Philippines Peso	6.553
Cyprus pound	576.640
Japanese Yen	3.775
Syrian Pound	2.375
Nepalese Rupees	3.850
Malaysian Ringgit	78.575
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	47.070
Thai Bhat	9.580
Turkish Lira	107.505

### BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

#### CURRENCY BUY SELL

Europe		
British Pound	0.423826	0.432826
Czech Korune	0.004659	0.016659
Danish Krone	0.041927	0.046927
Euro	0.0336505	0.0344505
Norwegian Krone	0.032761	0.037961
Romanian Leu	0.086817	0.086817
Slovakia	0.009018	0.019018
Swedish Krona	0.033278	0.038278
Swiss Franc	0.3086740	0.316940
Turkish Lira	0.100708	0.111008

#### Australasia

Australian Dollar	0.225860	0.237360
New Zealand Dollar	0.203553	0.213053

#### America

Canadian Dollar	0.230991	0.239491
US Dollars	0.298550	0.303050
US Dollars Mint	0.299050	0.303050

#### Asia

Bangladesh Taka	0.003440	0.004014
Chinese Yuan	0.045169	0.048669
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036949	0.039699
Indian Rupee	0.004350	0.004740
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002701	0.002881

Kenyan Shilling	0.003113	0.003113
Korean Won	0.000253	0.000268
Malaysian Ringgit	0.073622	0.079622
Nepalese Rupee	0.002884	0.003054
Pakistan Rupee	0.002669	0.002949
Philippine Peso	0.006458	0.006738
Sierra Leone	0.000067	0.000073
Singapore Dollar	0.219759	0.225759
South African Rand	0.014875	0.023375
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001696	0.002276
Taiwan	0.009248	0.009428
Thai Baht	0.008289	0.008839

#### Arab

Bahraini Dinar	0.796216	0.804216
Egyptian Pound	0.030692	0.035810
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000192	0.000252
Jordanian Dinar	0.422863	0.430363
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000151	0.000251
Moroccan Dirhams	0.020643	0.044643
Nigerian Naira	0.001248	0.001883
Omani Riyal	0.779684	0.785364
Qatar Riyal	0.082419	0.083632
Saudi Riyal	0.079820	0.080770
Syrian Pound	0.001283	0.001503
Tunisian Dinar	0.147693	0.155693
Turkish Lira	0.100708	0.111008
UAE Dirhams	0.081419	0.082568
Yemeni Riyal	0.001368	0.001448



# The new GA6 offers

*a pleasurable drive*



**GAC MOTOR**



Test-driving the GA6 was a satisfying experience, with the car providing a solid performance, superior road handling and a smooth drive. The car has highly technical and functional specifications to ensure the highest levels of performance, comfort and safety. The car has a sports car look, especially in the front and back of the body, as well as a steel structure and dynamic design. On the road, the GA6 gives a strong performance which provides comfort and balance to the driver behind the wheel.

The car is equipped with Borgor Warner's world-class 1.8 dual turbo engine, which makes innovative use of GAC's built-in dual-balancing axle technology to comprehensively upgrade performance. It provides ultra-strong power and continuous output at an extremely high torque within a wide speed range, allowing the driver to enjoy an ultimate driving experience. The 7-speed automatic transmission helps rapid speed change, with the possibility to save fuel and change speeds with ease. The transmission also feels solid and durable.



Inside the cabin, the GA6 has a luxurious cockpit with computer controls with 360-degree vision. It also has an electric sunroof, tinted windows and 3 keys for air conditioning for perfect control inside the vehicle. The car has an 8-inch HD monitor with advanced

navigation system, DVD, MP3 player, Bluetooth, USB/AUX and rear-view camera, with additional buttons to control the wheels.

The GA6 is equipped with the newest Bosch system for stability and control on the road. It also has adjustable



and folding side mirrors modified with a blind spot monitoring system for safe driving and to control both sides of the vehicle and places that are difficult to see, and prevent vehicle collisions from behind while changing lanes or reversing out of garages. It also has a system that can identify lanes and provide safe driving during high speeds. The system alerts the driver when he/she goes out of the lane by warning to take corrective steps and avoid risks.

The car has a front-collision warning system which works by intelligent long-range radar that can anticipate the risk of collision and activate an audio and video alarm to remind the driver to use the brakes and reduce speed to maintain a safe distance from other vehicles.

The GA6 has other aesthetic features, like large front and rear xenon LED lights, as well as safety factors such as high-quality airbags in the car for full protection for the driver and passengers.





# GLOBAL STOCKS SLIDE ON DISCORD IN DOHA

LONDON: World equity markets slid yesterday with the energy sector taking a tumble, as oil prices tanked following the collapse of weekend output talks in Doha. "Discord in Doha has left oil prices weaker and has prompted a drop across European equity markets," said CMC Markets analyst Jasper Lawler. Frankfurt, London and Paris all shed more than 1.0 percent in opening deals, but later tempered their losses. In Asia, Hong Kong ended 0.7 percent lower, Shanghai closed down 1.4 percent, Seoul sank 0.3 percent and Singapore slipped 0.7 percent.

Russia's stock markets tumbled as the Doha news appeared to spell more trouble for the country's energy-reliant economy. Moscow's RTS index was down over four percent in early trade before recovering slightly. Oil prices plunged after top producers failed to reach a weekend deal in the Qatari capital to cap output, fanning fresh fears over a supply glut that has plagued the market.

The latest heavy oil-price falls sent shock waves through the global energy sector because lower oil prices bite into its revenues and profits.

"Equities and oil have more or less traded in lockstep in 2016, so the failure of Doha talks at the weekend and the resulting weakness in the price of oil are unlikely to be taken well by the market as a new week of trading begins," said Russ Mould, investment director at brokerage AJ Bell. "BP and Shell were early and inevitable casualties as investors reacted to the fall in oil prices."

In London, BP's share price slid 1.15 percent to 351.85 pence in midday trade, while Royal Dutch Shell's 'A' stock was down 1.65 percent at 1,784 pence.

In Paris, French oil and gas giant Total topped the fallers board, dropping 1.72 percent to stand at 41.82 euros.

Discussions in the Qatari capital floundered on Sunday, with OPEC kingpin Saudi Arabia insisting it would not agree to freeze production without the participation of fellow cartel member Iran which boycotted the talks. Rebecca O'Keefe, head of investment at Interactive Investor, warned that the Doha disappointment represented a major "risk" for equity investors.

"OPEC's failure to come to an agreement on limiting output is a significant risk for both the oil market and equities, given the high positive correlation that currently exists between oil prices and global equity markets," she said.

While key producer Iran had said it was unwilling to freeze output having just resumed exports after years of Western sanctions there had been hopes that all other majors at the talks would hammer out a deal. The Doha news sent oil sliding by about 3.5 percent on Monday, weighing heavily also on Asian equity firms.

In Hong Kong China's CNOOC lost 1.6 percent and PetroChina was off 1.9 percent. Inexp in Tokyo was three percent lower. Tokyo's Nikkei closed 3.4 percent lower, with earthquake worries also hitting sentiment. Toyota, Sony and Honda each lost at least four percent as their production lines on Japan's southwestern island of Kyushu remained offline due to deadly earthquakes.

## Russia markets crash

Russia's stock markets tumbled yesterday after the failure of the world's top oil producers to agree a deal to cap output appeared to spell more trouble for the country's energy-reliant economy. Oil prices plunged after Saudi Arabia, the world's largest crude exporter, refused to back an agreement on Sunday in Doha with OPEC members and other major producers, including Russia, aimed at easing a global supply glut. Moscow's dollar-denominated RTS index was down over four percent in early trading before recovering slightly, while the MICEX exchange was down more than one percent. Russia has seen its economy slump into a profound recession, partly on the back of the fall in oil prices, and had been pinning its hopes on securing a deal to freeze production. The ruble fell by some three percent against the dollar and the euro after making ground in recent weeks as oil prices steadied on the back of hopes a deal could be reached between major producers.

Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak admitted Sunday that the failure of the talks had come as a surprise for Moscow but insisted it would not have "any consequences" for Russia. "Our companies are continuing to work highly competitively on the market," he was quoted as saying by Russian news agencies. Saudi Arabia has refused to accept a freeze in oil production seen by many as crucial to easing a huge surplus in world supplies without the participation of Iran, which boycotted the Doha talks. — AFP

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report									
Monday 18 April 2016									
Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing	High	Low	Volume	Value (KWD)	Number of Trades	
Price Index	+26.79	5,289.68	5,210.47	5,216.13	5,282.41	176,000,000	11,375,832	3,087	
Weighted Index	+2.08	303.24	298.22	303.41	301.05				
KSEI 10	+8.11	668.27	660.38	663.43	661.10				

Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KWD)	Trades	Last	Change
BAHAR	104	104	993	107	1	104	+2.8
KAFUC	55	55	3,430,538	182,731	102	55	+5.8
IPG	305	305	2,245	695	1	305	+15.0
NAPESCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0.00	-0.0
ENERGYH	43.0	40.0	2,000	83	4	40.0	-3.0
QPI	41.0	40.5	2,736,452	110,877	60	40.5	-1.0
ABAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0.00	-0.0
DB & Gas			6,112,795	294,943	198	148.66	+12.7

Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KWD)	Trades	Last	Change
KFOUC	190	190	14,000	11,760	11	190	+4.0
BFCO	520	520	31,025	16,133	4	520	-0.0
ALUDIT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0.00	-0.0
ALQURAN	209	204	671,603	129,898	27	208	+2.0
Basic Materials			798,798	158,825	48	199.34	+8.2

Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KWD)	Trades	Last	Change
KCEM	300	300	1,342	399	2	300	-0.0
REFFI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0.00	-0.0
CABLE	300	300	47,000	23,714	0	300	+0.0
SNIP	140	140	43,002	6,141	0	140	+0.0
PCEM	1,020	1,020	121,491	123,921	0	1,020	+0.0
PAPER	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0.00	-0.0
MFC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0.00	-0.0
ACCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0.00	-0.0
OSMC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0.00	-0.0
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0.00	-0.0
KSMC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0.00	-0.0
NCRM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0.00	-0.0
EQUIPMENT	57	56	321,378	16,172	16	57	+1.0
NCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0.00	-0.0
GRUBM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0.00	-0.0
SALDOOSH	63	77	1,798,387	302,037	132	80	+3.0
ADLY	400	400	263,857	27,867	21	400	+0.0
EDU	104	104	10,038	2,075	2	104	+0.0
CLEANING	38.0	38.5	113,000	4,387	5	38.5	+0.5
CITYGROUP	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0.00	-0.0
KSL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0.00	-0.0
KCPIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0.00	-0.0
HUMASOFT	610	610	225	137	2	610	+0.0
NAFAS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0.00	-0.0
SAPRAW	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0.00	-0.0
GFC	33.0	30.5	28,100	889	8	30.5	-2.0
MAYDEEN	26.5	23.5	18,322,271	491,068	233	25.5	+1.0
COC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0.00	-0.0
CGAT	80	80	100,043	8,321	4	80	+0.0
LFPC	720	720	1,300	1,001	1	720	+0.0
ALFAC	210	210	132,884	27,888	7	210	+0.0
MUBARRAK	64	64	30,000	1,380	3	64	+0.0
LOGISTICS	72	71	456,119	32,754	17	72	+0.0
SCM	61	61	33,621	3,724	2	61	+0.0
QCEM	77	77	50,000	3,850	1	77	+0.0
QCEM	68	68	110	7	1	68	+0.0
FCM	72	72	3,370,000	170,640	38	72	+0.0
FWGC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0.00	-0.0
SPEC	72	72	28,100	1,476	0	72	+0.0
Subtotals			27,246,519	1,352,015	526	671.42	+3.36

Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KWD)	Trades	Last	Change
KH	190	190	5,000	630	2	190	+0.0
NSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0.00	-0.0
PAPCO	110	108	3,790	393	3	108	+0.0
GATL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0.00	-0.0
DANK	72	70	302,281	23,577	11	70	+0.0
POAL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0.00	-0.0
FOOD	2,620	2,580	21,911	56,134	10	2,580	+0.0
Consumer Goods			261,662	66,826	26	1671.00	+12.28

Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KWD)	Trades	Last	Change
MFC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0.00	-0.0
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0.00	-0.0
YACO	210	210	600	120	2	210	+0.0
Health Care			600	120	2	671.41	+7.18

Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KWD)	Trades	Last	Change
KDN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0.00	-0.0
KHCT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0.00	-0.0
BULTAN	60	61	38,000	2,324	17	60	+0.0
CABLETV	30.5	30.5	6,000	244	6	30.5	+1.0
EYAS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0.00	-0.0
IFAH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0.00	-0.0
OLAFUEL	110	100	236,911	26,057	26	110	+0.0
MUNTADHAT	61	61	540,599	44,276	6	61	+0.0
JAZERA	600	600	36,002	31,022	4	600	+0.0
SOOR	112	110	36,000	3,988	14	112	+0.0
FUTURXID	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0.00	-0.0
ALMADHAR	70	70	77,000	5,370	1	70	+0.0
ALHAI	140	138	57,719	12,000	11	140	+0.0
ZEMH	40.5	40.5	6,765,218	436,264	184	40.5	+0.0
LFPO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0.00	-0.0
Motors	1,100	1,100	10,000	14,500	1	1,100	+0.0
Consumer Services			62,811,898	571,916	276	617.45	+1.25

Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KWD)	Trades	Last	Change
ZAH	300	340	1,708,206	623,207	65	340	+0.0
ORFEDCO	1,080	1,080	2,000	2,000	3	1,080	+0.0
HISTELECO	31.5	30.5	1,280,978	39,547	31	30.5	+0.0
VVA	1,020	1,000	234,911	237,362	72	1,000	+0.0
Telecommunications			3,347,796	662,826	161	664.22	+11.48

Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KWD)	Trades	Last	Change
NSK	670	660	1,100,000	1,432,000	57	660	+0.0
NSK	244	240	931,034	126,622	23	240	+0.0
CRK	405	395	5,300	2,087	4	405	+0.0
AKH	320	320	24,238	9,019	5	320	+0.0
ALMATAHED	405	445	303,285	174,168	15	445	+0.0
KH	190	190	66,200	17,078	5	190	+0.0
BURG	300	340	644,967	236,522	26	340	+0.0
RPM	400	400	732,100	303,888	41	400	+0.0
DOUBVAN	410	400	286,879	102,218	22	400	+0.0
ALB	100	104	420,695	70,167	13	100	+0.0
IFMIR	41.0	40.0	6,643,000	204,500	69	40.0	+0.0
WABANBANK	124	122	2,071,624	259,424	101	122	+0.0
Banks			13,964,984	3,266,524	260	629.57	+3.54

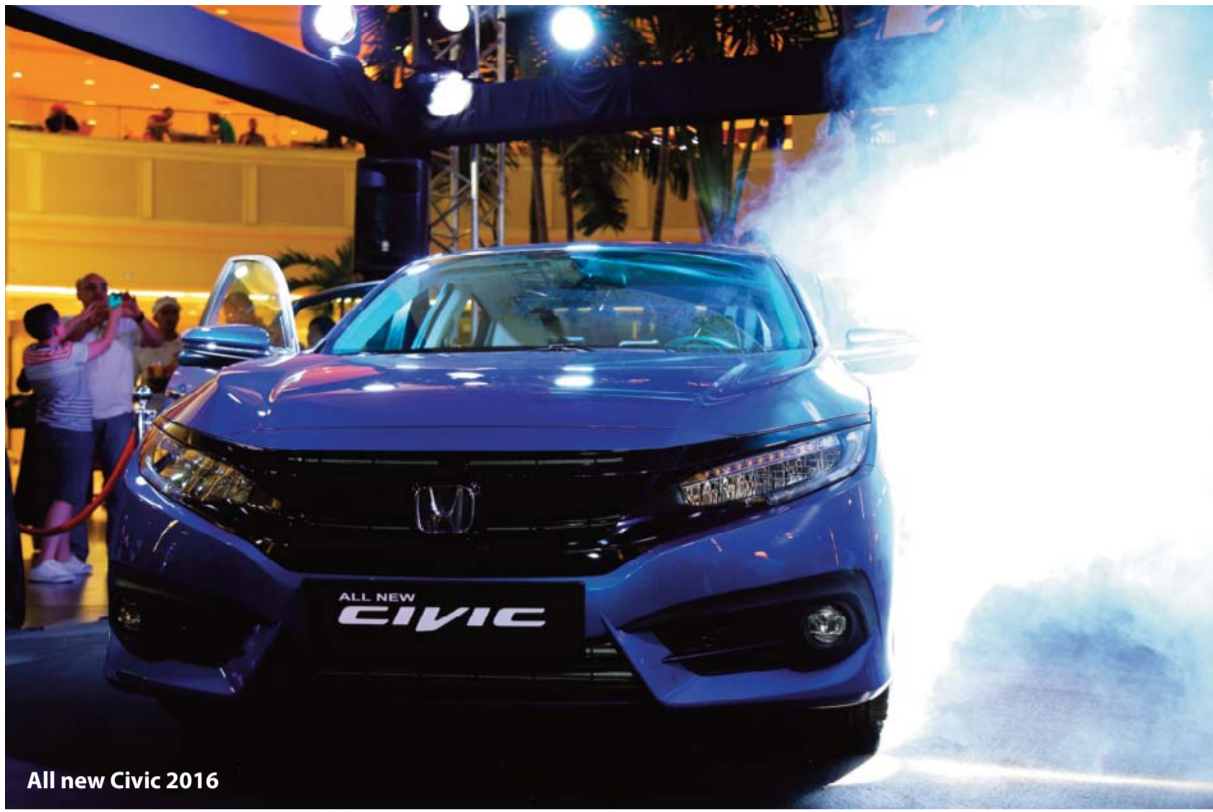
  

Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KWD)	Trades	Last	Change
NSK	310	310	170	51	1	310	+0.0
ORNL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0.00	-0.0
ANS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0.00	-0.0
WNS	104	104	3,000	312	1	104	+0.0
KUWANTRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0.00	-0.0
FTI	50	48.5	262,021	13,091	17	50	+0.0
WETHAQ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0.00	-0.0
BKWIT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0.00	-0.0
Insurance			261,798	13,098	16	1671.17	+0.00

Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KWD)	Trades	Last	Change
BOROUR	35.5	35.0	10,000	36,470	28	35.0	+1.0
KFC	48.0	48.0	212,007	38,574	12	48.0	+0.0
URC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0.00	-0.0
NRG	80	80	704,000	68,204	22	80	+0.0
SRG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0.00	-0.0
TAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0.00	-0.0
ARSEC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0.00	-0.0
MBSALEH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0.00	-0.0
ABRSEC	21.0	20.5	694,000	27,374	28		





All new Civic 2016



Unveiling of the Africa Twin Honda Motorcycle.

# Honda Alghanim unveils All-new 2016 Honda Civic and new Africa Twin motorbike

**KUWAIT:** Alghanim Motors, the exclusive distributor of Honda products in Kuwait, including cars, bikes, power generators and more, unveiled the all-new 2016 Honda Civic and Honda Africa Twin motorbike in a launch event that took place at Marina Mall on April 16, 2016 amongst the wide public. A series of games and activities were conducted to engage and encourage individuals to interact with the 2016 Honda Civic and Honda Africa Twin motorbike.

Considering Honda is known to be very customer-centric, it has incorporated a sleek and bold design to its 2016 Civic to not only meet but also exceed expectations.

With its sleek, sporty lines and an improved power-to-weight ratio, 2016 Civic is not only fun to drive, charismatic, spacious and stylish but also the most efficient in its class. In addition to a brand new engine in the LXi and

include standard LED daytime running lights, distinctive C-shaped LED taillights, power side mirrors with integrated LED turn signals, capless fuel system and glass antennas. The RS grade features signature inline LED headlights, license plate light, an aerodynamic wing trunk spoiler with high mounted LED stop light, LED fog lights premium black grille, twin silencers, paddle shifters and 17" alloy wheels.

#### Interior Styling

The 2016 Civic interior is designed to offer comfortable, sophisticated and premium cabin in its class. The 2016 Civic's longer wheel base and wider body results in giving its occupants spaciousness and premium comfort with ample headroom, legroom, shoulder clearance and side head clearance. Fit, finish and material quality

extension mechanism and map light.

Convenience features include Remote Engine Starter that starts the engine from a distance, ensuring favorable automatic climate control regulating cabin temperature ensuring maximum comfort before you get in. Smart Entry, Push Button Start also adds to comfort and sporty feel, Electric Parking Brake replaces hand lever with compact, easy to operate switch, the Automatic Brake Hold function eliminates the need to keep the foot on the break when at a hill or an intersection, Auto Day and Night Rear View Mirror, Walk Away Locking, Cruise Control, Electronic Power Steering and Rear Parking Sensors. The EXi and the RS grades in addition to sunroof has Honda LANEWATCHTM feature which uses a camera located below the passenger side view mirror to display an expanded rear view of the passenger side road way on the 7 inch touchscreen. Multi-Angle Rearview Camera that gives a look of three different viewing angles, which can also be seen on the same 7-inch touchscreen.

#### Power Train

Powering 2016 Civic are two new engines both designed to provide refined, responsive and fuel efficient performance. The LXi and EXi grades are powered by the new 2.0L DOHC inline-4 engine with i-VTEC engine producing a peak of 158hp@6500 rpm, 187N-m torque at 4200 rpm. The RS grade is powered by Turbo Charged 1.5L DOHC, direct-injected inline-4 engine with variable Valve Timing Control, churning out 180hp at 6000rpm and a 220N-m torque at 1700-5500rpm. Both engines are mated to a new generation Continuously Variable Transmission (CVT). Civic's new CVT has a taller final gear ratio for fuel-efficient low-rpm cruising, and new-generation G-Design shift logic for smooth acceleration and natural throttle response. The fuel efficiency of the LXi and EXi grades is at 18.8 KM/L and the RS grade is 20KM/L.

#### Body and Safety

The 2016 Civic utilizes Honda's Advanced Compatibility Engineering (ACE) body structure technology to enhance occupant protection and crash compatibility. It also boasts of Honda active-safety features such as

- Vehicle Stability Assist (VSA) with Traction Control Systems (TCS)
- Anti-Lock Brake Systems (ABS)
- Electronic Brake Distributor (EBD)
- Hill Start Assist (HSA)
- Tire Pressure Monitoring System (TPMS) that helps you be safe by alerting you on the pressure in the tires.

The inclusion of these safety technologies benchmarked the 2016 Civic to receive a 2016 TOP SAFETY PICK+ rating from the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) in United States of America, making it one of the safest cars amongst its segment.

#### Grade and Color Availability

The 2016 Civic now comes in three grades with introduction of the new grade RS in addition to the LXi and



Proud owner of first Honda Civic 2016

the EXi. The 2016 Honda Civic will be available in the below exterior colors:

1. White Orchid Pearl (Black and Ivory Interior)
2. Lunar Silver Metallic (Black and Ivory Interior)
3. Modern Steel Metallic (Ivory Interior)
4. Cosmic Blue Metallic (Ivory Interior)
5. Midnight Burgundy Pearl (Ivory Interior)
6. Crystal Black Pearl (Ivory Interior)
7. Camellian Red Pearl (Ivory Interior)
8. Brilliant Sporty Blue Metallic (exclusive to the RS grade with Black and Ivory Interior)

Coinciding with the Civic's reveal is that of Honda Africa Twin motorbike. The 998cc parallel twin uses Honda's exclusive four-valve Unicam(r) cylinder-head design for smooth, tractable power. The motorbike also features a six-speed manual gearbox mode and a new DCT transmission model with selectable on- and off-road modes; both versions have ABS standard with rear ABS on/off and Honda Selectable Torque Control (HSTC).

Honda Alghanim urges customers to visit Marina Mall to get acquainted with the vehicle that will be on display for one week; as well as to visit any of our Honda showrooms for a chance to test drive the car and get full details from our sales representatives.

Honda Alghanim showroom operates from 8.30 am until 10 pm on Saturday to Thursday and from 9.30 am until 10 pm on Fridays. Alghanim Motors, the exclusive distributor of Honda automobiles, motorcycles, power products, and marine products in Kuwait, is committed to providing customers with flexible payment solutions and efficient and cost-effective services. The cars service center waiting lounge offers entertainment and comfort for customers with gaming consoles, digital satellite TV, free wireless internet and relaxing massage chairs. For more information, please call 1822777.



Honda Civic competition with the crowd

EXi grades, it also boasts of a new grade equipped with a new turbo charged 1.5 liter DOHC Direct Injected Inline-4 cylinder Engine and will be called RS. It is worth mentioning that the Automobile Journalists Association in Canada voted the 2016 Honda Civic as the "2016 Canadian Car of the Year."

#### Exterior Styling

The 2016 Civic design is sporty with its athletic stance and low wide proportions. Exterior is sleek with swept back bodylines, sharp aggressive fascia and its bulging wheel arches. Some standard features in all grades

throughout the cabin has been modernized with the premium and sporty character of all new Civic. High quality, soft touch materials are applied to the instrument panel, front door and door inserts and center armrests are padded.

The Stunning Civic also offers automatic climate control, steering wheel mounted controls for Blue Tooth Hands Free Telephone (HFT), a 5-inch touch screen audio in the LXi grade and a 7-inch touchscreen audio in EXi and RS grades and USB jacks. Some standard features in all grades include 60:40 fold down rear seats, rear seat armrest with cup holders, rear ventilation ducts, sun visor



Honda Civic launch event.



Honda Civic competition with the crowd



Unveiling of the All-new Civic 2016.





### SAMSUNG ELEVATES MOBILE PHONE PICTURE QUALITY WITH DUAL PIXEL TECHNOLOGY IN ITS NEWEST IMAGE SENSOR

**DUBAI:** Samsung Electronics Co, Ltd, a world leader in advanced semiconductor technology, announced its newest 12 megapixel (Mp) image sensor for smartphones, which will elevate the quality of mobile phone pictures. Already in mass production, this 1.4µm-pixel-based image sensor is equipped with Dual Pixel technology that has been reserved for DSLR cameras. The technology enables rapid auto-focus for fast photo shooting while producing premium image quality on mobile devices, even in low light situations.

"Our goal is to support millions of our consumers around the world with technology that allows them to capture life's best moments at the highest quality

possible. All our innovation is inspired by our commitment to customer satisfaction," added Tarek Sabbagh, Head of IT and Mobile Division at Samsung Gulf Electronics. Samsung's new image sensor with Dual Pixel technology employs two photodiodes located on the left and right halves of a pixel, while a conventional image sensor dedicates less than five percent of its pixels, with one photodiode each that converts light particles into measurable photocurrent for phase detection. As each and every pixel of the Dual Pixel image sensor is capable of detecting phase differences of perceived light, significantly faster auto-focus has become possible. With such groundbreaking improvements, the image sen-

sor ensures clear and sharp images especially for moving objects even in poor lighting conditions.

The image sensor has also adopted Samsung's ISOCELL technology, which isolates the photodiodes in each pixel with a physical wall to further reduce color cross talk, maximizing the image sensor's performance.

For top-of-the-line performance while keeping the size to a minimum, the new image sensor is built with cutting-edge chip-stacking technology. The Dual Pixel image sensor stacks a 65 nanometer (nm) sensor and 28nm logic chip together to deliver outstanding photo-taking experiences in today's sleek smartphones.



### MEZZAN HOLDING BOARD ELECTS NEW CHAIRMAN

**KUWAIT:** Mezzan Holding KSCC board announced yesterday that Abdel Rahman Jassim Mohammad Al Wazzan was elected as the new Chairman of the Board of Directors. Mezzan Holding is one of the largest manufacturers and distributors of food, beverage, FMCG and pharmaceutical products in the Gulf.

Abdel Rahman Al-Wazzan succeeds the late Khaled Jassim Al-Wazzan who had resigned in February 2016 for health reasons. Abdel Rahman Al-Wazzan had previously held the position of Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of Mezzan Holding for two periods; from 2003 to 2010 and from 2012 to 2014; and most recently was Chairman of Widyam Real Estate until March 31, 2016.

Mezzan Holding's Extraordinary General

Meeting of Shareholders that was held on April 13, 2016 had voted in a new board of directors for a three-year term including Mohammad Jassim Mohammad Al-Wazzan, Abdel Rahman Jassim Mohammad Al-Wazzan, Motasem Jassim Mohammad Al-Wazzan, Jamal Abdulhameed Al-Mutawa and Abdulwahab Ahmad Al-Marzouq. Suleiman Khaled Jassim Al-Wazzan was voted in as a reserve member.

Mezzan Holding operates in seven countries through 29 subsidiaries with 7,500 employees. It distributes over 25,000 Stock Keeping Units (SKU), making it one of the largest operators in terms of SKUs, unit sales, market share and in terms of share of revenues of total consumer spending in consumer categories served by the company.



### BAHRAH TRADING COMPANY WINS 4 PRESTIGIOUS BOBCAT AWARDS

BOBCAT RECOGNITION FOR EXCELLENT PERFORMANCE OF BTC

**KUWAIT:** Bahrah Trading Company (BTC) has won top awards in the BOBCAT annual Middle East & Africa regional dealer meeting held recently at Istanbul Turkey. The meeting was attended by distinguished Senior Management

representatives from most of the dealers in the region.

BTC delegation was represented by Paul Reynolds COO, Melakandy Hamza General Manager and Saadallah Salem Assistant Sales Manager.



Best in Business efforts from BTC team has paid off once again. The BOBCAT brand dominates the world market with 50% market share and winning this award becomes remarkable achievement."

The main highlight of the event was the Award ceremony, where BOBCAT felicitated distributors on their top performances and achievement. BTC did it again, by taking the place of pride by winning 4 prestigious BOBCAT awards for outstanding performance including:

1. BEST DEALER - OVERALL FOR MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA REGION
2. BEST DEALER - AFTER SALES SUPPORT
3. HIGHEST MARKET SHARE ON SKID STEER LOADERS
4. HIGHEST MARKET SHARE ON TELESCOPIC HANDLERS

Congratulations BTC Mubarak Naser Al-Sayer CEO Al-Sayer Group Holding said "In a highly competitive and volatile market place, for BTC these awards goes a long way in further strengthening operations to always stay ahead and getting the members motivated to aim for even better performance."

According to Paul Reynolds COO "Consistent

Melakandy Hamza, General Manager BTC thanked all customers for their continuous support, and re-assured BTC's commitment to offer best aftersales service for Bobcat. Bahrah Trading Company, the authorized distributor for BOBCAT in Kuwait, is the market leader in transportation, industrial and material handling equipment and construction machinery, representing globally leading brands. BTC's service is built around top quality products and industry leading support. Bahrah Trading has established a reputation for professional and reliable service and providing full after sales support. The commitment to customers and our dedication to their satisfaction have placed BTC at the forefront of local industry in Kuwait.



### BURGAN BANK ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF YAWMI ACCOUNT

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

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

1. MOHAMMAD EMAD ABDULAZIZ AL BSHARAH
2. FADHEL AHMAD ALI TIFOONI
3. ABDULLAH HASAN ABDULLAH HUSSEIN
4. SAMI MAHMOUD HASAN AL RABIAH
5. ABDULREDDHA HUSSAIN GHLOUM GHAD-HANFAR

To further add to the anticipation of Yawmi account customers, Burgan Bank now offers a Quarterly Draw with more chances to win higher rewards, entitling one lucky customer to win KD 125,000 every three months. The Yawmi Account now offers Daily and Quarterly Draws, the Quarterly Draw requires customers to

maintain a minimum amount of KD 500 in their account for 2 months prior to draw date. Additionally, every KD 10 in the account, will entitle customers to one chance of winning. If the account balance is KD 500 and above, the account holder will be qualified for both the quarterly and daily draws. Burgan Bank encourages everyone to open a Yawmi account and/or increase their deposit to maximize their chances to becoming a winner. The more customers deposit, the higher the chances they receive of winning.

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

### AIR ARABIA JORDAN'S INAUGURAL RIYADH FLIGHT TOUCHES DOWN

**AMMAN:** Air Arabia Jordan's first flight from Amman to Riyadh touched down yesterday, marking the start of a new era of connectivity between the capital cities of Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

Riyadh, the Kingdom's main financial hub, joins Dammam, Medina and Jeddah as Saudi Arabian cities served by direct Air Arabia Jordan flights. Flights will operate three times weekly, on Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Passengers will leave Amman Queen Alia International Airport at 15:45 and arrive at Riyadh King Khalid International Airport at 17:50. Return flights will depart Saudi Arabia at 18:30 and land in Jordan at 20:15.

An Air Arabia Jordan spokesperson said: "Air Arabia Jordan has got off to a strong start to 2016 and we are delighted to add Riyadh to our rapidly expanding network of Saudi Arabian cities. Our value for money proposition has proved to be extremely popular, and in turn, this has enabled us to continue investing in new destinations to meet passenger demand in Jordan and the wider Levant."

Air Arabia Jordan, a joint venture company, is a member of Air Arabia Group. Based in Amman Queen Alia International Airport, Air Arabia Jordan is the Kingdom's new low cost carrier (LCC). The airline offer services to a range of destinations across the Middle East, Europe and Africa. The carrier focusses on offering comfort, reliability and value for money air travel.



### LAZY TO BLAME CHINA FOR GLOBAL STEEL WOES: XINHUA

**BEIJING:** Blaming China for woes in the global steel industry is simply a lazy excuse for protectionism, and such finger-pointing will be counter-productive, China's official Xinhua news agency said in a commentary yesterday. The issue has shot to the top of the political agenda in a number of countries. India's Tata Steel has blamed a flood of cheap steel imports, including from China, for a decision to pull out of Britain, putting 15,000 jobs at risk. Last week, more than 40,000 German steel workers took to the streets to protest against dumping from China, among other issues such as industry consolidation that they fear will cost them their jobs. Xinhua, in an English-language piece, said it appeared "understandable" to think that China as the world's largest steel producer and consumer was the cause of the problems.

"Upon closer inspection, however, it's just a lame and lazy excuse for protectionism," it said. "Blaming other countries is always an easy, sure-fire way for politicians to whip up a storm over domestic economic woes, but finger-pointing and protectionism are counter-productive."

Such commentaries are not official

policy statements, but they can be read as a reflection of government thinking. Xinhua said cheap Chinese steel had in fact created many jobs, as it is used by European companies, for example, who then use it to make products for export.

"It should be noted that overcapacity is a global challenge amid a sluggish world economy. China is one of the most hard-hit, but the government is facing up to the headwinds," it said.

"The last thing the world needs is a trade war over this issue. Far more jobs will be lost than gained if protectionism prevails." The Chinese government has said the issue is a global problem that should be resolved via dialogue and cooperation.

Earlier this month, India initiated investigations into the possible dumping of cheap steel products into the country by six nations including China, Japan and South Korea. "China is paying close attention to this and hopes the Indian ministry of commerce and industry conducts the investigation strictly according to World Trade Organization principles," China's Commerce Ministry said in a statement on its website.—Reuters

### KIB PARTICIPATES IN AUM CAREER FAIR

**KUWAIT:** As part of its leading CSR program that supports Kuwaiti youth at all levels, Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced its participation at AUM Career Fair that will be held at the university campus in Egaila on March 18, 2016.

This participation stems from KIB's strong belief in the youth potential and capability to innovate at all levels, as they are the cornerstone for private sector to flourish in the future.

The General Manager of Human Resources Department, Nigel Holmes commented, "Al-Dawli opted

to take part in this vital event to give young Kuwaitis and mainly fresh graduates a chance to have an idea about the available career opportunities in the Kuwaiti market". He added that Al-Dawli is keen on constantly providing career opportunities that suit the youth's ambition, as well as encouraging them to work in the banking sector that will pave the way towards promising future careers. Holmes stated that the bank's HR employees are ready to answer any of their queries during the exhibition and take them through the available vacancies at Al-Dawli.





# AMERICA'S SECRET WEAPON: INNOVATION

By Bill Gates

**WASHINGTON:** This presidential election has the country captivated. As many commentators have pointed out, the primaries are more focused on personalities than policy. While the parties focus on who is going to represent them in the fall, I want to make the case for something that I hope every candidate will agree on in November: America's unparalleled capacity for innovation. When the United States invests in innovation, it creates companies and jobs at home, makes Americans healthier and safer, and saves lives and fights poverty in the world's poorest countries. It offers the next president a tremendous opportunity to help people in America and around the world.

Of course, America's capacity for innovation is nothing new. We have been inventing for more than two centuries: think of Benjamin Franklin, Margaret Knight, Thomas Edison. By the end of World War II, the United States led the world in automobiles, aerospace, electronics, medicine, and other areas. Nor is the formula for success complicated: Government funding for our world-class research institutions produces the new technologies that American entrepreneurs take to market.

What is new is that more countries than ever are competing for global leadership, and they know the value of innovation. Since 2000, South Korea's research and development spending (measured as a

percentage of GDP) has gone up 90 percent. China's has doubled. The United States' has essentially flattened. It's great that the rest of the world is committing more, but if the United States is going to maintain its leading role, it needs to up its game.

I have seen first-hand the impact that this type of research can have. I was lucky enough to be a student when computers came along in the 1960s. At first they were very expensive, so it was hard to get access to them. But the microchip revolution, made possible by U.S. government research, completely changed that. Among other things it enabled Microsoft, the company I co-founded, to write software that made computers an invaluable tool for productivity. Later, the Internet - another product of federal research - changed the game again. It is no accident that today most of the top tech companies are still based in the United States, and their advances will have a massive impact in every area of human activity.

My favorite example is health. America's investment in this area creates high-paying jobs at universities, biotech companies, and government labs. It leads to new treatments for disease, such as cancer therapies. It helps contain deadly epidemics like Ebola and Zika. And it saves lives in poor countries. Since 1990, the fraction of children who die before age 5 has fallen by more than half. I think that's the greatest statistic of all time, and the United States deserves a lot of credit for making it happen.

The next few years could bring even more progress. With a little luck we could eradicate polio, a goal that is within reach because of vaccines developed by U.S. scientists. (Polio would be the second disease ever eradicated, after smallpox in 1979 - in which the United States also played an irreplaceable role.) There is also exciting progress on malaria: The number of deaths dropped more than 40 percent from 2000 to 2012, thanks in part to America's support for breakthrough tools like drugs and bed nets. But to make the most of these opportunities, we need to invest more in basic health research and specific areas like vaccines.

Energy is another great example. American-funded research defines the state of the art in energy production. Early advances in wind and solar technology were developed with federal money. And this research offers a strong return on investment. Between 1978 and 2000, the Department of Energy spent \$17.5 billion (in today's dollars) on research on efficiency and fossil fuels, yielding \$41 billion in economic benefits. Yet, until this year, the DOE's research budget hasn't seen a real increase since the Reagan administration.

If we step up these investments, we can create new jobs in the energy sector and develop the technologies that will power the world - while also fighting climate change, promoting energy independence, and providing affordable energy for the 1.3 billion poor people who don't have it today. Some of

the more promising areas include making fuel from solar energy, much the way plants do; making nuclear energy safer and more affordable; capture and storing carbon; and creating new ways to store energy that let us make the most of renewables.

There's a lot of momentum right now on clean energy research. Last year, the leaders of 20 countries, including the United States, committed to double federal investments in this area. Complementing that crucial effort, I helped launch the Breakthrough Energy Coalition, a group of private investors who will back promising clean-energy companies. The next president will have a chance to accelerate this momentum.

Investing in R&D isn't about the government picking winners and losers. The markets will do that. It's about doing what we know works: making limited and targeted investments to lay a foundation for America's entrepreneurs. This approach has been fundamental to US leadership for decades, and it will become only more important in the years ahead. By the end of this summer, the political parties will have chosen their leaders and will start looking ahead to the November election. The nominees will lay out their vision for America and their agenda for achieving it. These visions will probably have more differences than similarities. But I hope we can all agree that, no matter how you see America's future, there will always be an essential role for innovation. — Reuters



**LAS VEGAS:** People stand in line for a demonstration of the Oculus Rift at the Oculus booth during CES International, in Las Vegas. An executive from virtual reality company Oculus said consumers shouldn't be concerned about their privacy when using the Oculus Rift system. Sen Al Franken penned an open letter to the company in early April 2016, asking for details about user data collected by the new VR system. — AP

## OCULUS REACTS TO VIRTUAL REALITY PRIVACY QUESTIONS

**BURBANK, Calif:** An executive from virtual reality company Oculus says consumers shouldn't be concerned about an invasion of their privacy when using the Oculus Rift. Jason Rubin, Oculus' head of worldwide studios, is downplaying questions raised about the VR system's privacy policy. "It's a new medium," said Rubin during a Thursday interview.

"People want to know. They have a right to ask. We'll answer. It'll be fine." Sen. Al Franken (D-Minn.) wrote an open letter to Oculus CEO Brendan Iribe earlier this month asking for details about user data collected by the new VR system, which is worn on users' heads and can detect movement, location and sound.

"Oculus' creation of an immersive virtual reality experience is an exciting development, but it remains important to understand the extent to which Oculus may be collecting Americans' personal information, including sensitive location data, and sharing that information with third parties," he wrote.

Franken is asking for more information about how the Facebook-owned company is handling data collected from users. He

noted in his April 7 letter to Oculus that "the collection, storage and sharing of personal information may enhance consumers' virtual reality experience, but we must ensure that Americans' very sensitive information is protected."

Franken asked Oculus to respond by May 13. Rubin declined to specify when Oculus would address the questions. "We're going to answer all of that in due time," said Rubin, a video game industry veteran who joined Oculus in 2014. "We're absolutely confident that people are going to say, 'Oh. Yeah. Right.'"

The Oculus Rift began shipping to consumers March 28. It costs \$599 and features a headset with a microphone and a pair of high-definition screens capable of broadcasting images when connected to a high-powered PC.

HTC has a more detailed privacy policy for its similar HTC Vive, an \$800 system created in a partnership with video game creator Valve released April 5. The smartphone maker's privacy policy states it "will not share any personally identifiable information with third parties for marketing purposes" without users' consent. — AP

## STATE PROPOSALS ON LGBT RIGHTS PUSH BUSINESS INTO SPOTLIGHT

**ATLANTA:** Major corporations invested in Southern states have become some of the staunchest opponents of bills they consider discriminatory, facing off against Republican lawmakers eager to portray their states as the best home for global brands.

The NFL, Apple and other behemoths have cajoled Republicans into rejecting or softening bills in recent years that supporters say protect people who oppose same-sex marriage on religious grounds. Companies are speaking up loudly again this year in states where such bills have been proposed as part of a backlash to the US Supreme Court ruling that effectively legalized gay marriage.

"As a company that is committed to the principle that everyone deserves to live without fear of discrimination simply for being who they are, becoming an employer in North Carolina, where members of our teams will not have equal rights under the law, is simply untenable," California-based PayPal CEO Dan Schulman said in a statement last week ending plans to hire 400 people for a new operations center in Charlotte. The decision is among the largest tangible effects of a new North Carolina law overruling LGBT anti-discrimination measures passed by local governments.

Watchers of corporate America's approach to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender issues said such public statements are only one way companies have been supportive, pointing to several years of efforts to win over LGBT employees and customers.

CEOs sometimes take the lead, as in 2013 when Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz told a shareholder who believed the company's pro-gay marriage position hurt profits: "Not every decision is an economic decision." Some companies have gone beyond what's

required by state or federal law for equal employment policies and benefits. The Corporate Equality Index survey conducted by the Human Rights Campaign, which has graded companies' environment for LGBT employees since 2002, gave 13 companies a perfect score that first year. This year's survey reported 407 companies hit that mark.

When Cindy Armine-Klein joined the payment technology company First Data in 2014, the firm had recently scored below 50 on the survey. CEO Frank Bisignano told Armine-Klein when she was hired as chief control officer that year to prioritize creation of LGBT programs.

Since then, the company has added coverage of domestic partners to employee benefits, included gender identity in its anti-discrimination policies and created a group to connect LGBT employees around the country. When a bill shielding opponents of same-sex marriage cleared the Georgia legislature this year, concerns quickly reached executives through that network.

The firm, headquartered in Atlanta, joined about 500 others opposing the bill. Bisignano made a personal call to thank Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal following his veto of the measure. "When you have the opportunity to bring your whole self to work, that creates happy, active, creative employees," said Armine-Klein, who married her wife in 2011. "That is good for the employee; that is good for us as a company; that is good for our clients."

But firms also want to be on equal footing with competitors. Nearly 400 companies last March signed on to a court document filed with the US Supreme Court during its review of several states' gay marriage bans, three months before the justices effectively legalized the unions. — AP

# GOOGLE BOOK-SCANNING PROJECT CLEARS LAST HURDLE

## US SUPREME COURT REJECTS AUTHORS GUILD CHALLENGE

**WASHINGTON:** Google's massive book-scanning project cleared its final legal hurdle yesterday as the US Supreme Court denied an appeal contending it violates copyright law.

The top US court denied without comment a petition from the Authors Guild to hear the appeal of a 2013 federal court ruling seen as a landmark copyright decision for the digital era. In a decade-long case, authors and their backers claimed Google was illegally scanning and digitizing millions of books without compensation to the copyright holders. But the ruling by federal judge Denny Chin, backed by an appellate panel, said the colossal project in which Google allows users to search books and see snippets of text was "fair use" under copyright law.

The appeals panel last October rejected the arguments of the Authors Guild, several prominent writers and leading publishers that the Google Books program and its Library Project would eat into their earnings potential by allowing readers free access to the books.

Backers of Google contended that digitization offers numerous public benefits for researchers and others.

### 'Win for fair use'

Krista Cox of the Association of Research Libraries hailed the ruling, tweeting, "Win for #fairuse." Nancy Sims, a University of Minnesota copyright librarian, said in a blog post, "This is a pretty great outcome for libraries and the public." Google said in a statement, "We are grateful that the court has agreed to uphold the decision of the Second Circuit (appeals court) which concluded that Google Books is transformative and consistent with copyright law." The statement added: "The product acts like a card catalog for the digital age by giving people a new way to find and buy books while at the same time advancing the interests of authors."

# CHINESE TWITTER USERS CONCERNED OVER EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENT

**BEIJING:** Chinese Twitter users have expressed concerns over the company's appointment of a China regional executive who has a background working with the country's military and state security apparatus. Since last week, when Kathy Chen was appointed Twitter's first managing director for China, Chinese users of the US microblogging site have raised concerns over Chen's past links to the Chinese government and wondered if their freedom of speech on the platform would be compromised.

Although blocked in China, Twitter is a popular platform for Chinese - especially those living overseas - to freely express themselves in their native language. While China has produced homegrown equivalents such as Weibo, the government exerts strict controls over what can be said on them and by whom. "Twitter has vast amounts of users' data. Given that US tech firms have in the past kowtowed to China, and given the military background of Kathy Chen, it's only reasonable for the Chinese users of Twitter to be worried about the future," He Qinglian, a prominent overseas-based Chinese political activist, wrote on her blog. She urged the US Congress to conduct a hearing on Chen's appointment. Wen Yunchao, a US-based political dissident, noted on his Twitter account that Chen had worked for the People's Liberation Army for seven years and later headed an anti-virus software company in a joint venture with connections to the Ministry of Public Security.

"It's only reasonable to question the direction of a company by its personnel decisions," Wen wrote. Chen began working as a technical engineer for a military research institute in 1987 after graduating with a computer science degree from North Jiaotong University, according to Chinese media reports.

She went on to work for DEC, Compaq and 123COM before leading the anti-virus software company Jinchen, a joint venture whose local partner was owned indirectly by the Ministry of Public Security. In an emailed statement, Twitter said it was usual for the Chinese government to assign graduates to jobs in the 1980s. Chen's computer science degree made her a prime candidate for a job as a junior engineer in the



The Authors Guild said it was disappointed. "Blinded by the public benefit arguments, the Second Circuit ruling tells us that Google, not authors, deserves to profit from the digitization of their books," said Mary Rasenberger, executive director of the authors group.

The ruling, she said, "misunderstood the importance of emerging online markets for books and book excerpts. It failed to comprehend the very real potential harm to authors resulting from its decision. The price of this short-term public benefit may well be the future vitality of American culture." In the October appellate ruling, Judge Pierre Leval wrote that the longstanding interpretation of copyright law has for 300 years been that authors do not have "absolute control" over their works, and that

there are important exemptions for "fair use," including news reporting, historical analysis, parody and other "transformative" purposes.

The court said that the snippets made available by Google were not a viable substitute for the works and that it was immaterial if Google made a profit from its search business using the books.

In the original ruling, New York judge Chin said what was originally called the "Library Project" preserves books, gives "new life" to forgotten editions, sustains "print-disabled" users and benefits authors and publishers by finding them new readers. The case, which dates back to 2005, centers on a Google program started in 2004 to create an electronic database of books that could be searchable by keywords. — AFP



**BEIJING:** Pedestrians pass by an advertisement for a Chinese news web portal in Beijing yesterday. China is consolidating its ability to censor the Internet by drafting new rules requiring businesses that serve domestic Internet users to register their Web addresses inside the country, a move seen as targeting Chinese companies but that has raised concerns among foreign businesses. — AP

People's Liberation Army, the company said.

"When the Chinese economy further opened up with reform in the early 1990s, Kathy chose to pursue her passion for a technology career by switching to the private sector in 1994," the statement said.

It also said that her role with Jinchen was to represent the interests of majority shareholder Computer Associates, a US tech firm, and that she "never worked for the Ministry of Public

Security," Chen, who will be based in Hong Kong, was most recently an executive with Microsoft Asia-Pacific Research and Development Group before being hired by Twitter.

"I am really excited to find more ways to create value for our advertisers, enterprises, creators, influencers and our developers, and partners as well," Chen said in a video posted on Twitter. She has not publicly responded to Twitter user concerns. — AP



# HOW THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION'S CANCER AGENCY CONFUSES CONSUMERS

'MEAT IS THE NEW TOBACCO'

**LONDON:** Thanks to scientists working under the auspices of the World Health Organization, you can be fairly sure your toothbrush won't give you cancer. Over four decades, a WHO research agency has assessed 989 substances and activities, ranging from arsenic to hairdressing, and found only one was "probably not" likely to cause cancer in humans. It was an ingredient in nylon used in stretchy yoga pants and toothbrush bristles.

All the other 988 substances, however, pose some level of risk or need further research, according to the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), which is an arm of the WHO. Some things in IARC's top category of carcinogens are pretty obvious nasties, such as plutonium, mustard gas and smoking tobacco. Others are more surprising: Also ranked as "Group 1 Carcinogens" are wood dust and Chinese salted fish. IARC has said that working as a painter causes cancer, using a mobile phone possibly does, and working shifts as a pilot or a nurse, for example - is "probably carcinogenic." Last October, it ranked processed meats in its top category of known carcinogens, alongside plutonium. The findings have caused consternation, not least for non-scientists puzzled by what IARC's rankings mean.

As a global authority on cancer - a disease that kills more than 8 million people a year worldwide, with more than 14 million new cases appearing annually - IARC has enormous influence and commands much respect, even among its critics. Yet experts from academia, industry and public health say IARC confuses the public and policymakers. Some critics say the way IARC considers and communicates whether substances are carcinogenic is flawed and needs reform. Even the WHO, which oversees IARC, was caught off guard by the agency's announcement that red and processed meat should be classified respectively as probable and known carcinogens. The WHO's official spokesman, Gregory Hartl, issued a statement saying WHO's Geneva headquarters had been flooded with queries and requests for clarification. IARC's ruling did not mean people should stop eating meat, he said.

Asked about the relationship between IARC and the WHO, Hartl told Reuters: "WHO works closely and continually with IARC to improve the way the two bodies collaborate and communicate on the knowledge of potential and real hazards and risks to the public." At stake are judgments that can affect the lives of millions of people and the economic activities of states and multinational companies. IARC's rulings influence many things, from whether chemicals are licensed for use in industry to whether consumers choose or spurn certain products or lifestyles.

But its methods are poorly understood and do not serve the public well, according to Bob Tarone, a statistician formerly at America's National Cancer Institute and now Biostatistics Director at the International Epidemiology Institute. He said of the way IARC works: "It's not good for science, it's not good for regulatory agencies. And for people? Well, they are just being confused."

Paolo Boffetta worked at IARC for 19 years, rising to become head of the genetics and epidemiology team, and describes himself as "still a strong supporter" of the agency. Nevertheless, Boffetta, now at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in the United States, said IARC's approach sometimes lacks "scientific rigour" because its judgments can involve experts reviewing their own research or that of colleagues. Some institutions have also clashed with IARC. The agency is currently embroiled in an acrimonious dispute with the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) over glyphosate, an ingredient of widely-used pesticides. IARC says glyphosate is "probably carcinogenic." EFSA says it isn't. The glyphosate row has thrown up concerns about potential conflicts of interest at IARC: It involves an adviser to the agency who is closely linked to the Environmental Defense Fund, a US campaign group opposed to pesticides. (See.)

In the face of its critics, IARC steadfastly defends its methods and aims. "This is really the strongest possible process," Kurt Straif, the head of IARC's classification programme, told Reuters when asked about the way his agency evaluates possible causes of cancer. IARC's director, Chris Wild, has also defended the agency against criticism in scientific journals. In a letter to one of the journals, he said the scientists involved in its classification decisions "are motivated by a desire to improve public health by identifying the causes of human cancer and thereby contributing to disease prevention." Richard Sullivan, a professor of cancer policy and global health at King's College London, says any confusion is due to a widespread misunderstanding of IARC's role. "IARC is purely there to do the science. And the science is absolutely fine," he told Reuters. "But there is a disjunction between the pure science and the policy and public health messaging. That's where problems arise."

## Semi-detached agency

From the beginning, IARC has been a compromise. Born out of a French initiative, it was originally envisaged as an independent agency with a huge budget. It ended up as a semi-autonomous part of

the WHO with modest funds. IARC, based in Lyon, had revenue of about 30 million euros (\$34 million) in 2014, whereas the British charity Cancer Research UK had income of about \$875 million and the U.S. government's National Cancer Institute had a budget of \$4.9 billion in 2014. Despite its limited financial heft, IARC was a pioneer and established itself as a world-leading authority. Its assessments of whether something is a cause of cancer catch the eyes and ears of policymakers and the public.

To produce its assessments, IARC assembles groups of experts who review the existing scientific evidence and then place a substance or activity in one of five categories: carcinogenic to humans; probably carcinogenic; possibly carcinogenic; not classifiable as carcinogenic; and probably not carcinogenic. These reports are known as "monographs." The public sometimes misunderstands what IARC means by its classifications. The agency says it assesses "hazard" - the strength of evidence about whether a substance or activity can cause cancer in any way. It takes no account of typical levels of human exposure or consumption. So it is not measuring "risk" or the likelihood of a person getting cancer from something. IARC gives no view on the relative levels of risk of getting cancer from, say, plutonium or alcohol; what it does say is that there is clear evidence that both are capable of causing cancer. Therefore it ranks both substances in its top category of being carcinogenic. Geoffrey Kabat, a cancer epidemiologist at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the United States who has publicly criticized IARC, says the classifications do the public "a disservice."

"What the public wants to know is: What are the agents in our surroundings that are likely to have palpable effects on our health? Not theoretical exposures which might, under some far-fetched conditions, possibly have an effect," said Kabat, who is also author of the book "Hyping Health Risks." The risks of public misapprehension were evident in some of the media reaction to IARC's announcement on red and processed meats. The Huffington Post declared: "Meat is the new tobacco." Britain's Daily Mail said "health chiefs" had "put processed meat on same level as cigarettes."

Such interpretations are misleading, in IARC's view. Straif told Reuters that the blame for any confu-

sion lies with industry, activist groups and the media. "There are stakeholders on various sides that want to make it look ridiculous," he said. "There are activist groups who want to say, 'This is now an IARC carcinogen and we need to take all actions against it.' And then there is a third dimension - the media, who have their own interests in being sensational." Straif defended the decision to place processed meat in the same hazard category as plutonium, saying that "for both of these things there is clear evidence that these are human carcinogens."

## 'Naive, if not anti-scientific'

Some critics say the problems with IARC's monographs begin well before they become headlines. Their concerns focus on the composition of the "expert working groups" that decide which of the five IARC categories a substance or activity should go in. These experts sometimes include people who have spent years publishing research on whether the substance or activity under scrutiny can cause cancer. They may be part of IARC working groups that review their own research or that of close colleagues. Between 2012 and 2015, for example, IARC published or started 18 monographs involving 314 scientists. A Reuters analysis found that at least 61 of those scientists served on monograph working groups that considered their own scientific research. The analysis did not include the number of scientists on working groups that reviewed the research of close colleagues.

In letters, commentaries and articles in scientific journals, Tarone of the International Epidemiology Institute and other scientists have questioned whether such people "are the best judges of the validity and methodological soundness of their own and allied work." IARC's Straif said the agency's working groups consist of "the world's best experts" who critically review the scientific evidence and are not swayed by previous findings in their own work, or that of close colleagues. "IARC has a strong belief, for good reasons, that those who know the most about certain exposures are those who have worked on such exposures," he said. Straif said IARC's rules ensure no "author or associated colleague" can directly evaluate a study they have published. —Reuters



**AFGHANISTAN:** An Afghan burqa clad female health worker gives a vaccination to a child during a polio campaign in Kandahar, Afghanistan, yesterday. — AP

## HOW LONG A VIRGIN? IT'S WRITTEN IN YOUR GENES

**PARIS:** A DNA study of more than 380,000 people has uncovered a rather surprising role for human genes: Helping to determine the age at which you first have sex. Factors such as family stability, peer pressure and personality type are all known to influence whether teenagers choose to engage in sex, or abstain until adulthood. Now a huge gene trawl has revealed that "genes have a substantial influence" too, according to study co-author Ken Ong of the Institute of Metabolic Science at the University of Cambridge. Genetic factors, he told AFP, "explain around 25 percent of the differences in the age when people start to have sex."

The genes likely influence such factors as the age at which puberty hits, and whether or not you possess a risk-taking personality. The average age of sexual maturity for both genders has decreased from about 18 years in 1880, to 12.5 in 1980, according to the study authors. Scientists have blamed changes in nutrition and the larger physical size of children today, as well as exposure to hormone-disrupting chemicals.

Ong and a team analysed the genes of more than 125,000 participants in a British health study, and noted an association between 38 gene variants and the age at which first

had intercourse. They cross-checked this with gene datasets for 241,000 people in Iceland and 20,000 in the United States, for a total sample size of over 380,000 people. "We found that the size of the influence of genetic factors remained constant across decades of growing up, from the 1950s to the 1980s - this shows that genetic factors are relevant across a wide range of cultures and social attitudes," Ong said.

## Beyond socio-cultural factors

Many of the gene variants were also linked to other reproductive traits, such as age at birth of one's first child, and the number of children borne, they found. The research was published in the journal *Nature Genetics*. Previous research had shown that people who start having sex at a young age are more likely to underperform at school and have poorer physical and mental health. Early onset puberty has been linked to a higher risk for diabetes, heart disease and some cancers. But most research so far has focused on the socio-cultural causes for teenage sex. The team said it hoped the findings will help identify and help children more prone, genetically and otherwise, to engage in risky behavior. — AFP



**CHERNOBYL, Ukraine:** A man sets candles in front of portraits at the monument to Chernobyl victims in Slavutich, some 50 kilometers (30 miles) from the accident site, and where many of the power station's personnel used to live, during a memorial ceremony early on April 26, 2015.

## DEFYING RADIATION, ELDERLY CLING ON IN CHERNOBYL

**CHERNOBYL, Ukraine:** Defying radioactive contamination and a government evacuation order, Yevgeny Markevich returned to his beloved Chernobyl shortly after it suffered the world's worst nuclear accident 30 years ago this week. The sturdy 78-year-old former teacher is among 158 people still living in the 30 kilometer (19 mile) exclusion zone around the Ukrainian nuclear power plant where reactor number four exploded on April 26, 1986. The area remains contaminated by radiation and is deemed uninhabitable by Ukrainian authorities. "I only want to live in Chernobyl," said Markevich, whose family moved there in 1945 when he was eight.

"I can't explain why people want to live here. Are they following their hearts? Are they nostalgic? Who knows." The move to Chernobyl, where the soil was once rich and fertile, helped Markevich's family survive famine in the years immediately after the war, he said. "Here we could plant crops and harvest our own food. I have never wanted to leave," he said. The nuclear disaster, which the Soviet authorities initially sought to cover up, was directly responsible for the deaths of more than 30 people although a 2005 United Nations report estimated that radiation could eventually claim up to 4,000 lives.

On the day of the accident, a Saturday, Markevich was teaching a class at a local high school, not suspecting that the explosion nearby would forever transform the town and the lives of its people. "We knew something had happened because buses and military vehicles were driving toward Pripjat," he said, referring to the nuclear workers' town located three kilometers from the Chernobyl power plant. "Nobody told us anything. There was only silence."

Markevich, along with almost 116,000 other people living in the area, was forced to evacuate in 1986. But he wanted to return home immediately and began creating excuses to re-enter the exclusion zone. "Once I came here pretending I was a sailor, another time I said I was a police officer overseeing oil deliveries," he said. During one of these incursions into the exclusion zone, Markevich met the head of the radiation monitoring station and asked him for a job. He was hired on the spot and has not left the area since, boasting that he has never been ill despite years of eat-

ing vegetables grown in contaminated soil. "There is an element of risk," he conceded.

## 'Crying and screaming'

Maria Urupa, who is in her early 80s, also calls the exclusion zone home but is less enthusiastic about her living environment. Like most of the "samosely", or self-returners as inhabitants of the exclusion zone are known, she lives in a dilapidated wooden house in spartan conditions. These illegal residents, whose average age is 75, never accepted the forced evacuation of the zone surrounding the now shuttered power plant. In the aftermath of the explosion, which spewed out clouds of poisonous radiation that spread across Europe, more than 1,000 people returned to live in the officially sealed-off area.

Urupa survives off vegetables she grows in her garden as well as the food supplies brought by visitors. Other residents venture outside the exclusion zone to the town of Ivankiv, where the nearest market is located. Urupa says she considered hiding in her basement with her husband to avoid the initial evacuation in 1986, but their plan was not to be. "It was sad. There was crying and screaming," she said. After spending two months in a displaced persons camp, Urupa opted to return to the area "in a group of six people, walking through the forest like guerrilla fighters."

Another inhabitant of the exclusion zone, Valentina Kukhareno, 77, said she regrets that members of her family have to show their identity papers to visit her and are limited to three-day visits to prevent radiation exposure. "They say radiation levels are high. Maybe radiation affects outsiders, people who have never come here. But what are old people like us afraid of?" she said. Kukhareno said that she feels like a "stranger" outside the exclusion zone and rarely ventures outside the area. "I'm not a nationalist but I love my native land," she said. "I hope children's laughter resounds again here, even if it takes years." A baby girl named Maria was born in the exclusion zone in 1999 to a settler couple, the first child to be born in the disaster-hit area. Born suffering from anaemia, Maria left Chernobyl with her family just a year after her birth. Her whereabouts today are unknown. — AFP



**CHERNOBYL, Ukraine:** A 'samosely' (self-returner), as illegal inhabitants of the exclusion zone around the Chernobyl nuclear power plant are known, stands next to bags of flour and macaroni given by Ukraine Emergencies Ministry personnel. — AFP photos

# GRIPPED BY DROUGHT, ETHIOPIA DRILLS FOR WATER

**WUKRO, Ethiopia:** With Ethiopia in the grip of its worst drought in decades, the government has appealed for aid to help 10 million people living in Africa's second most-populous nation. But in the town of Wukro, surrounded by the rocky, arid mountains of the northern Tigray region, the government is investing longer-term efforts to ensure a supply of fresh water that will go far beyond the immediate needs of aid. With a mushrooming urban population, water needs are only set to grow as the number of people living in towns soars from 70 million today to an estimated 100 million by 2050.

In a bid to anticipate future need, the government is stepping up construction of wells to pump ground water in a project backed by both the United Nations and charities. "Lack of water affects everything: food, health, education and children's futures," warns the UN children's fund (UNICEF), which is working with the government to boost access to clean water and health in new, rapidly-growing towns.

"Urbanisation must be accompanied by access to water and improved hygiene," says Tamene Gossa, an urban hygiene expert with UNICEF, warning that without it, new districts risk

becoming slums. For Wukro, a town of some 43,000 people, new wells have been dug some 18 kilometers (11 miles) away, tapping into major groundwater supplies. Late last year, clean water emerged from a well some 200 metres (650 feet)

deep which now supplies the town. "We supply 50 litres per day, per person, which means the population in Wukro is now... safe," says Tesfalem Hagdu, deputy director of water resources for the Tigray region.



**OGOLCHO, Ethiopia:** This file photo shows UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, his wife Yoo Soon-taek and Ethiopia's Deputy Prime Minister Demeke Mekonen (left) standing at a water bore pump in Ogolcho town, southeastern Ethiopia. — AFP

## Limiting erosion

Floods and failed rains caused by the El Nino weather phenomenon have sparked a dramatic rise in the number of people going hungry in large parts of Africa, with southern Ethiopia an area of special concern. Food insecurity is a sensitive issue in Ethiopia, which enjoys near-double-digit economic growth, but which has struggled to change its image following the famine of 1984-85 which followed an extreme drought.

While northern Tigray has escaped the worst of today's El Nino drought, it has still seen water shortages, and the area around Wukro is dry and dusty. But there have been huge efforts to change the situation, with the authorities planting acacia and eucalyptus tree seedlings in a bid to limit erosion, to help water infiltrate the soil and feed underground springs. Water experts hope to be able to supply the wider region within the next two decades. "The water coverage for 2035 will be 100 percent not only for Wukro, but for five other villages around," says Abdul Wassie, technical chief of the region's water resources.

## Growing hygiene awareness

But the city has also gone further, with

hygiene-related programs to increase awareness about sanitation issues. Two years ago, a primary school in the town created a water and sanitation club to promote basic hygiene. In a remote town like Wukro, where health services are limited, basic tasks such as washing hands regularly can make a big difference to cutting overall sickness. "Before this program, viruses spread as well as parasitic diseases," says water club leader Selamawit Tamerat. "Since then, everything changed and sickness decreased," Selamawit says, praising the educational impact the project has had on the wider community.

As well as raising awareness, there has also been the construction of sorely-needed infrastructure, such as toilet blocks for the school which were built last year. Last year, Ethiopia celebrated the achievement of halving the number of people without access to safe water since 1990, with 57 percent of the population now using safe drinking water. But the challenges remain huge. According to UNICEF, 180,000 children under five die each year — 500 a day in sub-Saharan Africa from diarrhoeal diseases due to poor access to water and inadequate hygiene conditions. — AFP



## EXXONMOBIL, ROCKEFELLERS FACE OFF IN CLIMATE BATTLE

**NEW YORK:** US energy giant ExxonMobil is facing an onslaught from environmentalists and some shareholders alleging it hid what it knew about the effects of fossil fuels on climate change. In an ironic twist: among the opponents is the Rockefeller Family Fund, built on the fortune amassed by John D Rockefeller, founder of Standard Oil, which became Esso, then Exxon and then, in 1999, ExxonMobil. The RFF met last January, in secret, in Manhattan with environmental nongovernmental groups "to establish in the public's mind that Exxon is a corrupt institution that has pushed humanity (and all creation) towards climate chaos and grave harm," according to an internal document on the meeting seen by AFP.

"We hosted a meeting with leading advocates to understand their thoughts on how to best respond to the outrageous conduct," Lee Wasserman, the director of RFF, told AFP. They adopted a strategy to attack ExxonMobil on legal grounds, by convincing authorities to launch investigations and by filing lawsuits. In other words, replicating the tactics used against the tobacco industry in the 1990s. "This is a conspiracy to deliberately misrepresent the company position and to tear down the company," Alan Jeffers, a spokesman for ExxonMobil, told AFP. According to a person close to the situation who requested anonymity, certain members of the Rockefeller family have privately expressed opposition to the campaign against ExxonMobil.

Bill McKibben, founder of the NGO 350.org who participated in the January meeting, has pushed for investigations into whether ExxonMobil broke the law. "We want everyone we can think of to know it broke every kind of moral law," McKibben said in an email. The ecologist led the ultimately successful opposition against the Keystone XL pipeline, which would have brought Canadian oil sands production from Alberta to the US Gulf states.

The ExxonMobil critics accuse the oil company of having, since 1977, research showing that fossil-fuel energy has a harmful impact on climate, but that it kept the information to itself. Denouncing the critics charges as "inaccurate" and a "conspiracy," ExxonMobil insists that it had acknowledged the risks of climate change as soon as it was possible, that is, in the 2000s. Accusing the Rockefeller organization of influencing the media and the authorities, the Texas firm has pledged to publicly defend its positions, although until now it has maintained a certain discretion about the subject. The change in attitude is due to the power of the Rockefellers, who not only have the colossal financial means to contest ExxonMobil on all battlegrounds, but also the influence of their powerful family name.

The RFF has based its opposition on two separate investigations, by the InsideClimate News and the journalism school at Columbia University in New York, that found ExxonMobil knew in the 1970s that fossil fuels were a major source of climate change. InsideClimate, like the Columbia school, received financing from the Rockefellers.—AFP



**HARRISBURG, Pennsylvania:** Medical marijuana advocates stand and applaud as legislators make their way to the podium at the Pennsylvania State Capitol Rotunda in Harrisburg.



**HARRISBURG, Pennsylvania:** Pennsylvania Gov Tom Wolf cheers after signing a bill to legalize a comprehensive medical marijuana program.— AP photos

# PENNSYLVANIA SET TO OK MEDICAL MARIJUANA; OHIO COULD FOLLOW

**HARRISBURG, Pennsylvania:** Pennsylvania is set to become the latest state to legalize medical marijuana as the Legislature sent a bill to the governor on Wednesday, after parents of children suffering from debilitating seizures circulated the Capitol urging lawmakers to act. The House voted, 149-46, set off cheers in the ornate chamber and capped several years of door-to-door lobbying by parents and more than a year-and-a-half since the state Senate first approved a medical marijuana bill in 2014. Calling it historic legislation, Gov Tom Wolf, a Democrat, said he will sign it Sunday. Meanwhile, in Ohio, lawmakers promised to legalize medical marijuana by the summer, before voters get a chance to decide a ballot question in the fall election. Pennsylvania would become the 24th state to legalize a comprehensive medical marijuana program, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

The issue has been driven by parents who believe a marijuana oil extract can help relieve the daily seizures that have left their children in wheelchairs or functioning far below their grade level. Some say they worried that the next seizure will kill their child and had traveled countless times to the Capitol to press their case. Diana Briggs, of Export, near Pittsburgh, called her husband with the news moments after watching the House vote.

"Bringing home a win tonight," Briggs, wiping away tears, said she told him. Briggs said she hopes to help her 15-year-old son, Ryan, who suffered a brain injury at birth and has suffered from daily seizures since that have left him in a wheelchair, unable to talk or walk. Nothing has

helped much, including pharmaceuticals, stem cell therapy, diet or electrical nerve stimulation therapy, Briggs said.

### Certifying physicians

Christine Brann, of Hummelstown in suburban Harrisburg, said every day without a medical marijuana law in Pennsylvania is a risk for people who believe their suffering child may not survive another day. "Every day we roll the dice on our child's or our loved one's life," said Brann, whose 5-year-old son, Garrett, is diagnosed with a severe form of epilepsy known as Dravet syndrome.

The bill sets standards for tracking plants, certifying physicians and licensing growers, dispensaries and physicians. Patients could take marijuana in pill, oil, vapor or liquid form but would not be able to legally obtain marijuana to smoke or to grow their own.

The Pennsylvania Medical Society opposed the bill and one opponent, Rep. Matt Baker, R-Tioga, warned that the bill violates federal drug laws and that the state would see a drastic impact on addiction and abuse. "There's serious consequences associated with this monumental piece of legislation," Baker told colleagues during floor speech before the vote.

In Ohio on Wednesday, state lawmakers set an aggressive schedule for legislation that would allow licensed doctors to prescribe edibles, patches, plant material and oils. Rep. Kirk Schuring, a Canton Republican who chaired a medical marijuana task force, said it will prohibit home growing - which he says is too hard to control.

Lawmakers said that polling during a more sweeping ballot campaign that failed last year made clear to the Republican-controlled state Legislature that the issue wasn't going away.

### Post-traumatic stress

Ian James, who led last year's marijuana legalization effort, called the House proposal historic. "We've never had in the state's history a time when the Statehouse has so thoroughly vetted medical marijuana, considered its positives, its negatives and brought so many people together," he said. In Pennsylvania, the legislation's list of 17 qualifying diagnosed conditions include cancer, epilepsy, autism, Parkinson's disease, post-traumatic stress disorder, sickle cell anemia, multiple sclerosis, AIDS and glaucoma. Physicians must be registered by the state to certify that a patient has an eligible condition and a patient must get a Department of Health-issued ID card.

The legislation's drafters say they expect it would be two years before regulations are written and retailers are ready to sell to patients. However, a safe harbor provision in the bill would allow parents to avoid the wait by legally buying medical marijuana from another state for their child. Cara Salemm, whose 9-year-old son Jackson has suffered daily seizures for the past four years, said parents will immediately seek help for their children, if they haven't already. "There are many people in Pennsylvania who aren't waiting, they're healing," said Salemm, of Spring Grove, near York. "We'll definitely do what we need to do."—AP



**London :** A breathing mask is fixed to a statue of Oliver Cromwell outside the Houses of Parliament in central London yesterday. — AFP photos

## ANTI-POLLUTION ACTIVISTS COVER LONDON STATUES WITH MASKS

**LONDON:** British environmental activists put face masks on famous statues across London yesterday including the one of Horatio Nelson on Trafalgar Square to draw attention to the problem of air pollution. Two Greenpeace campaigners scaled the 52-metre (171-foot) high Nelson's Column in the early hours yesterday to put a mask on the famous naval commander. Masks were put on 17 statues, including Queen Victoria near Buckingham Palace, Eros at Piccadilly Circus and Winston Churchill outside parliament.

London's Metropolitan Police said that eight people had been arrested—two on Trafalgar Square, four on Parliament Square and two on Hyde

Park Corner. A parliament spokeswoman confirmed there had been "a minor security incident on the parliamentary estate" which was being dealt with by the police. Greenpeace said it aimed to highlight the health risks caused by the city's poor air quality.

"Monitoring shows that, if these statues were real people, many of them would often be breathing dangerous, illegal air," campaigner Areeba Hamid said. "That's why we've given them face masks. Of course many millions of Londoners, including kids, are breathing that same air," he said. London has some of the highest levels of nitrogen dioxide in Europe and Britain has been ordered to reduce pollution by the European Commission.

Nearly 10,000 Londoners die prematurely every year as a result of air pollution, according to calculations by King's College London. On May 5, the city goes to the polls to elect a new mayor to replace Boris Johnson and both the main candidates—Labour's Sadiq Khan and Conservative Zac Goldsmith—have promised environmental action. "Kitting everyone out with face masks is not the solution. Instead we need to see real political action from the new mayor," Hamid said. The current proposal for an ultra low emission zone, which comes into force in 2020, offers protection to residents and commuters only in central London. Greenpeace has asked for the area to be expanded. — AFP



**London :** A nautical-themed breathing mask is fixed to Lord Nelson's statue at the top of Nelson's Column in Trafalgar Square.

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# RENAULT AL BABBAIN SPONSORS 'BIYOULAK - COMEDY SHOW 3'

**A**bdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al Babbain Company, the exclusive agent of Renault in Kuwait will be one of the main sponsors of the theatrical play Biyoulak - Comedy Show 3, which will be held on April 22, 2016 at the Abdulaziz Al-Khatib hall in Al Arabi Sports club in Mansuriya.

3500 people can enjoy attending this three hours long show. The theatre play starring Akram Housni, the number one star in Egypt known as 'Sayid Abu Hafitha', along with other popular standup comedy actors including Mina Nader, Alaa Elsheikh, and Waleed Abulmagd will present a lot of fun and laughing.

Renault Al Babbain is keen to be present in this event as part of its interest in sponsoring entertainment events, especially that the French Renault vehicles are known for its youthful character, which goes in line with the atmosphere of such shows and events.

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Aquapark announced during a press conference recently plans to introduce the 'Aqua Turbo' ride next May for the first time in the Middle East. The ride is 15 meters high, includes three slopes and has a capacity of 400 persons an hour, Aquapark General Manager Mohammad Khoursheed said. — Photo by Fouad Al-Shaikh

## INDIAN EMBASSY CELEBRATES AMBEDKAR BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

The Indian Embassy in Kuwait celebrated Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar's 125th birth anniversary on April 14, 2016 at the Embassy Auditorium. Indian Ambassador Sunil Jain inaugurated the session and A K Srivastava welcomed the audience.

Various speakers from the Indian community in Kuwait shared their views and relevance of Dr Ambedkar's life in today's world. As the founding father of India's constitution and a builder of modern India, Dr Ambedkar's thoughts and action remain relevant to all.

Thomas Mathew Kadavil, who has the distinction of attending many conferences on human rights issues in Geneva, spoke about the relevance of Ambedkar's life in current political scenario in India. Dr Ghalib Al-Mashoor, President in Indo-Kuwait Friendship Society also spoke about Dr Ambedkar.

K Gangadhar Shiresath, Principal of ICSK Khaitan in his speech said that Dr Ambedkar was the first Indian who converted his bungalow into a library. Today its saddened to see that every political party is trying to say that Ambedkar



Indian Ambassador Sunil Jain speaks at the event.

belongs to them, he said. He also brought light on the vision of Ambedkar where he said that if we bring industrialization, the burden of farmers will be shared by the industries and we will be able to uplift the agricultural society.

Resident Manager LIC (International) Devesh Kumar, Shiny Frank, Satyendra Sinha from KOC and Resident Manager, New India Assurance Co Ram Mohan Reddy also spoke on the occasion.



## ICSK JUNIOR CONDUCTS LKG ORIENTATION FOR 2016-17 ADMISSIONS

A special orientation program was conducted at the Indian Community School Kuwait, Junior, on 10th April, 2016. In the keynote address, Principal in-charge Sherly Dennis assured all parents on the safety aspects of the school, the commitment of the teaching fraternity and advised them to remain in constant touch with the school authorities. Further, she briefed the parents on the quality of education of the premier institution which has an existence of over 56 years. She went on to introduce the Vice-Principal Murthy, the Supervisor of Pre-Primary Section Shafika and all the teachers of LKG. Shafika Yunus, supervisor of Pre-primary section, instructed the parents with necessary guidelines in the interest of children. Vice Principal's address incorporated gentle reminders to parents on teaching simple motor and social skills to their child as preparation of attending a formal school for the first time.

The core plan of the event was time slotted for all children to be dropped to their class to enable them to get familiar with their teacher. It was a great opportunity for the children to know their teacher and for the parents to know about the school.



## KERALA LATIN COMMUNITY KUWAIT TO CELEBRATE ANNIVERSARY, EASTER

The Kerala Latin Community, Kuwait (KLCK) will be celebrating the Fourth Anniversary and Easter Gathering at Kuwait City Cathedral premises on Friday 22nd April 2016 at 6:00 pm. Bishop Camillo Ballin MCCJ, Apostolic Vicar of Northern Arabia will be the chief guest of the event. Under the patronage of Bishop Camillo, KLCK functions as a body that caters the spiritual and temporal needs of the Latin Catholics residing in Kuwait. Cultural programs by the KLCK family members of all four parishes in Kuwait will be the highlight of the event.



### Japan Embassy

## STUDY IN JAPAN: JAPANESE GOVERNMENT SCHOLARSHIP FOR 2017

The Embassy of Japan is pleased to announce that the Government of Japan offers scholarship to those who wish to study at Japanese universities as undergraduate and research students.

The Japanese Government Scholarship was established in 1954 in order to increase mutual understanding between the people of Japan and other countries as well as to make an international contribution to the intellectual field.

All Kuwaiti citizens who meet the qualifications below are eligible to apply:

### Undergraduate Students

Requirements: \* Completed 12-year school curriculum. \* Good academic standing.

Age: Born between April 2, 1995 and April 1, 2000.

Years of Study: 5 years From Apr 2017 to Mar 2022.

Fields of Study: Natural Sciences, Social Sciences and Humanities

\* Five years of study including one year for studying the Japanese language.

### Research students

Requirements: \* Completed 16-years of school education

Age: Born on or after Apr 11 2, 1982

Years of Study: 2 years From Apr 2017

to Mar 2019 or 1 year and 6 months from Oct 2017 to March 2019.

Fields of Study: Field of study majored at university or related to it.

\* Years of study might extend depending on the major category.

Application forms, detailed information and other conditions can be Downloaded from Embassy's Website: ([http://www.kw.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr\\_ja/00\\_000131.html](http://www.kw.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_ja/00_000131.html)).

The deadline for submitting applications is Sunday, June 26, 2016. Only hard copies, preferably printed on A4 size paper, and mailed through courier or hand-delivered to the Embassy, will be accepted.

The application process consists of document screening, written exams, and personal interview.

Academic exams will be held Tuesday, June 28, 2016.

Applicants are advised to prepare for it by referring to the past exams. (<http://www.studyjapan.go.jp/jp/toj/0308j.html>)

Past exam until 2013 can be provided for public reading at the Embassy of Japan.

For inquiries, please contact cultural section, Embassy of Japan on 25309426





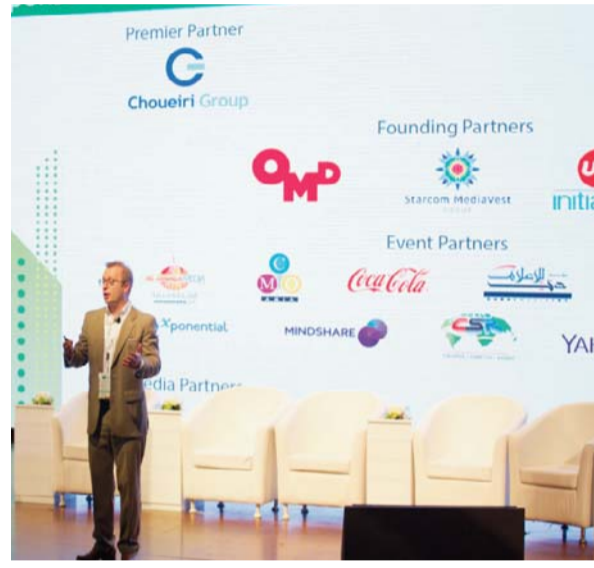
## FESTIVAL OF MEDIA MENA RETURNS TO REGION FOR ITS SECOND EDITION

After a hugely successful first edition in 2015, Festival of Media MENA is back this year with a fabulous line-up of speakers and a glamorous awards night to celebrate the best media work in the region. The conference will take place on April 20 from 9:00 am to 5:30 pm at the Westin Dubai Mina Seyahi, and will be followed by the awards ceremony at MusicHall, Zabeel Saray in Dubai from 8:00 pm onwards.

The prestigious event will bring together the sharpest minds in the region, including advertisers, media agencies and media owners. Mixing global expertise with regional insight, the daylong conference will feature prominent speakers from the likes of Google, Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, Omnicom Media Group and GroupM to serve as a knowledge-sharing hub for industry leaders to discuss and debate key topics and issues integral to the advertising and marketing arenas. The riveting keynote speeches and thought-provoking panel discussions are aimed at providing speakers with a critical understanding and perspective of the media landscape not only in the region, but also around the world. In line with the entrepreneurial

spirit of the region and to encourage fresh ideas, Festival of Media MENA is proud to announce Emerge, a platform for start-ups to battle it out and win the attention of the jury. Ten start-ups. Five judges. Ninety-second pitches.

Alexandre Hawari, Co-CEO of Mediaquest, says: "We are extremely excited to be hosting the ninth edition of the Festival of Media and the second edition of its presence in the MENA region here in Dubai. We've seen some great work being entered this year and compelling insights from our guest speakers to be shared with the advertising and marketing professionals." Charlie Crowe, Chairman and Editor-in-Chief of C Squared, adds: "I created the Festival of Media concept back in 2007 to establish a platform that encourages talent to compete in the creative marketing fields and to enable the MENA region to be recognised globally for its outstanding contribution to the fields of marketing, advertising and digital. I am extremely excited to see what this year offers in terms of industry research, insights and creative communication campaigns." This edition of Festival of Media MENA is sponsored by Choueiri Group, Dubai Media City and OMD, among others.



## CAMBRIDGE SUPPORTS 21ST CENTURY TEACHING METHODS IN KUWAIT

Cambridge International Examinations offered hundreds of teachers across the Middle East the opportunity to improve their skills at its annual Global Learners program events. Cambridge International Examinations-the world's largest provider of international educational qualifications and programs for learners aged 5 to 19-will host the series of Global Learner events for teaching professionals between 17th and 24th of this month. The Kuwait session kick started the roadshow and was held on 17th April.

As part of the larger Cambridge International Examinations, the Global Learner Roadshow is designed to engage with schools and teachers across the Middle East. The Global Learner sessions will provide teachers with 21st century teaching methods and skills to help them engage better with their students in Math and English lessons in particular.

The Kuwait session was led by Helen Rees Bidder and Mike Ollerton - both leading education specialists working with educational boards in the UK and globally. Designed to be interactive, the sessions include individual and group activities

enabling Cambridge teachers at different stages, to work together and learn different approaches that will challenge students to think more creatively in the classroom.

Waseem Al-Hanbali, Regional Director for Cambridge International Examinations, said: "As a not-for-profit organization, we at Cambridge continuously strive to provide high quality programs that help unlock learners' potential. We understand the importance of teachers in delivering such opportunities, and driving growth for our students, and therefore strive to equip them with pedagogically sound teaching methods through our professional development programs. The Global Learners program is one such tool. It provides a detailed and hands-on approach which takes the knowledge and skills of teachers to the next level enabling them to further help their students succeed."

The Global Learners sessions will be held across Kuwait, Egypt, UAE, and Bahrain and form a part of a larger initiative by Cambridge to provide perennial support, training and development for its teachers, students, and parents.

## ACK CORPORATE TRAINING ANNOUNCES EFFECTIVE TALENT MANAGEMENT SEMINAR

The Corporate Training (CT) Department at the Australian College of Kuwait (ACK) will hold a seminar in English entitled 'Effective Talent Management' on Monday May 9th, 2016 at the ACK Auditorium. This seminar comes within the efforts made by the College to contribute to the enrichment of Kuwait's labor force in various organizations and corporations to keep pace with continuous developments in the nation's human development project.

Aiming to provide Human Resources Management professional development opportunities for decision-makers and employees, the seminar will discuss challenges and potential solutions with regards to developing human investment, changing enterprise culture to successfully support visions and goals, and finally linking

between competencies and behaviors to better support change initiatives ensuring continued success in the current global economy.

Participants will receive a Certificate of Attendance from the Human Resources Institute of Continuous Career Development (HRCI) as well as additional points added to their respective certificates when enrolling into upcoming courses within this field.

In addition, ACK's CT department hired local and regional experts for this seminar to benefit from their expertise and knowledge across different levels of fields of work to provide a meaningful and distinct training platform to support the labor market in Kuwait.

## NBK OFFERS JOB OPPORTUNITIES TO YOUNG KUWAITIS AT AUM CAREER FAIR

National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) participated yesterday in the Career Fair 2016 held at American University of Middle East (AUM). NBK's participation in the Career Fair forum comes in line with its commitment to attract ambitious young nationals. NBK will continue its efforts to provide career and training opportunities for nationals and to support the country's aim to encourage young Kuwaitis to assume roles in the private sector. NBK provides training opportunities for nationals and new recruits. Annually, NBK offers training programs for nationals and organizes executive training programs in line with the bank's commitment to developing and investing in its key resource and human capital.

AUM Career Fair forum is tailored for talented youth to benefit in meeting with employers under one roof while identifying the needs of the labor market.



## MARINA HOTEL KUWAIT TAILORS SPECIAL WEEKEND PACKAGE

Marina Hotel Kuwait has customized an attractive and indulgent weekend package for residents and locals in Kuwait. At a location where luxury meets modernity, and where an attractive sea view, works harmoniously together with the latest technological systems, guests are invited to enjoy their weekends in style in the midst of absolute comfort. With a multitude of facilities and services, guests can break the daily routine and enjoy some peace of mind with a choice of room packages.

Perfect for a short break or a weekend getaway, guests can choose from any of the superior rooms and enjoy state-of-the-art facilities the hotel offers without missing out on other activities including shopping, wellness, sports and much more. They can further enjoy the vibrant white sands of the private beach along with the three pools and the pool bar - all not far away from the ultimate shopping destination, Marina Mall.

The package offers special rates for weekenders in the superior rooms at a rate starting from KD 88 which includes a buffet breakfast, free access to the hotel's health club, beach and pool area. Guests and their families can experience a luxurious escape after an exhaustive week and indulge themselves with a complimentary buffet breakfast for two persons at the Six Palms Restaurant.

Guests whose taste palates crave for unique and diverse cuisines can watch authentic innovations spring to life for lunch and dinner at the renowned Atlantis Restaurant with the finest dishes from around the world and views of the Arabian Sea. The package also includes a 20% discount on buffet lunch and dinner for guests dining at the Atlantis Restaurant.

Within close proximity to Marina Mall, one of the best shopping malls in Kuwait, and the Marina Crescent, which houses a variety international restaurants and coffee shops, Marina Hotel is an ideal location for family leisure. The award winning hotel is the destination to be for its dedication to a unique guest experience and high standard of service quality. For more information, please visit our website: [www.marina-hotel.com](http://www.marina-hotel.com).





AMC

- 00:15 Dracula 2000
01:55 Order Of The Black Eagle
03:30 Assassination Tango
05:25 True Heart
06:55 Bound For Glory
09:20 Apache
10:50 Separate Tables
12:30 The Beast Of Hollow Mountain
13:50 Big Screen
14:05 Death Rides A Horse
16:00 The Beautiful Country
18:00 Saved!
19:30 The Crocodile Hunter: Collision Course
21:00 Breaking Bad

- 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

- 12:38 Mythbusters
13:23 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
14:10 How The Earth Works
14:57 Food Factory
15:20 Food Factory
15:44 Moon Machines
16:31 Nyc: Inside Out
17:18 How The Earth Works
18:05 Mythbusters
18:50 Secret Space Escapes
19:40 Moon Machines
20:25 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
21:15 How The Earth Works
22:00 Secret Space Escapes
22:45 Moon Machines
23:35 Mythbusters

ANIMAL PLANET HD

- 00:45 Mountain Monsters
01:40 Australia Doesn't Just Want To Kill You
02:35 Tanked
03:25 Mutant Planet
04:15 Gator Boys
05:02 Treehouse Masters
05:49 Australia Doesn't Just Want To Kill You
06:36 Swamp Brothers
07:25 My Cat From Hell
08:15 Australia Doesn't Just Want To Kill You
09:10 Treehouse Masters
10:00 Tanked
11:00 My Cat From Hell
11:55 Bondi Vet
12:25 Bondi Vet
12:50 Australia Doesn't Just Want To Kill You
13:45 Gator Boys
14:40 Treehouse Masters
15:35 Tanked
16:30 Mutant Planet
17:25 River Monsters
18:20 Ten Deadliest Snakes With Nigel Marven
19:15 Tanked
20:10 Animal Cops South Africa
21:05 Treehouse Masters
22:00 Ten Deadliest Snakes With Nigel Marven
22:55 Gator Boys
23:50 River Monsters

CNBC

- 00:00 Japan Remembers
00:30 Access: Middle East
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

Disney

- 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 Gaviola Falls
07:15 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
07:40 Jessie
08:05 Shake It Up
08:30 Shake It Up
08:55 Hannah Montana
09:20 Hannah Montana
09:45 Girl Meets World
10:10 Girl Meets World
10:35 A.N.T. Farm
11:00 A.N.T. Farm
11:25 Jessie
11:50 Jessie
12:15 Whisker Haven Tales With The Palace Pets
12:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
12:45 Fish Hooks
13:10 Austin & Ally
13:35 Austin & Ally
14:00 Liv And Maddie
14:25 Cars Toons
14:30 Liv And Maddie
14:55 Dog With A Blog
15:20 Dog With A Blog
15:45 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
16:10 Violetta
17:00 The Next Step
17:25 Alex And Co
17:50 Dog With A Blog
18:15 Best Friends Whenever
18:40 Gravity Falls
19:05 Evermoor Chronicles
19:30 Violetta
20:20 The Next Step
20:45 Good Luck Charlie
21:10 Good Luck Charlie
21:35 H2O
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

crime & investigation network

- 00:00 I Escaped My Killer
01:00 The Haunting Of...
02:00 The Haunting Of...
03:00 Cursed: The Bell Witch
04:00 I Escaped My Killer
05:00 The Haunting Of...
06:00 Martina Cole's Lady Killers
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 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook
22:00 50 Ways To Kill Your Lover
23:00 My Crazy Ex

Discovery CHANNEL HD

- 00:20 Fast N' Loud
01:10 You Have Been Warned
02:00 Troy
02:50 Superhuman Science
03:15 Superhuman Science
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 Outback Truckers
06:50 Wheeler Dealers
07:40 Fast N' Loud
08:30 Extreme Collectors
08:55 Storage Wars Canada
09:20 Auction Hunters
09:45 How Do They Do It?
10:10 Fifth Gear
10:35 You Have Been Warned
11:25 Troy
12:15 The Carbonaro Effect
12:40 Superhuman Science
13:05 Extreme Collectors

BBC FIRST

- 00:10 Eastenders
00:40 New Tricks
01:35 New Tricks
02:30 Silent Witness
03:25 Doctors
04:00 Eastenders
04:40 Doctor Who
05:15 Father Brown
06:00 Doctors
06:30 Doctors
07:00 Eastenders
07:30 Stella
08:20 The Paradise
09:15 Doctor Who
10:05 Doctors
10:40 Eastenders
11:10 Father Brown
12:10 Stella
12:45 The Paradise
13:45 Doctor Who
14:35 Doctors
15:05 Eastenders
15:35 Stella
16:25 Dickensian
17:10 Doctor Who
18:00 Doctors
18:30 Eastenders
19:05 Death In Paradise
20:00 Hobby City

Bloomberg TELEVISION

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



NON-STOP ON OSN MOVIES HD ACTION

- 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
22:00 Bloomberg Markets
23:00 What'd You Miss?

- 13:30 Storage Wars Canada
13:55 Auction Hunters
14:20 Outback Truckers
15:10 Wheeler Dealers
16:00 Fast N' Loud
16:50 Fifth Gear
17:15 How Do They Do It?
17:40 Salvage Hunters
18:30 Redwood Kings
19:20 Catching Monsters
20:10 Storage Wars Canada
20:35 Auction Hunters
21:00 Salvage Hunters
21:50 Redwood Kings
22:40 Ed Stafford: Into The Unknown

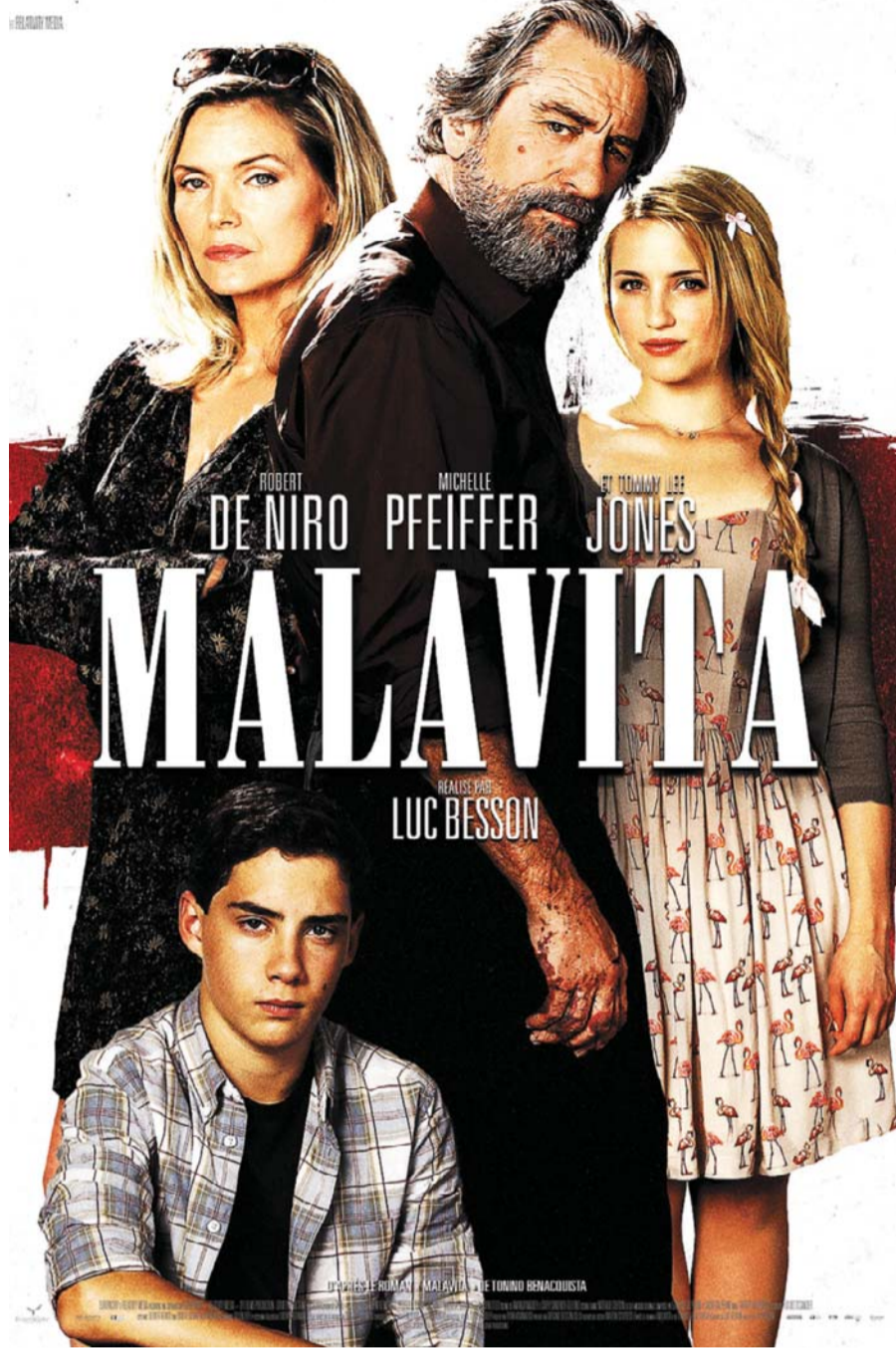
- 02:30 Loopidoo
03:45 Art Attack
03:10 Henry Hugglemonster
03:20 Calimero
03:35 Zou
03:45 Loopidoo
04:00 Art Attack
04:25 Henry Hugglemonster
04:35 Calimero
04:50 Zou
05:00 Loopidoo
05:15 Art Attack
05:35 Henry Hugglemonster
05:50 Calimero
06:00 Zou
06:20 Loopidoo
06:35 Art Attack
07:00 The Hive
07:10 Zou
07:25 Loopidoo
07:40 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
08:05 Sofia The First
08:30 Goldie & Bear
08:45 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
09:15 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
09:30 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
12:45 Sofia The First
13:25 Miles From Tomorrow
13:50 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
14:15 Sheriff Callie's Wild West

CCTV NEWS

- 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
06:00 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

Discovery SCIENCE

- 00:20 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
01:08 Invent It Rich
01:55 Moon Machines
02:42 How The Earth Works
03:29 Mythbusters
04:16 Invent It Rich
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 Invent It Rich
11:08 Moon Machines
11:53 Nyc: Inside Out



MALAVITA ON OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

- 14:40 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
15:10 Miles From Tomorrow
15:35 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
16:00 Sofia The First
16:25 Jungle Cubs
16:50 Aladdin
17:15 Gummi Bears
17:40 Goldie & Bear
18:05 Miles From Tomorrow
18:30 Sofia The First
19:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
19:30 Miles From Tomorrow
20:00 Goldie & Bear
20:30 Sofia The First
21:00 Jungle Cubs
21:25 Aladdin
21:50 Gummi Bears
22:20 Lilo And Stitch
22:50 Zou
23:00 Henry Hugglemonster
23:20 Calimero
23:35 Zou
23:50 Loopidoo

- 20:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
21:00 Dash Dolls
22:00 E! News
23:00 WAGS

food network

- 00:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
00:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
01:00 Chopped
02:00 Cutthroat Kitchen
03:00 Man Fire Food
03:30 Man Fire Food
04:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
05:00 Iron Chef America
06:00 Chopped
07:00 Man Fire Food
07:30 Man Fire Food
08:00 Chopped
09:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
09:30 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
10:00 The Kitchen
11:00 Anna Olson: Bake
11:30 Anna Olson: Bake
12:00 Chopped
13:00 The Pioneer Woman
13:30 The Pioneer Woman
14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
14:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
15:00 Man Fire Food
15:30 Man Fire Food
16:00 Chopped
17:00 The Kitchen
18:00 Anna Olson: Bake
18:30 Anna Olson: Bake
19:00 Chopped
20:00 Iron Chef America
21:00 Private Chef
21:30 Private Chef
22:00 Valerie's Home Cooking
22:30 Valerie's Home Cooking
23:00 Kitchen Casino

- 07:30 Murdoch Mysteries
08:25 Murdoch Mysteries
09:20 Keep It In The Family
10:15 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
11:05 Eggheads
11:35 Royalty Close Up
12:30 Who's Doing The Dishes?
13:25 Emmerdale
13:50 Eggheads
14:20 Coronation Street
14:45 Keep It In The Family
15:35 Prince Philip: The Plot To Make A King
16:30 Black Work
17:25 The Jonathan Ross Show
18:20 Emmerdale
18:45 Coach Trip
19:10 Coronation Street
19:35 Prince Philip: The Plot To Make A King
20:30 Black Work
21:25 The Jonathan Ross Show
22:20 Coronation Street
22:50 Emmerdale
23:15 Who's Doing The Dishes?

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL HD

- 00:10 Brain Games
01:00 Cesar Milan: Doggie Nightmares
02:00 Supercar Megabuild
03:50 Brain Games
04:45 24 Hours In A/E
05:40 Filthy Riches
06:30 Megastructures
07:30 Two And A Half Men
08:25 Building Wild
09:20 24 Hours In A/E
10:15 Supercar Megabuild
11:10 The Yard
12:05 Dirty Rotten Survival
13:00 Building Wild
14:00 Cesar To The Rescue
15:00 Mega Factories
16:00 Supercar Megabuild
17:00 The Yard
18:00 Dirty Rotten Survival
19:00 Mine Kings
20:00 Supercar Megabuild
20:50 The Yard
21:40 Dirty Rotten Survival
22:30 Mega Factories
23:20 Filthy Riches

NAT GEO people HD

- 00:10 Dream Cruises
01:00 George Clarke's Amazing

XD

- 06:00 Boyster
06:10 Super Matrak
06:35 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
07:00 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 Gomers 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 Gomers Guide To Pretty Much Everything
20:55 K.C. Undercover
21:20 Pickle And Peanut
21:45 Lab Rats
22:10 Mighty Med
22:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am KSA

EHD

- 00:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
00:55 The Grace Helbig Show
01:25 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
02:20 E! News
03:15 Christina Milian Turned Up
04:10 Christina Milian Turned Up
05:05 Christina Milian Turned Up
06:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
06:55 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
07:50 Style Star
08:20 Doc McStuffins
09:15 Giuliana & Bill
10:15 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
11:10 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
11:35 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
12:05 E! News
13:05 WAGS
14:05 Botched
15:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
16:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
17:00 Fashion Bloggers
18:00 E! News
19:00 Fashion Police

itv HD CHOICE

- 00:10 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
01:05 Emmerdale
01:30 Eggheads
02:00 Coronation Street
02:30 Keep It In The Family
03:25 Murdoch Mysteries
04:20 Murdoch Mysteries
05:15 Royalty Close Up
06:10 Who's Doing The Dishes?
07:00 Eggheads

- Spaces
01:50 Top Tables, Top Cities
02:15 Sara's New Nordic Kitchen
02:40 Tom's Istanbul Delight
03:05 Glamour Puds
03:30 Glamour Puds
03:55 David Rocco's Dolce India
04:20 Maximum Foodie
04:45 East Bites West
05:10 Lee Chan's World Food Tour
06:00 Lee Chan's World Food Tour
06:25 Carnival Eats
06:50 George Clarke's Amazing

- Spaces
07:40 Top Tables, Top Cities
08:05 Sara's New Nordic Kitchen
08:30 Tom's Istanbul Delight
08:55 Glamour Puds
09:20 Glamour Puds
09:45 David Rocco's Dolce India
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- Spaces
13:35 Top Tables, Top Cities
14:00 Sara's New Nordic Kitchen
14:30 Tom's Istanbul Delight
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20:00 David Rocco's Dolce India
20:25 Maximum Foodie
20:50 Maximum Foodie
21:15 East Bites West
21:40 Lee Chan's World Food Tour
22:05 Lee Chan's World Food Tour
22:30 Carnival Eats
22:55 George Clarke's Amazing

- Spaces
23:45 Top Tables, Top Cities

- 21:00 Hot In Cleveland
21:30 Breaking In
22:00 It's Always Sunny In Philadelphia
22:30 The Big C
23:00 Web Therapy
23:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers

OSN FIRST HD

- 00:00 Once Upon A Time
01:00 Marvel's Agents Of S.H.I.E.L.D.
02:00 The Flash
03:00 DC's Legends Of Tomorrow
04:00 Good Morning America
05:00 Once Upon A Time
07:00 24
08:00 Prison Break
09:00 The Voice
11:00 24
12:00 Prison Break
13:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
14:00 Live Good Morning America
16:00 Marvel's Agents Of S.H.I.E.L.D.
17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
18:00 Prison Break
19:00 The Voice
20:00 The Flash
21:00 Blindspot
22:00 Empire
23:00 Mr. Robot

OSN MOVIES HD ACTION

- 00:00 Savages
02:15 Non-Stop
04:15 Jurassic Attack
06:00 Stranded
08:00 Non-Stop
10:00 Non-Stop
12:00 Age Of Ice
14:00 Jack The Giant Killer
15:45 The X Files
17:45 Oblivion
20:00 Crimson Tide
22:00 Enemies Closer

OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

- 00:00 Hot Tub Time Machine 2
02:00 Cas & Dylan
04:00 Sister Act
06:00 Raising Helen
08:00 Father Of The Bride
10:00 Sister Act
12:00 Cas & Dylan
14:00 Jingle All The Way 2
16:00 Father Of The Bride
18:00 Man Of The House
20:00 Malavita
22:00 Let's Be Cops

OSN MOVIES HD FESTIVAL

- 00:45 Rent
03:00 What Maisie Knew
04:45 Mandela: Long Walk To Freedom
07:15 Merchants Of Doubt
09:00 Powder
11:00 Mandela: Long Walk To Freedom
13:30 Odeio O Dia Dos Namorados
15:15 Veronica Guerin
17:00 Powder
19:00 Capital
21:00 Rosewater
23:00 Enemy

OSN FIRST HD COMEDY

- 00:30 Hot In Cleveland
01:00 The Nightly Show With Larry Wilmore
01:30 It's Always Sunny In Philadelphia
02:00 The Big C
02:30 Web Therapy
03:00 The Carmichael Show
03:30 Living With Fran
04:00 Two And A Half Men
04:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
05:30 Suburgatory
06:00 The Bernie Mac Show
06:30 Your Family Or Mine
07:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
08:00 Two And A Half Men
08:30 Suburgatory
09:00 The Carmichael Show
09:30 The Last Man On Earth
10:00 Playing House
10:30 Your Family Or Mine
11:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
12:00 The Bernie Mac Show
12:30 Two And A Half Men
13:00 Suburgatory
13:30 Your Family Or Mine
14:00 Living With Fran
14:30 The Last Man On Earth
15:00 Playing House
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 Community
18:30 Living With Fran
19:30 Playing House
20:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon

OSN MOVIES HD

- 01:00 Oculus
03:00 The Last Days On Mars
05:00 Life Of A King
07:00 Draft Day
09:00 Pompeii
11:00 Imogene
13:00 Cuban Fury
15:00 Seventh Son
17:00 Big Eyes
19:00 Birdman
21:00 The Grand Seduction
23:00 The Skeleton Twins

OSN FIRST HD

- 03:30 Top 14 Highlights
04:00 Inside The PGA Tour
04:30 Live NHL
07:30 Golfing World
08:30 Premier League Darts
12:00 European Tour Weekly
12:30 Golfing World
13:30 Live PGA European Tour
15:30 Inside The PGA Tour
16:00 European Tour Weekly
16:30 NFL Full Time
17:00 Inside The PGA Tour
17:30 Live PGA European Tour
20:30 HSBC World Rugby Sevens Highlights
21:00 Live Premier League Darts

OSN SPORTS 1 HD

- 03:30 Top 14 Highlights
04:00 Inside The PGA Tour
04:30 Live NHL
07:30 Golfing World
08:30 Premier League Darts
12:00 European Tour Weekly
12:30 Golfing World
13:30 Live PGA European Tour
15:30 Inside The PGA Tour
16:00 European Tour Weekly
16:30 NFL Full Time
17:00 Inside The PGA Tour
17:30 Live PGA European Tour
20:30 HSBC World Rugby Sevens Highlights
21:00 Live Premier League Darts

OSN SPORTS 2 HD

- 00:00 Welsh Open Snooker
01:30 Inside The PGA Tour
02:00 Trans World Sport
03:00 Live NHL
06:00 NFL Full Time
06:30 European Tour Weekly
07:00 Welsh Open Snooker
08:30 Gillette World Sport
09:00 AFL Premiership Highlights
10:00 Golfing World
11:00 Super Rugby Highlights
11:30 Super Rugby Highlights
12:20 NFL Full Time
12:47 Live NRL Premiership
15:00 Gillette World Sport
16:30 WWE Vintage
18:30 WWE Raw
19:00 WWE NXT
20:00 WWE Smackdown
22:00 Live PGA Tour

OSN SPORTS 2 HD

- 00:00 Welsh Open Snooker
01:30 Inside The PGA Tour
02:00 Trans World Sport
03:00 Live NHL
06:00 NFL Full Time
06:30 European Tour Weekly
07:00 Welsh Open Snooker
08:30 Gillette World Sport
09:00 AFL Premiership Highlights
10:00 Golfing World
11:00 Super Rugby Highlights
11:30 Super Rugby Highlights
12:20 NFL Full Time
12:47 Live NRL Premiership
15:00 Gillette World Sport
16:30 WWE Vintage
18:30 WWE Raw
19:00 WWE NXT
20:00 WWE Smackdown
22:00 Live PGA Tour

OSN SPORTS 3 HD

- 00:00 The Weber Cup
01:00 Ping Pong World Championship
02:00 AFL Premiership Highlights
03:00 Inside The PGA Tour
03:30 European Tour Weekly
04:00 Trans World Sport
05:00 Super League
07:00 NFL Full Time
07:30 Trans World Sport
08:30 Golfing World
09:30 Inside The PGA Tour
10:00 The Weber Cup
11:00 Ping Pong World Championship
12:00 Welsh Open Snooker
13:30 European Tour Weekly
14:00 Premier League Darts
17:30 NFL Premiership
19:30 Golfing World
20:30 Gillette World Sport
21:00 HSBC World Rugby Sevens Highlights
21:30 NFL Full Time
22:00 Live Super League

OSN SPORTS 3 HD

- 00:00 The Weber Cup
01:00 Ping Pong World Championship
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03:00 Inside The PGA Tour
03:30 European Tour Weekly
04:00 Trans World Sport
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21:00 HSBC World Rugby Sevens Highlights
21:30 NFL Full Time
22:00 Live Super League



BIG EYES ON OSN MOVIES HD



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

Time	Movie/Event	Time	Movie/Event	Time	Movie/Event	Time	Movie/Event
12:45 PM	BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	11:30 AM	THE JUNGLE BOOK	11:00 PM	MA3 AL KHATAR (Kuwaiti Film)	9:30 PM	MA3 AL KHATAR (Kuwaiti Film)
3:00 PM	MA3 AL KHATAR (Kuwaiti Film)	1:45 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK	12:00 PM	FAN- Hindi	11:45 AM	THE AMERICAN SIDE
5:15 PM	BEFORE I WAKE	4:00 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK	3:00 PM	FAN- Hindi	2:00 PM	THE AMERICAN SIDE
7:30 PM	MA3 AL KHATAR (Kuwaiti Film)	6:15 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK	6:00 PM	FAN- Hindi	2:00 PM	BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE
9:45 PM	CRIMINAL	8:30 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK	9:00 PM	FAN- Hindi	4:15 PM	THE AMERICAN SIDE
12:05 AM	BEFORE I WAKE	10:45 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK	12:05 AM	FAN- Hindi	7:30 PM	THE AMERICAN SIDE
1:00 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK	1:00 AM	MA3 AL KHATAR (Kuwaiti Film)	1:15 PM	360°-1	9:45 PM	THE AMERICAN SIDE
3:15 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK	12:00 PM	FAN- Hindi	3:30 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK -3D	12:05 AM	THE AMERICAN SIDE
5:30 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK	5:45 PM	FAN- Hindi	5:45 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK	12:30 PM	BAIRAQ-1
7:45 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK	3:00 PM	CRIMINAL	8:00 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK	12:30 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK -3D
10:00 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK	6:00 PM	CRIMINAL	10:15 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK	5:00 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK
12:15 AM	MA3 AL KHATAR (Kuwaiti Film)	8:15 PM	CRIMINAL	12:30 AM	MA3 AL KHATAR (Kuwaiti Film)	7:15 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK -3D
12:30 PM	FAN- Hindi	10:30 PM	MA3 AL KHATAR (Kuwaiti Film)	12:30 AM	MA3 AL KHATAR (Kuwaiti Film)	9:30 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK
1:30 PM	KUNG FU PANDA 3	12:45 AM	CRIMINAL	12:45 AM	360°-2	11:45 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK
3:30 PM	FAN- Hindi	3:15 PM	THE AMERICAN SIDE	12:45 PM	BEFORE I WAKE	12:00 PM	BAIRAQ-2
6:30 PM	FAN- Hindi	3:15 PM	CRIMINAL	1:15 PM	BEFORE I WAKE	12:00 PM	MA3 AL KHATAR (Kuwaiti Film)
9:30 PM	FAN- Hindi	5:30 PM	THE AMERICAN SIDE	3:00 PM	BEFORE I WAKE	2:15 PM	TOP CAT BEGINS
12:30 AM	CRIMINAL	7:45 PM	OBSERVANCE	5:15 PM	BEFORE I WAKE	4:15 PM	KUNG FU PANDA 3
11:30 AM	BEFORE I WAKE	9:45 PM	THE AMERICAN SIDE	7:30 PM	BEFORE I WAKE	6:15 PM	KUNG FU PANDA 3
1:30 PM	CRIMINAL	12:05 AM	CRIMINAL	9:45 PM	BEFORE I WAKE	8:15 PM	KUNG FU PANDA 3
3:45 PM	CRIMINAL	1:00 PM	FANAR-3	12:05 AM	BEFORE I WAKE	10:15 PM	MA3 AL KHATAR (Kuwaiti Film)
6:00 PM	BEFORE I WAKE	12:45 PM	CRIMINAL	12:30 AM	MA3 AL KHATAR (Kuwaiti Film)	12:15 AM	MA3 AL KHATAR (Kuwaiti Film)
8:00 PM	THE AMERICAN SIDE	3:15 PM	THE AMERICAN SIDE	11:45 AM	MR. RIGHT	11:30 AM	BAIRAQ-3
10:15 PM	CRIMINAL	5:30 PM	CRIMINAL	2:00 PM	OBSERVANCE	11:30 AM	FAN- Hindi
12:30 AM	CRIMINAL	7:45 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK (3D)	4:30 PM	MR. RIGHT	5:30 PM	FAN- Hindi
11:30 AM	BEFORE I WAKE	10:00 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK (3D)	6:30 PM	THERI-TAMIL	5:30 PM	FAN- Hindi
1:30 PM	CRIMINAL	12:15 AM	BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	9:30 PM	JU ON: THE GRUDGE 3	9:30 PM	FAN- Hindi
3:30 PM	CRIMINAL	12:30 AM	CRIMINAL	11:30 PM	OBSERVANCE	11:30 PM	FAN- Hindi
5:30 PM	FAN- Hindi	1:15 PM	FANAR-4	1:15 AM	OBSERVANCE	12:00 PM	PLAZA
8:30 PM	FAN- Hindi	3:15 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK (3D)	11:45 AM	MR. RIGHT	4:15 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK
11:30 PM	FAN- Hindi	5:30 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK (3D)	2:00 PM	OBSERVANCE	6:30 PM	THERI-TAMIL
1:30 AM	FAN- Hindi	7:45 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK	5:15 PM	NO THU+FRI	9:30 PM	FAN- Hindi
3:30 AM	FAN- Hindi	10:00 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK (3D)	11:30 AM	Special Show "THE JUNGLE BOOK"	9:30 PM	FAN- Hindi
5:30 AM	FAN- Hindi	12:15 AM	BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	1:15 AM	Special Show "THE JUNGLE BOOK"	9:30 PM	FAN- Hindi
7:30 AM	FAN- Hindi	1:00 PM	FANAR-5	1:15 AM	THU+FRI	9:30 PM	FAN- Hindi
9:30 AM	FAN- Hindi	2:00 PM	TOP CAT BEGINS	8:15 PM	FAN- Hindi	9:30 PM	FAN- Hindi
11:30 AM	FAN- Hindi	4:00 PM	TOP CAT BEGINS	11:15 PM	FAN- Hindi	9:30 PM	FAN- Hindi
1:30 PM	FAN- Hindi	6:00 PM	TOP CAT BEGINS	11:15 AM	AL-KOUT.1	9:30 PM	FAN- Hindi
3:30 PM	FAN- Hindi	8:00 PM	TOP CAT BEGINS	12:00 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK	9:30 PM	FAN- Hindi
5:30 PM	FAN- Hindi	11:00 PM	FAN- Hindi	2:15 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK	9:30 PM	FAN- Hindi
7:30 PM	FAN- Hindi	1:15 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK	4:30 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK	9:30 PM	FAN- Hindi
9:30 PM	FAN- Hindi	2:00 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK	6:45 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK	9:30 PM	FAN- Hindi
11:30 PM	FAN- Hindi	5:15 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK	9:00 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK	9:30 PM	FAN- Hindi
1:30 AM	FAN- Hindi	8:15 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK	11:15 PM	BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	9:30 PM	FAN- Hindi
3:30 AM	FAN- Hindi	11:15 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK	12:15 PM	AL-KOUT.2	9:30 PM	FAN- Hindi
5:30 AM	FAN- Hindi	11:45 AM	THE JUNGLE BOOK	1:30 AM	BEFORE I WAKE	9:30 PM	FAN- Hindi
7:30 AM	FAN- Hindi	2:00 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK	3:45 PM	CRIMINAL	9:30 PM	FAN- Hindi
9:30 AM	FAN- Hindi	4:15 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK	5:45 PM	CRIMINAL	9:30 PM	FAN- Hindi
11:30 AM	FAN- Hindi	6:30 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK	8:00 PM	CRIMINAL	9:30 PM	FAN- Hindi
1:30 PM	FAN- Hindi	8:45 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK	10:00 PM	CRIMINAL	9:30 PM	FAN- Hindi
3:30 PM	FAN- Hindi	1:00 AM	BEFORE I WAKE	12:30 PM	AL-KOUT.3	9:30 PM	FAN- Hindi
5:30 PM	FAN- Hindi	12:05 AM	BEFORE I WAKE	12:30 PM	MA3 AL KHATAR (Kuwaiti Film)	9:30 PM	FAN- Hindi
7:30 PM	FAN- Hindi	12:05 AM	BEFORE I WAKE	2:45 PM	MA3 AL KHATAR (Kuwaiti Film)	9:30 PM	FAN- Hindi
9:30 PM	FAN- Hindi	12:05 AM	BEFORE I WAKE	5:00 PM	MA3 AL KHATAR (Kuwaiti Film)	9:30 PM	FAN- Hindi
11:30 PM	FAN- Hindi	12:05 AM	BEFORE I WAKE	7:15 PM	MA3 AL KHATAR (Kuwaiti Film)	9:30 PM	FAN- Hindi

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**(C 5163) 16-4-2016**

**REQUIRED**  
 Indian or Filipino  
**DRIVER**  
 for Kuwaiti family, experience 10 years.  
 Contact: **97554010**

**CHANGE OF NAME**  
**I, Ali Akbar Husaini** Bangaliwala, holder of Indian Passport No. A8004668 issued at Kuwait on 3/10/1999 resident of (correct address in India) H. No. 97, Seraulim, Banda, Salcete, Goa. Hereby change my name to Ali Akbar Husain Housami. **(C 5165)**

**I, Thomas Santano** Fernandes holder of Passport No. A8004668 issued at Kuwait on 3/10/1999 resident of (correct address in India) H. No. 97, Seraulim, Banda, Salcete, Goa. Hereby change my name from Thomas Santano Fernandes to Thomas Santano Fernandes with immediate effect. **(C 5164)**

**I, Nilofer**, holder of Indian Passport No. N5195350. address: Temba, Mohammediyapura, Sagwara, Dungarpur, Rajasthan, hereby change my name to Nilofer Husain Housami. **(C 5165)**

**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)**

**I, Irene Elias** Sequeira holder of Indian Passport No. G3662883, Sai Kripa Chawl R 2 Tembi Pada Lokmanya Nagar Bhandup W Mumbai, hereby change my name to Aisha. **(C 5162)**



Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page ([www.kuwait-airport.com.kw](http://www.kuwait-airport.com.kw))

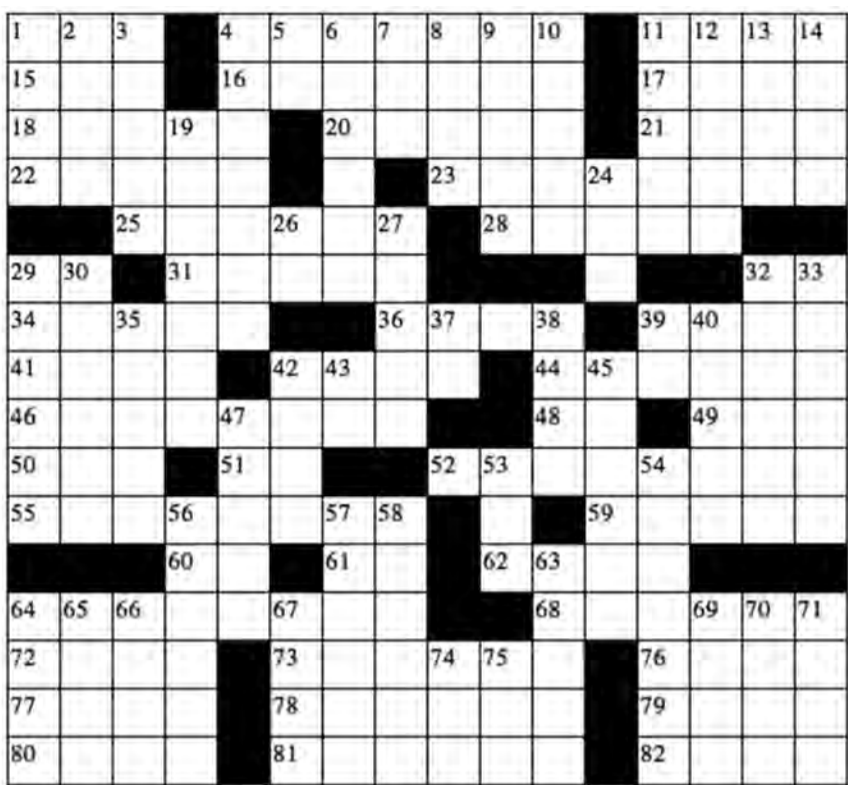
**In case you are not travelling, your proper cancellation of bookings will help other passengers to use seats**

Arrival Flights on Tuesday 19/4/2016				Departure Flights on Tuesday 19/4/2016			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	AIC	976	Goa/Chennai	00:05
MSC	415	Sohag	00:10	BBC	144	Chittagong/Dhaka	00:10
JZR	239	Amman	00:20	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:25
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	MSR	615	Cairo	00:30
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55	FDB	072	Dubai	00:30
KKK	6506	Istanbul	00:55	MSC	404	Asyut	00:55
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	KLM	411	Amsterdam	00:55
QTR	1086	Doha	01:15	MSC	416	Sohag	01:05
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20	THY	773	Istanbul	01:40
MNB	603	ADA	01:20	DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:00
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:40	THY	765	Istanbul	02:45
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	02:45
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:45	PGT	859	Istanbul	02:55
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	KAC	783	Jeddah	03:30
KAC	418	Manila	02:15	UAE	854	Dubai	03:45
UAE	853	Dubai	02:25	OMA	644	Muscat	04:00
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	KKK	6505	Istanbul	04:05
FDB	067	Dubai	03:15	FDB	068	Dubai	04:05
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:10
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:15	MSR	613	Cairo	04:15
QTR	1076	Doha	03:25	QTR	1077	Doha	04:35
KAC	544	Cairo	03:40	LMU	5111	Cairo	05:00
LMU	5101	Cairo	04:00	JZR	560	Sohag	05:00
THY	6376	Istanbul	05:05	MNB	604	Istanbul	05:20
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	RJA	643	Amman	06:25
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	QTR	1087	Doha	06:30
PAL	668	Manila/Dubai	06:25	THY	6376	Dubai/Istanbul	06:35
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	06:30	THY	771	Istanbul	06:45
BAW	507	London	06:40	GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50
FDB	1561	Dubai	07:15	FDB	070	Dubai	07:05
KAC	382	Delhi	07:30	JZR	165	Dubai	07:15
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	07:35	FDB	5062	Dubai	07:55
KAC	206	Islamabad	07:40	BAW	156	London	08:25
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50	FDB	054	Dubai	08:30
SVA	512	Riyadh	07:50	KAC	171	Frankfurt	08:40
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	SVA	513	Riyadh	08:50
KAC	354	BLR	08:00	KAC	513	Tehran	09:15
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:15	KAC	671	Dubai	09:30
KAC	352	Kochi	08:20	KAC	787	Jeddah	09:30
KAC	362	Colombo	08:20	KAC	619	Doha	09:30
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:45
KAC	784	Jeddah	08:50	UAE	856	Dubai	09:50
KAC	284	Dhaka	09:00	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:00
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:05	KAC	101	London/New York	10:00
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	FDB	056	Dubai	10:40
QTR	1070	Doha	09:30	Lar	674	Lar	10:40
IRA	675	Lar	09:40	QTR	1071	Doha	10:45
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	KAC	501	Beirut	11:00
UAE	873	Dubai	10:40	KAC	561	Amman	11:20
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	KAC	679	Muscat	11:25
MEA	404	Beirut	11:00	KAC	165	Rome/Paris	11:25
JZR	561	Sohag	11:25	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:35
RBG	553	Alexandria	11:30	MEB	405	Beirut	12:00
JZR	164	Dubai	11:50	KAC	541	Cairo	12:05
NIA	151	Cairo	12:20	UAE	874	Dubai	12:10
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25	RBG	554	Alexandria	12:10
MSC	401	Alexandria	12:30	JZR	776	Jeddah	12:15
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	JZR	324	Al Najaf	12:50
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	KAC	785	Jeddah	13:00
KAC	620	Doha	13:10	FDB	076	Dubai	13:10
IRC	6507	Shiraz	13:35	JZR	176	Dubai	13:10
KAC	514	Tehran	13:45	NIA	152	Cairo	13:20
FBA	831	Al Najaf	13:50	MSC	402	Alexandria	13:30
QTR	1078	Doha	14:05	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
KAC	672	Dubai	14:05	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
				IRC	6507	Shiraz	14:20

**DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION**



CROSSWORD 1231



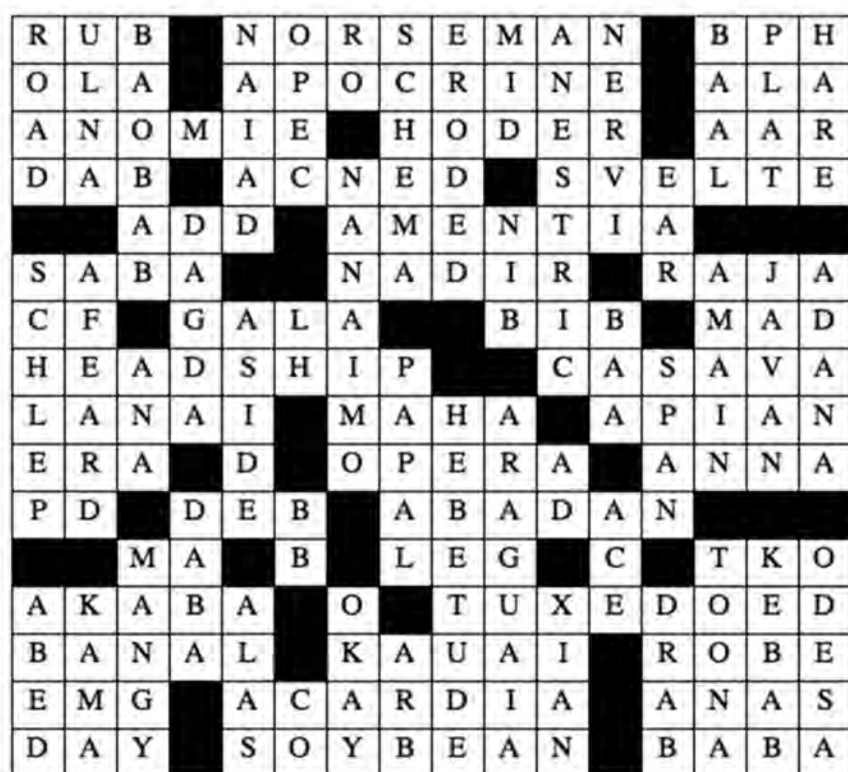
ACROSS

1. (Irish) Mother of the ancient Irish gods.
4. Type genus of the Psophiidae.
11. Edible starchy tuberous root of taro plants.
15. A flexible container with a single opening.
16. A formal contractual relationship established to provide for regular banking or brokerage or business services.
17. The basic unit of money in Iran.
18. United States physician who specialized in diseases of the intestines.
20. A ballroom dance of Latin-American origin.
21. A small island.
22. Lean end of the neck.
23. Type genus of the Gelechiidae.
25. (electronics) Of a circuit or device having an output that is proportional to the input.
28. The act of relaying something.
29. A light strong brittle gray toxic bivalent metallic element.
31. (Judeo-Christian religion) Chief spirit of evil and adversary of God.
34. Jordan's port.
36. The United Nations agency concerned with atomic energy.
41. The goddess of the moon.
44. United States baseball player and manager (1873-1934).
46. (legend) Chalice used by Christ at the last supper.
48. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.
49. How long something has existed.
50. Goddess of criminal rashness and its punishment.
51. A soft white precious univalent metallic element having the highest electrical and thermal conductivity of any metal.
52. Someone who violates the law.
55. A city in northwestern Mexico near the California border.
59. (used informally) Very small.
60. A heavy odorless colorless gas formed during respiration and by the decomposition of organic substances.
61. A radioactive element of the actinide series.
62. Of a temperature scale that registers the freezing point of water as 32 degrees F and the boiling point as 212 degrees F at one atmosphere of pressure.
64. Any customary and rightful perquisite appropriate to your station in life.
68. African tree having an exceedingly thick trunk and fruit that resembles a gourd and has an edible pulp called monkey bread.
72. Not far distant in time or space or degree or circumstances.
73. A zodiacal constellation in the northern hemisphere between Taurus and Cancer on the ecliptic.
76. A small cake leavened with yeast.
77. (Babylonian) God of wisdom and agriculture and patron of scribes and schools.
78. Not subjected to an aging process.
79. In the Roman calendar.
80. By bad luck.
81. (biology) Of unlike parts or organs.
82. Give over.

DOWN

1. The elementary stages of any subject (usually plural).
2. A lawman concerned with narcotics violations.
3. 100 agorot equal 1 shekel.
4. (plate tectonic theory) A hypothetical continent including all the landmass of the earth prior to the Triassic period when it split into Laurasia and Gondwanaland.
5. A white trivalent metallic element.
6. A tax on various goods brought into a town.
7. Chiefly perennial grasses of cool temperate regions.
8. (usually followed by 'with' or used in a combining form) Having items suspended on or from a support.
9. A member of western Finnish people formerly living in the Baltic province where Saint Petersburg was built.
10. Eaten as mush or as a thin gruel.
11. Any plant of the genus Erica.
12. (informal British) Good-looking.
13. Surrealist Spanish painter (1904-1989).
14. Evergreen trees and shrubs having oily one-seeded fruits.
19. A bag used for carrying money and small personal items or accessories (especially by women).
24. Late time of life.
26. Being five more than fifty.
27. Of or relating to neurogia.
30. Consider or describe as similar, equal, or analogous.
32. A creature of Teutonic mythology.
33. Like a bower.
35. An addition that extends a main building.
37. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
38. A platform raised above the surrounding level to give prominence to the person on it.
39. 1/1000 gram.
40. Feeling or showing extreme anger.
42. An narrative telling the adventures of a hero or a family.
43. A white metallic element that burns with a brilliant light.
45. A genus of Caltha.
47. A device that, on receiving radar signals, transmits coded signals in response to help navigators determine their position.
53. A United Nations agency to promote trade by increasing the exchange stability of the major currencies.
54. Depending on free oxygen or air.
56. (Greek mythology) Son of Daedalus.
57. Goods (or wreckage) on the sea bed that is attached to a buoy so that it can be recovered.
58. Someone who cuts and delivers ice.
63. Dwell (archaic).
65. A deep prolonged sound (as of thunder or large bells).
66. A metabolic acid found in yeast and liver cells.
67. Largest known toad species.
69. A Chadic language spoken in northern Nigeria.
70. In bed.
71. Serving as or forming a base.
74. One of the most common of the five major classes of immunoglobulins.
75. Remaining after all deductions.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Group activities in the workplace tend to involve scientific, technological and humanitarian concerns. This could mean teaching or attending a class in a most fascinating subject. You may wish to develop your intuitive insight through friendships with artistically talented individuals. You may seek to be inspired through social activities in groups or organizations. There is time to dive deeper into the subjects you enjoy: research, art, medicine, etc. Know that you will need to focus your attention on one or two goals for this year and save other interests for next year. If you devote your time to one or two goals, you will find yourself completing them and actually becoming satisfied with your progress. Celebrate!



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You may find yourself at odds with others regarding ordinary matters today. You may be going against tradition and becoming too independent for group approval. It is easy to become carried away under this kind of pressure and make mistakes. Keep your ideas under your hat for now, in order to give them some time to develop and take focus. Status and security goals need rethinking in order to take advantage of changing times. Your career is a focus for this year, but your home and family situation are also involved. Finances-purchases, investments and credit in particular-could stand some clear thinking. Getting in over your head where such things are concerned can happen before you know it, so keep an eye on the bottom line.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Routine matters may put you in a restless mood. The hairs on the back of your neck feel like they are standing at attention because you just know some opportunity is available. You don't want to miss that special word or idea or call that may mean a big business deal is yours. This could mean that you are in competition for best sales or most signatures or whatever will get you ahead of the game, so to speak. If you are caught up with your work, don't just drift; make an effort to begin a catchy, attractive or neat project that will attract an interest to your work. This could mean getting approval for some self-inspired idea; you display yourself to be a self-starter. A perfect balance between your mind, spirit and body is possible this evening.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Don't be surprised if you are not in top mental gear today. You could find yourself struggling to find the right words. This could just mean the audience is a bit different. Learn from your experience and next time you are trying to convince someone of something, consider the source. Your natural orientation at this time is to find the truth, cut out any confusion and omit the fluff. You are good at cutting to the root of a matter and keeping things simple. You can teach, guide, write or involve yourself with many other activities that help clear up confusion. Meeting with your peers will help you find the path to greater understanding and perhaps open up your imagination to all sorts of possibilities. This evening is a good time to soak in a tub.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You may find yourself relaxing with refreshments midmorning. Later today, you will be quite busy. If you are looking for a job, you may think the internet is the only way to achieve that goal. It may help, but there is nothing like knocking on a few doors, so to speak. If you are not looking for a job, a friend of yours may be looking. You will exert much effort into making everything work today. Your sense of direction is in high focus and many difficult issues will soon fall into place; you achieve a new understanding. Others may find you especially witty. It could be you use public transportation or you ride in an elevator every day; whatever the case, you are loved. Family, friends and strangers enjoy your company. Enjoy a walk this evening.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Work progresses well today and obtaining and exchanging information takes on more emotional significance. Results from your hard work will begin to show in positive ways. Communicating your feelings is important and if there is someone you are trying to influence, this would be the day that you would be particularly successful. Setting time aside this evening for family conversations makes for a close-knit family. There is a feeling of having a good support system within your family unit. You may take some time to help a young person with homework or teach him or her some new skill. Who knows, this young person may have a new game to teach you. Either way, it is a great opportunity for improved communications within the family.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You may have business or educational involvement with foreigners at this time. You may have to deal with conflicting ethical and social values in legal, religious and cultural institutions. Financial grants and funding for higher education may become available. Communication with influential people has a positive outcome. You, or your company, will get the funds needed to keep busy and productive in the future. Contracts and commitments are reviewed and understood. You and a friend may talk about personal aims and goals for the future. Relax this afternoon and enjoy the communication between your friends. Your vitality and sense of optimism are strong and you encourage others to be just as positive in their outlook.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

New ideas take on more importance to you now. You look for catchy phrases if you are a writer and you look for a new blend of colors if you are an artist, etc. Teaching, learning, communicating and social contact have a way of outlining new directions in your life. You keep up-to-date with the styles and fads, as well as the unusual and new, resulting in your popularity and your success in your profession. You are always one step ahead of the crowd. There is much activity and involvement with this sort of job. You may notice that people sometimes need time to adjust to new ideas. Something you have wanted for a long time is now yours. You feel confident that you took the right approach to gain today's results.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Put your mind to work and take care of any details that you may need to complete any unfinished business. There are improvements and corrections scheduled for this day. This may mean that you work in advertising, patterns, display, etc., and your part of the work is in just one phase. Anything you do in groups or as team-work is successful. In some way, recycle those things that do not serve you well or set them aside for possible repair. You underestimate your creative skills and may need some positive feedback today in order to continue with some particular project. Guard against any misunderstandings with a parent or older family member this afternoon. A request may sound more like a complaint. Listen carefully to what is being said.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Religion, philosophy and world affairs may influence your work at this time. There could be some challenges today but your attitude will show your willingness to rise above whatever occurs. Your words and your actions have as much effect as the example you set. Your thinking is lucid and grasping but you would be wise in not becoming too carried away with some theory-think, before you express your ideas. Your creative juices are flowing-ready to be applied to the work at hand. Put forth your best efforts now and considerable success can be achieved. You may unconsciously help a close friend today. On a personal level, you are in touch with your feelings and can take the edge off any hard feelings that may have occurred in the recent past.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

There are benefits and progress in your work today. It could be you are working on a new project and are in the process of collecting information and outlining the essential steps. All seems to work together for the positive result-whether your work is technical or physical. If you are working to improve or beautify, you will find progress has doubled. If there are complaints, resentments or upsets, they will seem to dissipate or take a holding pattern. A full day at work or school has you looking forward to some rest time this afternoon. You will not depend on external conditions for your happiness, however, this evening-movies, books and all forms of escape could prove quite enjoyable. A good conversation with those you love is possible tonight.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Take measures to give yourself time to think through any decisions you feel you have to make. Careful-there is the possibility that you could be gullible and fall for the most unlikely story or make an unwise purchase. Your judgment of people and products are usually accurate-but today's energies may lead you off course. You may need more information. Business matters are nonstop now. A carpooling club or mass transit could work very well for you and some friends. You don't have to work in the same building. It might be nice to have somebody else do the driving occasionally. This afternoon you may experience a heightened artistic inspiration that may manifest itself in your own creative work-with herbs or an aquarium or a water garden, etc.

WORD SEARCH

Shakespeare: Hamlet

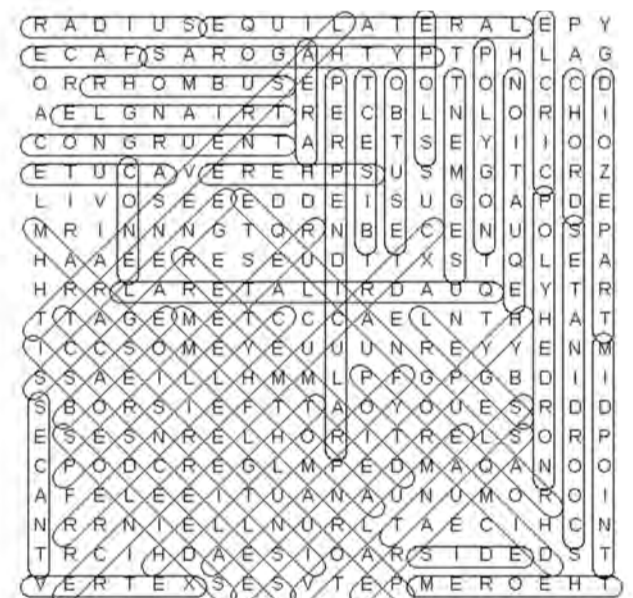
Find and circle all of the words relating to Hamlet that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell a secret message - a Hamlet quotation.



- |             |              |            |             |
|-------------|--------------|------------|-------------|
| AMBASSADORS | FRANCISCO    | MARCELLUS  | REGICIDE    |
| BARNARDO    | GERTRUDE     | MELANCHOLY | REVENGE     |
| CASTLE      | GHOST        | MESSENGER  | REYNALDO    |
| CHALICE     | GRAVEDIGGERS | MURDER     | ROSENCRANTZ |
| CLAUDIUS    | GUILDENSTERN | OPHELIA    | SKULL       |
| CORNELIUS   | HAMLET       | OSRIC      | SWORD       |
| DEATH       | HAULTBOYS    | POISON     | THE PLAYERS |
| DENMARK     | HORATIO      | POLONIUS   | TRAGEDY     |
| DUEL        | KING         | PRIEST     | VOLTEMAND   |
| ELSINORE    | LAERTES      | PRINCE     | WINE        |
| FORTINBRAS  | MADNESS      | QUEEN      | YORICK      |

Yesterday Solution

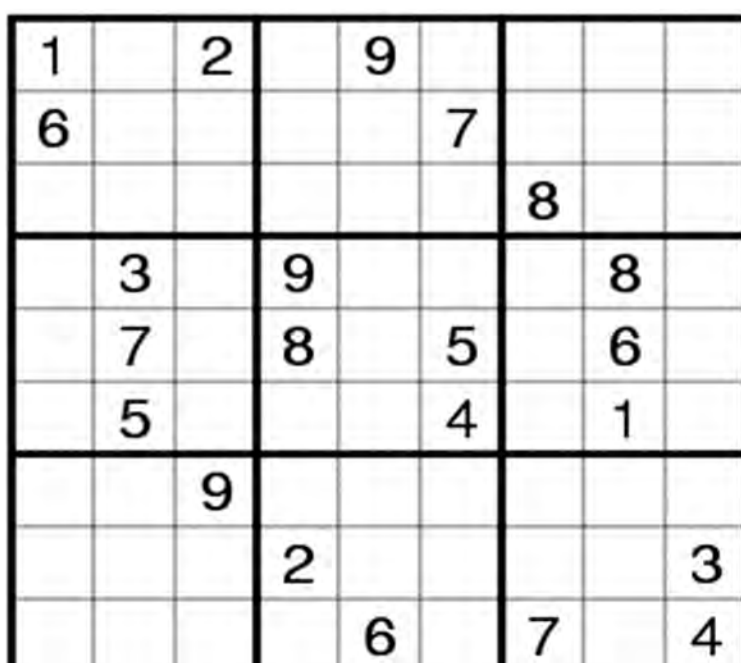
Geometry



- |               |               |               |             |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|
| ACUTE         | EQUATION      | PERIMETER     | SIDE        |
| APOTHEM       | EQUIANGULAR   | PERPENDICULAR | SLANT       |
| AREA          | EQUILATERAL   | POLYGON       | SLOPE       |
| BASE          | FACE          | POLYEDRON     | SOLIDS      |
| BISECT        | FORMULA       | PYRAMID       | SPHERE      |
| CHORD         | HEIGHT        | PYTHAGORAS    | SQUARE      |
| CIRCLE        | HYPOTENUSE    | QUADRILATERAL | THEOREM     |
| CIRCUMFERENCE | INTERSECT     | RADIUS        | TRANSVERSAL |
| CONE          | ISOSCELES     | RHOMBUS       | TRAPEZOID   |
| CONGRUENT     | LEGS          | SCALENE       | TRIANGLE    |
| COORDINATES   | MIDPOINT      | SECANT        | VERTEX      |
| CYLINDER      | OBTUSE        | SEGMENT       | VOLUME      |
| DIAMETER      | PARALLELOGRAM |               |             |

Hidden sentence: PYTHAGORAS LIVED DURING THE SIXTH CENTURY BEFORE CHRIST

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution





For labor-related inquiries and complaints:  
Call MSAL hotline 128

Hospitals

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

Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khalidiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401
Jabriya	25316254
Maidan Hawally	25623444
Bayan	25388462
Mishref	25381200
W Hawally	22630786
Sabah	24810221
Jahra	24770319
New Jahra	24575755
West Jahra	24772608
South Jahra	24775066
North Jahra	24775992
North Jleeb	24311795
Ardhiya	24884079
Firdous	24892674
Omariya	24719048
N Khaitan	24710044
Fintas	23900322



PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

GOVERNORATE	PHARMACY	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ahmadi	Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan	Fahaeel Makka St Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd	23915883 23715414 23726558
Jahra	Modern Jahra Madina Munawara	Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1 Jahra-Block 92	24575518 24566622
Capital	Ahlam Khaldiya Coop	Fahad Al-Salem St Khaldiya Coop	22436184 24833967
Farwaniya	New Shifa Ferdous Coop Modern Safwan	Farwaniya Block 40 Ferdous Coop Old Kheitan Block 11	24734000 24881201 24726638
Hawally	Tariq Hana Ikhlas Hawally & Rawdha Ghadeer Kindy Ibn Al-Nafis Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Salmiya-Amman St Hawally-Beirut St Hawally & Rawdha Coop Jabriya-Block 1A Jabriya-Block 3B Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	25726265 25647075 22625999 22564549 25340559 25326554 25721264 25380581 25628241

STATE OF KUWAIT DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630 Fax: (+965) 24348714 www.met.gov.kw

DAY: Monday

18/04/2016

Issue Time 07:00

Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

BY DAY: Sunny with variable wind changing to light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 08 - 30 km/h

BY NIGHT: Fair with light to moderate north westerly to light variable wind, with speed of 06 - 26 km/h

WEATHER WARNING			No Current Warnings			
STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.	SFC. CHART 18/04/2016 0000 UTC			
KUWAIT CITY	35 °C	23 °C				
KUWAIT AIRPORT	35 °C	19 °C				
ABDALY	34 °C	19 °C				
BUBYAN	34 °C	21 °C				
JAHRA	35 °C	21 °C				
FAILAKA ISLAND	33 °C	20 °C				
SALMIYAH	31 °C	24 °C				
AHMADI	30 °C	24 °C				
JAL ALIYAH	35 °C	19 °C				
QAROH ISLAND	29 °C	22 °C				
UMM AL-MARADEM	30 °C	22 °C				
4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Tuesday	04/19	Sunny	36 °C	19 °C	VRB-NW	10 - 32 km/h
Wednesday	04/20	Sunny + high clouds	36 °C	20 °C	NW	08 - 30 km/h
Thursday	04/21	Sunny + scattered clouds	36 °C	20 °C	VRB-SE	08 - 28 km/h
Friday	04/22	Partly cloudy + scattered rain	35 °C	21 °C	S-SE	15 - 40 km/h
PRAYER TIMES			RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT			
Fajr	03:55		MAX. Temp.	35 °C		
Sunrise	05:18		MIN. Temp.	17 °C		
Zuhr	11:47		MAX. RH	64 %		
Asr	15:22		MIN. RH	12 %		
Sunset	18:16		MAX. Wind	N 46 km/h		
Isha	19:37		TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	00 mm		

All times are local time unless otherwise stated. U.P.0 2016/04/18 06:52 UTC V1.00 T2.3 2-1/ع.ق

INTERNATIONAL CALLS



Afghanistan	0093	Lithuania	00370
Albania	00355	Luxembourg	00352
Algeria	00213	Macau	00853
Andorra	00376	Macedonia	00389
Angola	00244	Madagascar	00261
Anguilla	001264	Majorca	0034
Antiga	001268	Malawi	00265
Argentina	0054	Malaysia	0060
Armenia	00374	Maldives	00960
Australia	0061	Mali	00223
Austria	0043	Malta	00356
Azerbaijan	00994	Marshall Islands	00692
Bahamas	001242	Martinique	00596
Bahrain	00973	Mauritania	00222
Bangladesh	00880	Mauritius	00230
Barbados	001246	Mayotte	00269
Belarus	00375	Mexico	0052
Belgium	0032	Micronesia	00691
Belize	00501	Moldova	00373
Benin	00229	Monaco	00377
Bermuda	001441	Mongolia	00976
Bhutan	00975	Montserrat	001664
Bolivia	00591	Morocco	00212
Bosnia	00387	Mozambique	00258
Botswana	00267	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Brazil	0055	Namibia	00264
Brunei	00673	Nepal	00977
Bulgaria	00359	Netherlands	0031
Burkina	00226	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Burundi	00257	New Caledonia	00687
Cambodia	00855	New Zealand	0064
Cameroon	00237	Nicaragua	00505
Canada	001	Niger	00227
Cape Verde	00238	Nigeria	00234
Cayman Islands	001345	Niue	00683
Central African	00236	Norfolk Island	00672
Chad	00235	N. Ireland (UK)	0044
Chile	0056	North Korea	00850
China	0086	Norway	0047
Colombia	0057	Oman	00968
Comoros	00269	Pakistan	0092
Congo	00242	Palau	00680
Cook Islands	00682	Panama	00507
Costa Rica	00506	Papua New Guinea	00675
Croatia	00385	Paraguay	00595
Cuba	0053	Peru	0051
Cyprus	00357	Philippines	0063
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Poland	0048
Czech Republic	00420	Portugal	00351
Denmark	0045	Puerto Rico	001787
Diego Garcia	00246	Qatar	00974
Djibouti	00253	Romania	0040
Dominica	001767	Russian Federation	007
Dominican Republic	001809	Rwanda	00250
Ecuador	00593	Saint Helena	00290
Egypt	0020	Saint Kitts	001869
El Salvador	00503	Saint Lucia	001758
England (UK)	0044	Saint Pierre	00508
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Saint Vincent	001784
Eritrea	00291	Samoa US	00684
Estonia	00372	Samoa West	00685
Ethiopia	00251	San Marino	00378
Falkland Islands	00500	Sao Tome	00239
Faroe Islands	00298	Saudi Arabia	00966
Fiji	00679	Scotland (UK)	0044
Finland	00358	Senegal	00221
France	0033	Seychelles	00284
French Guiana	00594	Sierra Leone	00232
French Polynesia	00689	Singapore	0065
Gabon	00241	Slovakia	00421
Gambia	00220	Slovenia	00386
Georgia	00995	Solomon Islands	00677
Germany	0049	Somalia	00252
Ghana	00233	South Africa	0027
Gibraltar	00350	South Korea	0082
Greece	0030	Spain	0034
Greenland	00299	Sri Lanka	0094
Grenada	001473	Sudan	00249
Guadeloupe	00590	Suriname	00597
Guam	001671	Swaziland	00268
Guatemala	00502	Sweden	0046
Guinea	00224	Switzerland	0041
Guyana	00592	Syria	00963
Haiti	00509	Serbia	00381
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Taiwan	00886
Honduras	00504	Tanzania	00255
Hong Kong	00852	Thailand	0066
Hungary	0036	Togo	00228
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Tonga	00676
Iceland	00354	Tokelau	00690
India	0091	Trinidad	001868
Indian Ocean	00873	Tunisia	00216
Indonesia	0062	Turkey	0090
Iran	0098	Tuvalu	00688
Iraq	00964	Uganda	00256
Ireland	00353	Ukraine	00380
Italy	0039	United Arab Emirates	00976
Ivory Coast	00225	United Kingdom	0044
Jamaica	001876	Uruguay	00598
Japan	0081	USA	001
Jordan	00962	Uzbekistan	00998
Kazakhstan	007	Vanuatu	00678
Kenya	00254	Venezuela	00582
Kiribati	00686	Vietnam	0084
Kuwait	00965	Virgin Islands UK	001284
Kyrgyzstan	00996	Virgin Islands US	001340
Laos	00856	Wales (UK)	0044
Latvia	00371	Yemen	00967
Lebanon	00961	Yugoslavia	00381
Liberia	00231	Zambia	00260
Libya	00218	Zimbabwe	00263
Lesotho	00266		



PRIVATE CLINICS

<p><b>Ophthalmologists</b></p> <p>Dr. Abdallah Al-Mansoor 25622444 Dr. Samy Al-Rabea 25752222 Dr. Masoma Habeeb 25321171 Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy 25739999 Dr. Mohsen Abel 25757700 Dr. Adnan Hasan Alwayl 25732223 Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly 25732223</p> <p><b>Ear, Nose &amp; Throat (ENT)</b></p> <p>Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner 24555050 Ext 510 Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali 25644660 Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel 25646478 Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah 25311996 Dr. Mohammad Al-Daory 25731988 Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary 22620166 Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz 25651426</p> <p><b>General Practitioners</b></p> <p>Dr. Mohammed Y Majidi 24555050 Ext 123 Dr. Yousef Al-Omar 24719312 Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhaizeem 23926920 Dr. Kathem Maarafi 25730465 Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah 25655528 Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi 24577781 Dr. Dina Abdallah Al-Rafea 25333501</p> <p><b>Urologists</b></p> <p>Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy 22641534 Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul 22639955 Dr. Khaleel Abdallah Al-Awadi 22616660 Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C) 25313120 Dr. Leons Joseph 66703427</p>	<p><b>Plastic Surgeons</b></p> <p>Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalaf 22547272 Dr. Abdal-Redha Lari 22617700 Dr. Abdel Quttainah 25625030/60</p> <p><b>Family Doctor</b></p> <p>Dr Divya Damodar 23729596/23729581</p> <p><b>Psychiatrists</b></p> <p>Dr. Esam Al-Ansari 22635047 Dr. Eisa M. Al-Balhan 22613623/0</p> <p><b>Gynaecologists &amp; Obstetricians</b></p> <p>Dr Adrian arbe 23729596/23729581 Dr. Verginia s. Marin 2572-6666 ext 8321 Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan 22655539 Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliyami 25343406 Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly 25739272 Dr. Salem soso 22618787</p> <p><b>General Surgeons</b></p> <p>Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer 22610044 Dr. Mohammad Yousef Basher 25327148</p> <p><b>Internists, Chest &amp; Heart</b></p> <p>Dr. Adnan Ebil 22639939 Dr. Mousa Khadada 22666300 Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisan 25728004 Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra 25355515 Dr. Mobarak Aldoub 24726446 Dr Nasser Behbehani 25654300/3</p>	<p><b>Paediatricians</b></p> <p>Dr. Khaled Hamadi 25665898 Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed 25340300 Dr. Zahra Qabazard 25710444 Dr. Sohail Qamar 22621099 Dr. Snaa Maarroof 25713514 Dr. Pradip Gujare 23713100 Dr. Zacharias Mathew 24334282</p> <p><b>Dermatology</b></p> <p>Dr. Mohammed Salam Bern University 23845955</p> <p><b>Dentists</b></p> <p>Dr Anil Thomas 3729596/3729581 Dr. Shamah Al-Matar 22641071/2 Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed 22562226 Dr. Abdallah Al-Amer 22561444 Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan 22619557 Dr. Abdallateef Al-Katrash 22525888 Dr. Abdallah Al-Duweisan 25653755 Dr. Bader Al-Ansari 25620111</p> <p><b>Neurologists</b></p> <p>Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri 25633324 Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan 25345875</p> <p><b>Gastrologists</b></p> <p>Dr. Sami Aman 22636464 Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly 25322030 Dr. Foad Abdallah Al-Ali 22633135</p>	<p><b>Endocrinologist</b></p> <p>Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman 25339330 Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari 25658888 Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr 25329924</p> <p><b>Physiotherapists &amp; VD</b></p> <p>Dr. Deyaa Shehab 25722291 Dr. Mused Faraj Khamees 22666288</p> <p><b>Rheumatologists:</b></p> <p>Dr. Adel Al-Awadi 25330060 Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah 25722290</p> <p><b>Internist, Chest &amp; Heart</b></p> <p>DR.Mohammes Akkad 24555050 Ext 210 Dr. Mohammad Zubaid MB, ChB, FRCP, PACC Assistant Professor Of Medicine Head, Division of Cardiology Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital 25339667</p> <p><b>Consultant Cardiologist</b></p> <p>Dr. Farida Al-Habib MD, PH.D, FACC 2611555-2622555 Inaya German Medical Center Te: 2575077 Fax: 25723123</p>
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# What is Waterhouse's biggest beauty mistake?

Suki Waterhouse's biggest beauty mistake was shaving off an eyebrow. The 24-year-old model - who made her debut in the fashion industry at the age of 19 when she landed her first campaign with Marks and Spencer - accidentally removed one entire brow in a "crazy" ablations session in an attempt to tame her "feral" facial feature, because she didn't have tweezers. Speaking to Marie Claire magazine about her beauty blunder, the blonde star said: "I once accidentally shaved off one of my eyebrows! It was in a crazy attempt to tidy them up when I didn't have any tweezers. Naturally, my brows can be quite feral, so I

look a bit happier when the hairs are brushed up. I tend to use any eyebrow gel I can get my hands on." Suki - who previously dated Bradley Cooper - has also revealed her hair doesn't need much maintenance so she trims her own locks and relies on cupboard ingredients as a DIY conditioner. She explained: "I cut my own fringe and take scissors to it late at night when I can't sleep. It isn't looking too great right now, so I'm growing it out and starting again. I use hairstylist Neil Moodie's products and never blow-dry my hair. I prefer the way it looks after washing it, then sticking my head out of the car window. A quick brush-through and I'm

good to go. "I'm more comfortable as a blonde. When I'm blonde I'll throw on egg whites, mayo and yoghurt to keep it conditioned and, douse it in Argan oil overnight. "I went brunette for a film and I can confirm that dyeing your hair is both liberating and distressing. The good thing about having dark hair is that you can go without washing it for a few days, which is always a plus."



## Cyrus raising money for Planned Parenthood

Miley Cyrus and Marc Jacobs have joined forces to raise funds for planned parenthood. The 'Wrecking Ball' hitmaker has partnered with the 53-year-old designer and artist Marilyn Minter to sell limited edition prints of the singer from her exclusive shoot, whilst extra images and captions supporting the company will be emblazoned over t-shirts, which will see all proceeding go towards the non-profit reproductive services organization. Speaking to Artsy online about the collaboration, Marilyn said; "We were trying to bridge the generation gap by involving a young star with young fans-she has 40.5 million Instagram followers. She's [Miley's] been famous since she was 11 and she's a great artist, so she doesn't care about making money-she wants to give back." The venture was confirmed in front of 500 women at the Planned Parenthood Spring Luncheon held at the Pierre on Thursday in New York, following a large uproar in the US over the bid to cut funding to the organization, affecting women on low income's access to affordable birth control. Meanwhile, the 23-year-old star - who also has her own LGBT charity Happy Hippie Foundation - took to social media to showcase a sample garment. She wrote: "Coming soon to marcjacobs.com!! ALL proceeds go to #plannedparenthood @marilyninter@marcjacobs #standwithPP (sic)." The star shared behind-the-scenes previews of her steamy shoot with the Louisiana-born hyper-realist photographer - who is known for her erotic and intimate work - which captured her licking a pane of steamed up glass. Miley wrote: "This limited edition portrait by bada\$\$ @marilyninter is available now at Artsy.net/mileymarilyn !! 100% of proceeds to go #plannedparenthood #standwithPP #mileymarilynsupportPP (sic)." Whilst another read: "#mileymarilyn @marcjacobsshirt coming soon!! Proceeds go to #plannedparenthood by@marilyninter #standwithPP (sic)." The portraits of the Tennessee-born singer songwriter will be sold for \$5,500 with only 50 prints on sale, whilst Marc Jacobs' t-shirts will retail for \$50.

## Hemsworth rewards teenager who found his wallet

Chris Hemsworth gave the cash contents of his wallet to a teenager who found it. The 32-year-old star - who has children India, three, and Sasha and Tristan, two, with wife Elsa Pataky - thought his personal cards and a wad of cash were gone for good when he left them at a restaurant and was delighted when 17-year-old Tristin Budzyn-Barker contacted his representatives to say he had recovered the items and wanted to reunite them with their owner. Chris wrote back to Tristin and gifted him the entire cash contents of the wallet, which he "never expected to see again". Chris explained: "I went to pick up my wife and daughter from the airport and we were a little early so we were killing some time and went to have something to eat. It was a pretty rough little area and we sat down and I left my wallet on the table, and thought 'I'm never going to get it back, I'm never going to see it again.' My business manager contacts me because it's my address on my licence, and this letter from this young boy which we have here today and he's found my wallet." And the everyday hero - who admitted he was "speechless" to find the Hollywood actor's wallet - was then invited onto 'The Ellen DeGeneres Show' and surprised once more, when she presented Tristin with a \$10,000 cheque to be

put toward his college fund, donated by image publishing company Shutterfly. And the teenager had been happy enough just to attend the taping of the talk show. Meeting Tristin on the show, 'The Huntsman: Winter's War' actor added: "He sent the wallet to me and he said 'P.S. Mum saw you were on Ellen this week and asked if we could have some tickets.'"



## Brown considered suicide

Chris Brown considered suicide after assaulting Rihanna. The 'Yeah 3x' hit-maker admitted he felt "like a monster" after he attacked his then-girlfriend in February 2009. Speaking about going from "America's Sweetheart to public enemy number one," he said: "I felt like a monster. I was thinking about suicide and everything else. I wasn't sleeping, I wasn't eating. I just was getting high." And the 26-year-old star's mother, Joyce Hawkins, admitted the incident marked the "worst day" of her life. In a trailer for Chris' upcoming documentary 'Welcome to My Life', she said: "That was the worst day of my life and probably his life. "I felt like I was going to lose my child." Despite the way his reputation plum-

meted after the assault - for which he was sentenced to five years of probation, one year of domestic violence counseling, and six months of community service - and subsequent other legal problems, the "Beautiful People" singer insists he will never be "finished". As the trailer draws to a close, he said: "If there was ever a doubt in your mind that Chris Brown was done, he was finished? I wouldn't bet on it." A release date has yet to be set for the documentary, which features contributions from the likes of Jamie Foxx, Usher, Jennifer Lopez and Mary J Blige.



## Jodie Marsh splits from her husband

Jodie Marsh has announced she has separated from her husband James Placido. The 37-year-old documentary maker took to Twitter and Instagram yesterday to tell her fans her union with the hunk is over after just eight months. Jodie posted the same statement on both social media accounts, which read: "It is with sadness that I bring you the news that James and I have separated. I will be keeping all the dogs with me. I won't be taking calls on the matter as I'd like to be left alone. I thank you in advance for your sensitivity on this subject..." Jodie and James tied the knot in secret in Barbados last August after a whirlwind romance and bought a Rottweiler dog called Rosie together. Before bringing back Rosie, Jodie and James' house was already home to three cats and four dogs. Jodie previously told BANG Showbiz that James was the only man she had ever loved more than her pets. In happier times, she gushed: "Before James I'd never met a human that I liked more than my cats and dogs. It's true and he knows, and he knows he's only just past them! He jokes when we're in bed and says, 'It worries me that there's such a fine line between me and the cats and dogs. Like, if it comes to it you might swing back and choose them.' And I'm like, 'No, no!' But honestly no man had even come close to the love I feel for my animals before him." And it was only a few months ago, Jodie insisted she planned on holding on to her 'Mr Right' after waiting her entire life to find him. The former glamour model said: "I'm loving being married and it took me long enough to find a decent man so now I've got him I'm definitely hanging onto him. We've definitely been making up for lost time since getting married."



## Jonas to be honored by the Songwriters Hall of Fame

Nick Jonas is to be honored by the Songwriters Hall of Fame. The 23-year-old singer-and-actor will receive the Hal David Starlight Award at the Hall's 47th Annual Induction and Awards in New York on June 9 in honor of his "bright and versatile" talent and lengthy career. Songwriters Hall of Fame co-chairs Kenneth Gamble and Leon Huff told People magazine: "Nick Jonas is one of the brightest and most versatile young talents on the American pop scene. A veteran of recording, television, movies and Broadway success ... he has been making his cultural mark in a variety of ways for more than a decade. "Nick has literally grown up in public, and that growth is reflected in his songwriting and singing. He is a wonderful choice for the Songwriters Hall of Fame's Hal David Starlight Award." The 'Close' singer follows in the footsteps of past winners of the award including Fun. rocker Nate Ruess, Imagine Dragons' Dan Reynolds, Taylor Swift, John Legend, Alicia Keys, Ne-Yo, Drake, Benny Blanco, Jason Mraz, John Mayer, Rob Thomas and John Rzeznik. It was previously announced that Elvis Costello, Chip Taylor, Tom Petty, Nile Rodgers and his late Chic bandmate Bernard Edwards will be inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame this summer.



## Samuel L Jackson refuses rude request

Samuel L Jackson refused to take a photo with a fan because he didn't say please. The 'Hateful Eight' star was slammed on Twitter by a DJ named Fitz for declining his request for a selfie, but the 67-year-old star then hit back to criticize the radio host for his lack of manners. Fitz tweeted at the weekend: "That moment when you meet one of your favorite actors. "What an arrogant PUNK! Right @SamuelLJackson ????(sic)" In response, the actor posted: "I refused the photo politely @FollowFITZ then you spazzed out." "Learn to say Please! Thanks for the Whitney Snitch! "I said thanks but no @FollowFITZ, you said Aww C'mon, I'm a big fan, me, sorry, you, I watch all your movies but not anymore! "Now @FollowFitz, do you see Please anywhere in that exchange? You saw it your way, I see it mine. Stop whining, it's over.(sic)" Fitz then made a Facebook video to address the situation and claimed he was happy to have the 'Snakes on a Plane' star

swear at him. He said: "I just had a big let-down of my life. There was no altercation. There was no situation. "I just went on Twitter and I told Samuel L Jackson, hey I couldn't believe how you treated one of your fans. "If you're going to be told 'F you' on Twitter by anybody, it's awesome if it's done by Samuel L Jackson." And it seems the altercation could have a happy ending as the DJ has offered to raise money for a charity of the actor's choice. In response to his video, Samuel wrote: "You're right @FollowFITZ, I watched. There's a lot of folks that share your experience w/ me & tons of others just the opposite! Still a Fan (sic)" Fitz posted in reply: "@SamuelLJackson creating 'IM A FAN OF ME TOO' t shirts to sell with ALL proceeds going to the charity of YOUR choice. Name the charity. "we should all be fans of ourselves!! I also appreciate you responding to me. Showed me a lot. Let's turn it into a POSITIVE (sic)".



## Chyna's mother wants more grandkids

Blac Chyna's mother thinks her daughter is "very likely" to have a baby with Rob Kardashian as soon as they are married. The make-up artist - who already has three-year-old son King Cairo with ex-boyfriend Tyga - got engaged to the 'Keeping Up With the Kardashians' star earlier this month and Tokyo Toni is already looking forward to becoming a grandmother again. She said: "I want another grandchild, for sure. It's very likely to happen after the wedding." And Tokyo has already been won over by how well Rob has bonded with King Cairo. She added to Australia's NW magazine: "Rob is the perfect dad. He spends hours playing with King and he buys him lots of toys. Their favourite thing is playing a numbers game with Lego. "King responds to him so well." Both Blac, 27, and her mother were surprised when the 29-year-old sock designer popped the question. Tokyo admitted: "I didn't expect it and I know my daughter wasn't expecting it." But despite her surprise, Tokyo thinks the couple - who began dating at the beginning of this year - are a great match and even their rows are "cute". She said: "They spend every hour together during the day so they're already like a married couple. "They do have arguments but he concedes to her every time. He just goes, 'OK babe!' Even their arguments are short and cute."







In this June 9, 1937 file photo, then Britain's Queen Elizabeth, left, with Queen Mary, second left, and Princess Elizabeth, nearest camera, and Princess Margaret, obscured right, driving from Buckingham Palace to the Horse Guards Parade for the Trooping of the Color ceremony in London. — AP



In this Saturday, June 13, 2015 file photo, Britain's Prince William holds his son Prince George, with Queen Elizabeth II, right, Kate, Duchess of Cambridge and the Prince of Wales during the Trooping The Color parade at Buckingham Palace in London.



In this Nov 20, 1947 file photo, Britain's Princess Elizabeth leaves Westminster Abbey in London, with her husband, the Duke of Edinburgh, after their wedding ceremony.

## Queen Elizabeth II to mark 90th birthday at Windsor Castle

The longest-reigning monarch in British history turns 90 on Thursday, but Queen Elizabeth II is not planning a major, fireworks-filled celebration to mark the happy occasion. Just a gentle stroll outside the grounds of Windsor Castle, the lighting of a beacon, and a night at home with family are all that are on the royal plate. No, she'll save the pomp and ceremony for her next birthday. The monarch is such an eminent figure in British life that she gets two birthdays each year, one on the actual date of her birth, April 21, and one official birthday in June, when there is at least a reasonable hope of dry, sunny parade weather.

Her customary reticence hasn't kept the nation's media from going slightly bonkers at the approaching milestone. ITV has already aired a celebratory "Our Queen at 90" documentary to pump up its Easter ratings, and Tatler magazine not only put the queen on its cover, foregoing the youthful socialites that are its typical cover fare, but published a special supplement in her honor. The birthday events Thursday can be considered a dress rehearsal for the official celebrations planned in early June. It also opens the door to a rolling birthday season that will last a full six weeks, climaxing with hundreds of celebrations large and small.

### Two decades

"June is when everything is happening. That's the great big extravaganza, the street parties and everything," said Sophia Money-Coutts, Tatler's features director. "From now on, the coverage will be relentless. The republicans will be screaming,"

Indeed, it's not a good time for those who oppose the monarchy to peek above the parapet. The British public's considerable affection for the queen surfaces at times of national celebration - witness the million-plus crowd that cheered her outside the Buckingham Palace gates at her Golden Jubilee in 2002. The queen and the royals have endured some low points in the last two decades, particularly around the time of the death of Princess Diana in 1997, but their popularity has rebounded with the marriage of Prince William to Kate Middleton and the arrival of their two children, Prince George - now third in line to the throne - and Princess Charlotte.

"It's just a golden moment for the whole family after a tricky few years," Money-Coutts said. "And the queen is the figurehead of all that, with the line of succession pretty assured. They are going through a glorious period." Elizabeth - with her familiar smile, colorful outfits and eccentric if expensive hats - seems oddly impervious to time. If she is tired, it doesn't show. She has softened her schedule, as a concession to 89 and counting, and she has cut back on grueling plane journeys, but she shows no sign of physical or mental frailty. Neither does her 94-year-old husband Prince Philip, despite several serious health scares that included a medical intervention to open clogged heart arteries. His face is craggy, but he still carries himself with the upright bearing of the former naval officer that he is.

### Family dynamics

Both still seem to be going strong, although their children

and grandchildren are increasingly stepping in to handle royal duties ranging from the routine, like opening a hospital ward, to the more substantial such as attending a meeting of Commonwealth heads of state. Elizabeth and Philip say little in public, but the ITV documentary was revealing about the family dynamics because William, Kate and Prince Harry all spoke about the queen, breaking the normal code of silence that governs their relations with an often intrusive news media held responsible by some for cruelly hounding Diana in the final months of her life.

William, who lost his mother Diana when he was just 15, said the queen had helped him in subtle ways by providing stability and encouraging him to find his own footing. "Growing up, having this figurehead, having this stability above me has been incredible," he said. "I have been able to explore, understand, slightly carve my own path. I greatly appreciate and value that protection." Kate, a likely future queen who stepped into the limelight when she and William fell in love in their university days in Scotland, praised Elizabeth for making it easier for her to cope with the constant attention her position brings. "I feel she's been there, a gentle guidance really for me," she said.

### Her accomplishment

The milestone 90th birthday is a happy occasion, one the queen is willing to acknowledge and share with the nation. It was different in September when - by virtue of her father's early death and her own longevity - she surpassed Queen

Victoria to earn distinction as the British ruler with the most time on the throne. While the British press went gaga over her accomplishment, it seemed that for Elizabeth it was a somewhat painful reminder that her father, King George VI, had died suddenly at age 56, making her queen far earlier than had been expected or desired. She was on vacation in Kenya at the time, having left Britain as a princess and returning as a queen in mourning, greeted at the airport by Winston Churchill, the first of many prime ministers.

The queen may be reluctant to make a great fuss over her 90th birthday, but there is little doubt her favorite time of year is approaching. For June means not only her official birthday, and the gala Trooping The Color parade that accompanies it, it also brings the Royal Ascot races that are a highlight of the queen's year, and other races and racing-related events dear to her heart. Viewers of the ITV documentary couldn't help but notice that the normally reserved queen seemed most animated at the races, even showing surprising foot speed for a woman in her 80s as she tried to get a better view of the home stretch. "She'll be at Ascot every morning in her pastel-colored suits, studying the Racing Post, talking with her racing manager," Money-Coutts said. "She absolutely loves it." — AP



## Splash Fashion Xcess: Summer '16 fashion show

This season Splash embraces the other end of the style spectrum and celebrates the resurgence of Maximalism. Titled 'Splash Fashion Xcess', the Summer 2016 fashion show brought together color, embellishments, textures topped with grunge inspiration. With two sub stories- Mod Maximalism and Grunge Maximalism taking centre stage, a little bit of everything seems just about the right way to enter the season. What you get in the collection is a modern hybrid between neat designs with a maximalist edge.

Exploring a new venue with Asateer, Atlantis, the guests were welcomed into a pre-function area which was nothing short of a feast to the senses. A walk through the tunnel with multicolored heart facets, one was immediately transported

to an eclectic dimension. Adorned with mirrors and raw bulbs on either side, the replication of things exemplified the Maximalism theme. The pre-party zone complete with archways and elements inspired by the grunge culture like metal chains set the mood for the show. The energy was palpable with trap and dubstep tunes creating an electric ambience. Making way into the runway dotted with LED screens, one was able to get a glimpse of the theme through a lucid graphic display. The collection presented on the runway is available at all Centrepoint stores and at Splash in Al-Salam Mall and The Avenues, Phase II.

## Mercedes-Benz releases new boutique and accessories collection

Around 540 high-quality products from the Mercedes-Benz Collection are presented in the new 2016 catalogue, which is now available online and at Mercedes-Benz dealerships. Among the highlights are "Swiss Made" watches, elegant key chains made of stainless steel, new HUGO BOSS sport attire, durable luggage from Samsonite, all new AMG products and for the first time products from the Mercedes-Maybach Driver's Choice Collection from MAYBACH - ICONS OF LUXURY. The new catalogue is now available at Albisher & Alkazemi Co's boutique and accessories store Shuwaikh.

The eleven categories - "Black Edition", Watches, Sports, Fashion, Travel, Accessories, Key Chains, Gift Ideas, AMG, MAYBACH and Others - show just how diverse the range of products of the 2016 Mercedes-Benz Collection is. Highlighting the new exclusive section "Black Edition" is the black watch "MB Automatic" for men. Limited to 500 units, this watch is powered by the ETA 2824-2 automatic movement. The decorated calibre is visible through the underbody glass cover. Other details are a black dial with 3D effect and a sunken Mercedes-Benz star, sapphire glass as well as a black leather strap with folding clasp. This "Swiss Made" limited edition watch is up to 10 ATM water resistant and has a diameter of 43 mm.

The products of the Driver's Choice Collection from MAYBACH - ICONS OF LUXURY fulfill the highest of expectations. This exclusive Collection from MAYBACH - ICONS OF LUXURY are being presented for the first time in the catalogue. Just like the Mercedes-Maybach S-Class, this collection sets new standards in its respective luxury segment. The Collection includes travel and business bags, each black with a beige lining and beige top-stitching on handles and along zipper. These elegant bags are manufactured in Germany from 100 percent calf leather and bear an embossed the MAYBACH lettering.

Some of the items from the 2016 collection have already started arriving at the boutique and accessory store at Al-Bisher & Al-kazemi Co. For specific items the orders can be placed with one of the Parts consultants available. The Mercedes-Benz Kuwait's Boutique & Accessories store is located at the main Mercedes-Benz service center in Shuwaikh.







In this image made from video released by the Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources yesterday, actor Johnny Depp and his wife, Amber Heard speak in a videotaped apology played during yesterday's hearing at the Southport Magistrates Court on Queensland state's Gold Coast.



Johnny Depp, center, and wife Amber Heard, left, arrive at the Southport Magistrates Court on the Gold Coast, Australia, yesterday. — AP photos

## Amber Heard avoids jail in Australian dog smuggling spat

Actor Johnny Depp's wife Amber Heard pleaded guilty yesterday to providing a false immigration document when the couple brought their two dogs into Australia last year, but she managed to avoid jail time over what was dubbed the "war on terrier" debacle. Prosecutors dropped more serious charges that Heard illegally imported the Yorkshire terriers, Pistol and Boo, into the country while Depp was filming the fifth movie in the "Pirates of the Caribbean" series. A conviction on the two illegal importation counts could have sent the actress to prison for up to 10 years.

Depp and Heard said little to the waiting throng of reporters and fans outside the Southport Magistrates Court on Queensland state's Gold Coast, but they did submit a videotaped apology to the court that was played during yesterday's hearing. It drew gibes online for the couple's grim, wooden appearance as Heard apologized and they both expressed support for protecting Australia's biodiversity, the aim of the strict quarantine regulations that were violated.

"When you disrespect Australian law," Depp says in the video, "they will tell you firmly."

The drama over the dogs began last May, when Agriculture Minister Barnaby Joyce accused Depp of smuggling the tiny terriers aboard his private jet when he returned to Australia to resume filming the "Pirates" movie. Bringing pets into Australia involves applying for a permit and quarantine on arrival of at least 10 days to prevent the spread of diseases such as rabies. "If we start letting movie stars - even though they've been the sexiest man alive twice - to come into our nation (with pets), then why don't we just break the laws for everybody?" Joyce said at the time. "It's time that Pistol and Boo buggered off back to the United States."

Depp and Heard were given 72 hours to send Pistol and Boo back to the US, with officials warning that the dogs would otherwise be euthanized. The pooches boarded a flight home just hours before the deadline expired. The comments by Joyce, who is now the deputy prime minister of Australia, elevated

what might otherwise have been a local spat into a global delight for comedians and broadcasters. One newspaper website ran a doggie death countdown ticker, and comedian John Oliver dedicated a more than 6-minute segment to lampooning the ordeal.

Depp himself poked fun at the drama during a press conference in Venice, Italy, last year where he was asked if he planned to take the dogs for a gondola ride. "No," he replied. "I killed my dogs and ate them, under direct orders from some kind of, I don't know, sweaty, big-gutted man from Australia." Joyce posted a link to the couple's apology video on his Facebook page, and later told reporters he doubted it was something the pair would have "willingly wanted to do." Still, he gave them credit for acknowledging they had made a mistake.

"I am happy that Ms. Heard has admitted that she was wrong and as such, that clearly shows that our position in pursuit of this was correct," Joyce told journalists. "Every nation has something that they're red hot about, and we're red hot about

our biosecurity requirements in this nation." When asked why Depp wasn't charged as well, the prosecutor's office said that there had been a "lack of admissible evidence" against anyone except Heard. The false documents charge carries a maximum penalty of a year in jail and a fine of more than 10,000 Australian dollars (\$7,650), but Magistrate Bernadette Callaghan sentenced Heard instead to a one-month good behavior bond. The condition means she will have to pay a AU\$1,000 fine if she commits any offenses in Australia over the next month.

Heard's lawyer, Jeremy Kirk, told the court that his client never meant to lie on her incoming passenger card by failing to declare she had animals with her. In truth, Kirk said, she was simply jetlagged and assumed her assistants had sorted out the paperwork. "She has made a tired, terrible mistake," Kirk said. Prosecutor Peter Callaghan said ignorance and fatigue were no excuse. "The laws apply to everyone," he said. — AP



Rihanna taking the spotlight from Calvin Harris at Coachella. — Kevin Mazur

## Rihanna caps celebrity-heavy Coachella festival

Pop superstar Rihanna capped a celebrity-filled Coachella festival Sunday with a surprise appearance, as her sometime songwriter Sia took a sharply different approach by testing the possibilities of on-stage anonymity. Rihanna turned up unannounced on stage during a headlining set of Calvin Harris, the British DJ behind a slew of electronic-infused smash hits.

Sporting a camouflage cap, Rihanna went into her song "We Found Love," which was written by Harris, to the cheers of thousands of fans at the close of three days of revelry in the heat of the California desert. Performing astride an imposing setup of flashing lights, Harris also brought in Big Sean and John Newman to sing their own hits recorded with him. Taylor Swift, who is dating Harris and is one of the few stars even bigger than Rihanna, could be seen in the audience dancing along.

Swift's presence is sure to fuel speculation that she could be a surprise guest next Sunday at Coachella, which runs for two consecutive weekends with the same lineups. Coachella has emerged into one of the world's most lucrative music festivals and a destination for both partying youth and jet-set celebrities, with on-stage surprises a key part of the formula.

### Anonymous on stage

Amid the celebrity culture of Coachella, Sia-the Australian songwriter who wrote one of Rihanna's biggest hits, "Diamonds," took the stage with the paradoxical goal of going unnoticed. Sia, who has spoken of her unease since the breakthrough of her song "Chandelier," wore her now trademark half-black, half-platinum wig that covers her entire face other than her mouth and chin. Sia performed expressionless in a far corner of the stage, a giant bow over her wig, and handed over the visual representation of her music to a trio of dancers, one sporting a hairstyle uncannily like Sia's wig.

Dancers put on contorted facial expressions, pulled their own noses and rammed their fingers into their mouths, with one performer simulating a heart attack as Sia sang her grim "Bird Set Free." For "Titanium," Sia's hit with French DJ David Guetta featuring the signature lyric, "Fire away, fire away," two dancers donned masks of a panda and a donkey and alternatively beat each other and embraced.

### Dreamy indie pop

Beyond the stars, Coachella has also built its reputation on selecting top indie and up-

and-coming bands. Beach House, the dreamy pop duo from Baltimore, performed at Coachella for a third year but this time after achieving significant acclaim. The band, which last year released two albums, "Depression Cherry" and "Thank You Lucky Stars," within months of each other returned to Coachella as a four-piece band with a bassist and drummer.

Yet the music remains grounded in the melancholic chord progressions of keyboardist and singer Victoria Legrand and the band reinforced the imagery with a stage design that depicted a starry night, with Coachella's palm trees lit up behind. Legrand voiced delight in returning to the desert, calling the area "very loving, magical and mystical."

### 'We are all migrants'

Among the acts with the most palpable energy was Young Fathers, the experimental hip-hop trio from Scotland. Then little known, Young Fathers won Britain's prestigious Mercury Prize in 2014 and earlier this month came out with a second album, "White Men Are Black Men Too." Consisting of two artists of African descent and one who is white, Young Fathers brought a political edge to songs that merged rap with electroclash as the drummer pounded with such power that the platform shook. Member Graham "G" Hastings told the crowd that the band sought a world with "no borders, no flags" and used profanity to denounce Republican presidential front-runner Donald Trump, who has campaigned against immigration.

"We are Young Fathers, but we are all migrants. Everyone of you, everyone of us, whether you like it or not," Hastings said. Other highlights Sunday included the cutting-edge saxophonist Kamasi Washington, who offered a rare jazz performance at Coachella. His ensemble included the double bassist Miles Mosley, whose heavy solo on his electrified instrument could fit into a metal song, and Battlecat, a hip-hop producer who scratched records and even turned his DJing into a jazz solo.

Washington, who gained a wider audience by playing on rapper Kendrick Lamar's acclaimed "To Pimp a Butterfly" album, said his sprawling ensemble came about because the musicians were all childhood friends in Los Angeles. "You might see that I got two drummers. That's because I've got two homeboys who play drums," he joked. — AP

## 'The Jungle Book' roars top at the box office

Disney's highly anticipated remake of "The Jungle Book" trounced the competition at the box office on its opening weekend, grossing \$103.6 million, industry estimates showed Sunday. The live-action movie uses computer wizardry to bring to life the characters from Rudyard Kipling's classic stories about a boy named Mowgli who is raised by animals. Starring newcomer Neel Sethi as Mowgli, Hollywood heavyweights Bill Murray, Ben Kingsley and Idris Elba provide the voices of Baloo the bear, Bagheera the panther and Shere Khan the tiger.

It was the third biggest debut of the year, after "Batman v Superman" (\$166 million) and "Deadpool" (\$132 million). "Barbershop: The Next Cut," the latest installment in the comedy franchise, was a distant second in its debut with \$20.2 million, according to estimates from industry tracker Exhibitor Relations. Featuring Ice Cube and Cedric the Entertainer, the movie centers around the personalities in a barbershop who try to stop the violence plaguing their south Chicago neighborhood.

Slapstick comedy "The Boss" slipped to third place after its second week in theaters, taking \$10.2 million over the weekend, lifting its total domestic take to \$40.4 million. Starring Melissa McCarthy, "The Boss" tells of a billionaire who emerges penniless from a spell in jail for insider trading and is forced to move in with a former employee. "Batman v Superman," featuring Ben Affleck and Henry Cavill as the iconic superheroes, was in fourth place, grossing \$9 million for an overall take of \$311.3 million after four weeks.

Animated Disney family film "Zootopia," about an intrepid rabbit police officer who works with a fox to solve a crime in the animal kingdom, slipped from third to fifth. It earned \$8.2 million over the weekend for an overall gross of \$307.5 million after seven weeks. Rounding out the rest of the top 10 were:

- "Criminal" (\$5.9 million)
- "My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2" (\$3.3 million)
- "Miracles from Heaven" (\$1.9 million)
- "God's Not Dead 2" (\$1.7 million)
- "Eye in the Sky" (\$1.6 million)—AFP



In this image released by Disney, Mowgli, portrayed by Neel Sethi, right, and Baloo the bear, voiced by Bill Murray, appear in a scene from, "The Jungle Book." — AP



(From left) French actor Omar Sy, French director Roschdy Zem, and French actor James Thierrée, deliver a speech before unveiling a commemorative plaque for Rafael Padilla, also known as 'Clown Chocolat', and Georges Fottitt at the Mandarin Oriental hotel in Paris, on January 20, 2016. — AFP

## French films soul-search over race at Hollywood showcase

Born in Cuba to African slaves, Rafael Padilla battled racism to become the toast of bourgeois Paris, feted by the rich and powerful for his performances as "Chocolat the clown," France's first black celebrity. Almost a century after he was laid to rest in a mass grave in the French capital, his largely forgotten story is being told in the North American premiere yesterday of Roschdy Zem's "Chocolat." It is a bold choice to open COLCOA, the world's largest festival of French film, as it challenges audiences to consider whether Hollywood's notorious diversity problem is also an issue in France.

The US film industry has been facing a very public backlash over its lack of prominent ethnic minority stars, exemplified by February's Oscars, which featured no black nominees for acting awards for the second year running. In marked contrast, a record number of ethnic minorities competed in major categories at France's own annual industry prizegiving, the Cesars, this year. Underlining America's diversity problem, the Center for African-American studies at the University of California, Los Angeles published a damning "Hollywood Diversity Report 2016" in February.

It found that ethnic minorities claimed just 12.9 percent of lead roles in 163 films released in 2014, down from 16.7 percent the year before and 15.1 percent in 2012. But minority filmmakers and actors involved in features being shown at the nine-day COLCOA festival in Los Angeles believe the Cesars' relative diversity may be masking the true situation in French film.

### Taboo

"Chocolat" is led by rising star Omar Sy, the first Frenchman of African descent to win a best actor Cesar for his role in 2011's "The Intouchables." Sy has managed to parlay his popularity in the francophone world into a Hollywood career, first in sci-fi adventure "X-Men: Days of Future Past" in 2014 and then with a role in 2015 dinosaur blockbuster "Jurassic World." The 38-year-old points to Denzel Washington, Wesley Snipes, Dwayne Johnson and other ethnic minority actors who have been able to make it big despite the bleak picture outlined by UCLA's diversity report.

Non-white actors have traditionally been denied leading roles in certain genres, like romantic comedy and superhero movies, but Sy says studios producing global blockbusters, at least, are increasingly trying "to pluck people from all areas of the world." Shot on a budget of 18.5 million euros (\$20 million), "Chocolat" has been lauded by critics for

shining a light on a subject which is more taboo in French society than in Hollywood. A review in the Hollywood Reporter said the film deserved "plenty of credit for using this kind of commercial vehicle to look French racism in the face and call it what it is."

In France it is forbidden by law even to collect statistics referring to "racial or ethnic origin," so any discussion of diversity is necessarily anecdotal, but Sy suspects the problem is as big as in Hollywood. "We have a track record of actors and directors from diverse backgrounds being given awards but if you look at production as a whole, they are not there," Sy told AFP at COLCOA.

### Death threats

"Chocolat" writer and director Zem felt the problem acutely when casting around for big names to bolster his film, and only Sy emerged as a credible choice. "I needed a recognized actor of color and there was only one name in the frame," he told AFP. COLCOA's focus on diversity is evident in its world cinema section, which hosts two of the most talked-about films in Muslim countries. Directors and producers across the world protested against Morocco's ban of Nabil Ayouch's French-Moroccan drama "Much Loved," a candid take on prostitution which earned its lead actress Loubna Abidar death threats.

Ayouch says that even when minorities get prominent roles in French cinema, it is often just to typecast them, to play to stereotypes that serve as crude plot devices, reinforcing prejudice. "If we want to present a son-in-law to parents, we will make a joke out of it by making him black or Arab," he says, referring to last year's comedy "Serial (Bad) Weddings." "A cop will be black or Arab if he lives in the housing projects."

Mohamed Hamidi, whose comedy "One Man and his Cow" tells the story of an Algerian farmer dreaming of winning a Paris agricultural show, believes the status of minorities in French cinema is improving, however. His film, he says, follows a strong slate of recent French features led by black or North African actors, including "Asterix & Obelix: Mission Cleopatra" (2002), "Welcome to the Sticks" (2008), and "The Intouchables." "You only have to look at the big successes of the last 20 years... I think the French are largely there," he says. — AFP

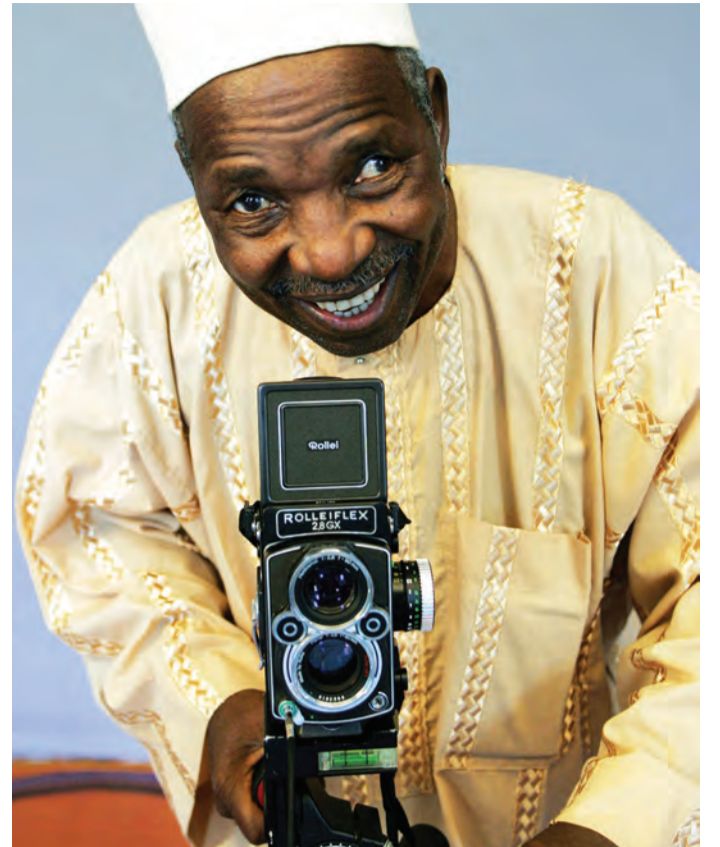




Malian multi international awards winner and pioneer of African Contemporary photography Malick Sidibe (center) poses with two foreigners after their portrait session at his studio.



This file photo shows Malian photographer Malick Sidibe posing with his Golden Lion (Leone d'oro) lifetime achievement award at the 52nd Venice Biennale. — AFP photos



Malick Sidibe, laureat of the Hasseblad prize, preparing to take a photo with a Rolleiflex in Plouha.

# Mourners pay final tribute to celebrated Malian photographer

Hundreds of mourners gathered in the Malian capital on Saturday to pay their final respects to the late photographer Malick Sidibe, who won international acclaim with his vibrant black-and-white images which captured daily life in his native country. The send off for Sidibe, whose coffin was draped in the national flag, took place on a football pitch in a working class neighborhood of Bamako, with soldiers giving the iconic artist full honors as in the crowd several women began weeping.

Young Malian photographers in attendance expressed their sadness at the loss of a mentor. "It's incredibly sad for young photographers," said Ousmane Diarra, a freelancer. "It was Malick who bought me my first camera. He was really our guide." After the 80-year-old's death was announced Friday, France's Culture Minister Audrey Azoulay hailed him as "the father of African photography".

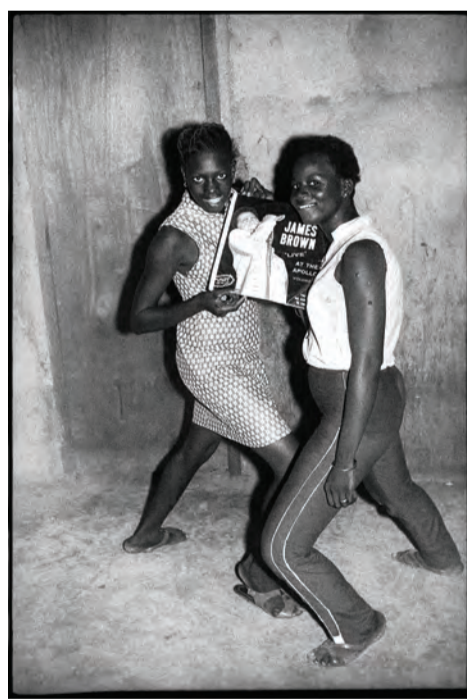
Sidibe's vibrant images of life in the Malian capital in the 1960s, when the country gained independence from France, were a social commentary chronicling both pop culture and traditional society. He captured candid images in his studio as well as on the streets of Bamako, including at nightclubs, beaches and sporting events. He was the first African to have a solo exhibition in Paris's prestigious Grand Palais museum, and his works adorn the walls of the Museum of Modern Art in New

York, the Getty Museum and several more across the world.

Mali's Culture Minister N'Diaye Ramatoulaye Diallo called Sidibe "a great humanist". "Malick Sidibe showed us the unity, but also the diversity, of Mali through his art," she said, visibly moved. Alpha Diallo, a photographer from neighboring Guinea who was at the funeral, said "Mali, Africa and the entire world have lost a cultural titan." And Sidibe's younger brother Tieoule Sidibe recalled how his sibling had been "the pillar of the family who helped all members of the community."

After the funeral the coffin was to be transferred to the village of Soloba, where Sidibe will be buried alongside other family members. "You can never dream of coming so far when you're from a small village and never went to school," the photographer said on hearing in 2009 that he had been awarded the top prize at Spain's prestigious PhotoEspana festival. — AFP

Malick Sidibe, laureat of the Hasseblad prize, photographing former cycling champion Damien Salmon in Plouha.







Cosplayer Maria Lopez, 23, poses for a portrait during a fair at the School of Dance in Managua. — AFP

## India says Koh-i-Noor diamond belongs to Britain

A priceless diamond that is part of the Queen Mother's Crown was given to Britain and not stolen, India's government yesterday told the Supreme Court, which is hearing a suit seeking its return. The 108-carat Koh-i-Noor gem, which came into British hands during the colonial era, is the subject of a historic ownership dispute and has been claimed by at least four countries including India. But India's Solicitor General Ranjit Kumar said the 19th-century Sikh king Ranjit Singh had given the stone to the British. It is now set in the crown that was worn

by Queen Elizabeth's mother until her death in 2002, and is on public display in the Tower of London.

"It was given voluntarily by Ranjit Singh to the British as compensation for help in the Sikh Wars. The Koh-i-Noor is not a stolen object," he told the Supreme Court. The court was hearing a suit filed by the All India Human Rights & Social Justice Front, a non-governmental organization, seeking the diamond's return. It asked the solicitor general to file an affidavit giving the government's stance on the issue.

The stone was presented to Queen Victoria in 1850

after the Anglo-Sikh wars in which Britain gained control of the Sikh empire of the Punjab, which is now split between Pakistan and India. Singh in turn had taken it from an Afghan king who had sought sanctuary in India. The diamond had been an heirloom of the Afghan monarchy and before then was in Persian royal hands, but its true origins remain a mystery. Its name translates as "Mountain of Light" and it is traditionally worn by a queen—it is said to bring bad luck to any man who wears it.

In 1976 Britain refused a request to cede the dia-

mond, citing the terms of the Anglo-Sikh peace treaty. "I could not advise Her Majesty the Queen that it should be surrendered," said Jim Callaghan, prime minister at the time. Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron has also said he would oppose returning the diamond. "If you say yes to one you suddenly find the British Museum would be empty," he told NDTV television in 2010. "It is going to have to stay put."—AFP



Bride Marianna Fenn and bridegroom Toby Ricketts stand on a jetty in Akaroa harbor, New Zealand, Saturday. — AP photos



Bride Marianna Fenn, left, and bridegroom Toby Ricketts hold rings made of pasta during their marriage ceremony on a boat.



A Pastafarian wedding party sails on a pirate-themed boat in Akaroa harbor.



A Pastafarian wedding party sails on a pirate-themed boat in Akaroa harbor.

## With this rigatoni, I thee wed: The 1st Pastafarian wedding

The wedding rings were made of pasta, the ceremony was held on a pirate boat, and when it came time for the kiss, the bride and groom slurped up either end of a noodle until their lips met. New Zealand on Saturday hosted the world's first Pastafarian wedding, conducted by the Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster. The group, which began in the US as a protest against religion encroaching into public schools, has gained legitimacy in New Zealand, where authorities recently decided it can officiate weddings.

Saturday's ceremony was all about having fun. The guests came dressed as pirates and shouted plenty of hearty "Aaarrhs." The groom, Toby Ricketts, vowed to always add salt before boiling his pasta, while bride Marianna Fenn donned a colander on her head. The church claims that global warming is caused by pirates vanishing from the high seas, and that there is a beer volcano in heaven.

"The Flying Spaghetti Monster created the world. We know that," said marriage celebrant Karen Martyn,

aka the Ministeroni. "We weren't around then and we didn't see it, but no other religion was around to see it either, and our deity is as plausible as any other." The church has been battling to gain legal recognition around the world, with mixed success. It was formed in 2005 as a way to poke fun at efforts in Kansas public schools to teach not only evolution, but also "intelligent design" - the idea that the universe must have had a creator.

Church founder Bobby Henderson said in an email that he thought it was odd that most weddings still have such an entanglement between religion and government. "It's sad that so many people feel pressured to do the traditional Christian wedding even when they don't relate to much of the religion," he said. "If people can find some happiness in having Pastafarian weddings, that's great, and I hope no one gives them any flack about it."

Ricketts, 35, a voiceover artist, and Fenn, 33, a lawyer and photographer, said they've been a couple for four years but decided just three weeks ago to get

married, after another Pastafarian couple's plans to be first to wed fell through. Ricketts said he found out about the church because he's been making a documentary about why religions don't pay taxes. Fenn said she grew up on a small New Zealand island where people had alternative ideas about how to lead their lives.

"I would never have agreed to a conventional marriage, but the idea of this was too good to pass up," Fenn said. "And it's a wonderful opportunity to celebrate my relationship with Toby, but in a way that I felt comfortable with." The wedding feast was an all-pasta affair, while the wedding cake was topped with an image of his noodliness, the Flying Spaghetti Monster. Martyn said she hoped people could find happiness in eating, drinking, being with friends and being kind-hearted. "That be what we're all about," she said. — AP