



13 teachers arrested over private tuitions in coffee shop



India revokes tycoon Mallya's passport over loan probe



Congo music legend Papa Wemba dies on stage



Ulloa nudges Leicester closer to title, Arsenal held



150 FILS  
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40 PAGES

## PANEL RAISES PRICES OF WATER FOR APARTMENTS

MP CALLS FOR TURNING CUSTOMS INTO INDEPENDENT BODY



Min 22°  
Max 41°  
High Tide 02:10 & 13:10  
Low Tide 07:42 & 20:25

### KSE FIRST PUBLIC ENTITY TO BE PRIVATIZED

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Stock Exchange (KSE) is now fully operated by Kuwait Bourse Company and will officially join the private sector today, KSE announced yesterday. In statements to the press, Minister of Commerce and Industry Yousef Al-Ali described the move as a milestone and the start of a historic era of the privatization of the KSE in line with Capital Markets Authority's (CMA) law number 7/2010, which calls for complete privatization of KSE.

Chairman of the CMA Board of Commissioners Nayef Al-Hajraf hailed the move as a monumental chapter in the history of the stock exchange, one the nation's economy is in dire need of. Hajraf chronicled the history of KSE, which dates back to 1983, saying that through diligent efforts, KSE stands as amongst the region's biggest markets. The CMA chairman also underscored collective conviction that this move would help elevate KSE to unprecedented heights. Hajraf described KSE's entry into the private sector as a historic moment which marks the privatization of the first public sector entity.

Chairman of Kuwait Bourse Company Khaled Al-Khaled said that all parties involved worked tirelessly to make this move a reality.

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**KUWAIT:** Minister of Commerce and Industry Yousef Al-Ali (center) and Chairman of the Capital Market Authority's Board of Commissioners Nayef Al-Hajraf (second left) sign an agreement yesterday under which Kuwait Stock Exchange (KSE) becomes fully operated by Kuwait Bourse Co as of today. — KUNA

By B Izzak

**KUWAIT:** Head of the National Assembly's financial and economic affairs committee MP Faisal Al-Shaye yesterday said the panel has amended the price of water for investment apartments and it will be debated by the Assembly along with electricity charges tomorrow. Shaye said under the new amendment, the price of the first 3,000 gallons of water will be KD 2, which increases to KD 3 for the second 3,000 gallons and to KD 4 for consumption above 6,000 gallons.

The new proposed charges apply only to apartments for both Kuwaitis and expatriates, the lawmaker said. Shaye explained that the draft law to raise electricity charges, to be debated by the Assembly tomorrow for the second and final vote, totally excludes all Kuwaiti citizens from the increase. He said the committee has made all necessary amendments to exempt Kuwaitis residing in private houses and apartments from the increase and will be subsequently applied to expatriates, in addition to commercial and agricultural sectors and government offices.

According to the draft law, the increases will be applied on expatriates only after 15 months of publishing the law in the official gazette unless the Assembly changes the dates. This means the electricity prices for expatriates will rise only in the second half of next year. Shaye strongly defended the Assembly's action on a government charter outlining its vision on economic reform and boosting non-oil revenues in the face of the sharp drop in oil prices.

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**HEBRON:** Palestinian 12-year-old Dima Al-Wawi is greeted by relatives after her release from an Israeli prison at her home in Halhoul village near this West Bank city yesterday. — AP

### ISRAEL FREES YOUNGEST PALESTINIAN PRISONER

**HEBRON:** Israel freed 12-year-old Palestinian Dima Al-Wawi from prison yesterday, more than two months after jailing her for an alleged attempted stabbing attack, and she was warmly welcomed back in her West Bank town. Wawi was handed over to Palestinian authorities at Tulkarem crossing point into the northern West Bank, an AFP photographer said. She then travelled to her family home near Hebron in the south of the territory, where she was greeted by the city's governor and dozens of well-wishers with hugs, tears, songs, flags and speeches.

She was arrested, wearing her school uniform, on Feb 9 at the entrance to a Jewish settlement in the occupied West Bank and found to be carrying a knife. Under a plea

bargain with Israeli military prosecutors, Wawi pleaded guilty to attempted murder and possession of a knife and was sentenced to four months in an Israeli prison and a further six-week suspended sentence. "She is the youngest Palestinian girl ever imprisoned," her lawyer Tariq Barghouth posted on Facebook.

Barghouth said Wawi's defence team had asked the military court for her early release and it agreed. According to Israeli military law, minors from age 12 can be charged, uniquely in the world according to United Nations children's agency UNICEF. Israel is currently holding about 450 Palestinian minors, around 100 of whom are under 16. — AFP

### SAUDIS AWAIT PRINCE'S VISION OF FUTURE KING SACKS WATER AND ELECTRICITY MINISTER

#### AMERICANA SEES 'POSITIVE SIGN' IN STAKE SALE

**DUBAI:** Kuwait Food Co (Americana) has edged closer to completing the sale of a controlling stake to a Dubai-based investment firm, the chairman of the consumer foods firm told reporters yesterday. Adepto, the investment firm, has not extended due diligence on Americana after an April 7 deadline, Americana Chairman Marzouk Al-Kharafi said on the sidelines of a shareholder meeting, which he interpreted as a "positive sign".

Kharafi also dismissed as "speculation" media reports about the size of the transaction and said that he did not anticipate any regulatory hurdles associated with the deal. Adepto said in February it had signed an initial agreement to buy a 69 percent stake in Americana from the Al Khair holding company, which is owned by Kuwait's Al-Kharafi family. The investment firm is led by one of Dubai's top businessmen, Mohamed Alabbar, who is also the founder and chairman of the emirate's biggest real estate developer, Emaar Properties.

Adepto also represents other financial investors from Gulf Arab states, it has said, without disclosing their names. Kharafi said he expected growth for Americana if the transaction closes. The firm owns the Middle East franchises for fast food chains KFC and Pizza Hut and has a total market value of \$3.42 billion, according to Thomson Reuters data. — Reuters

**RIYADH:** Saudi Arabians are anticipating with hope, doubt and worry the release of a government plan to liberate the kingdom from its reliance on oil, which could solve deep-rooted problems but bring economic pain. Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the 30-year-old son of King Salman, is to announce today his "Saudi Vision 2030", which is expected to set goals for the next 15 years and a broad policy agenda to reach them, official sources say.

Economic details of the vision, a package of state budget reforms, regulatory changes and policy initiatives for the next five years known as the "National Transformation Plan", are expected to be released four to six weeks later. Reform drives have come and gone in Saudi Arabia several times in the past few decades with only modest results. The kingdom remains dangerously dependent on oil exports and low global prices created a state budget deficit of nearly \$100 billion in 2015, emphasizing the need for change.

Hundreds of thousands of Saudis are speculating in newspapers, on television, in social media and in private conversations about the contents of today's announcement. Many, particularly young people, say they welcome change, believing it will bring jobs, new economic opportunities and eventually perhaps more social freedom - conceivably, for example, the right for women to drive.

Others doubt much change can be achieved in the kingdom's conservative society, or worry that the program will be painful as welfare benefits are cut to pro-



Abdullah Al-Husayen

ject state finances and the government pushes more Saudis into the private sector jobs instead of cushy public employment. The government's official Twitter account for the announcement, @SaudiVision2030, has gained 226,000 followers since it was launched last Wednesday. Prominent Saudi economist Abdulhamid Al-Amri said on Twitter that he had been hoping for such a comprehensive vision for over 10 years - a delay he believes has cost Saudi Arabia the equivalent of hundreds of billions of dollars. "The absence of such a vision led to the waste of trillions of riyals, the spread of monopolies, corruption, unemployment, poverty and the delay of development projects," he wrote.

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### INTERNET CLICKS COME WITH A CAUSE IN EGYPT

**AL-JENDAYA, Egypt:** Egyptian mother Aaz Menhom cups her hands under a running tap in her yard to let her young children Atef and Nada drink. "It's a blessing from God. I was bathing them once every four days, now they can wash every day," she says, beaming broadly. Menhom, 27, whose family share a sparsely-furnished one-room home with her sister and five nephews, used to have to ask for water at neighbors' doors.

Armed with a bucket, she had to repeat the exhausting process several times a day just so she could do her daily chores. But all that has now changed as a result of clickfunding, a concept launched in Egypt by a startup business, Bassita, that has transformed Menhom's life for the better. Bassita, which means "simple" in Arabic, is harnessing the growing Internet penetration in the country and raising funds through social networking campaigns. It posts

photos and videos of micro-development projects, and sponsors undertake the funding once a certain number of shares and "likes" are raised. "You're one click away from changing the world," reads a banner on the bassita.org website, founded in 2014 by two Frenchmen in their 30s who have settled in Cairo, Alban Menonville and Salem Massalha. The goal is to "revolutionize" online advertising, said Menonville.

"If I want Facebook advertising to reach a million people, Facebook will ask me a price," he said. "Instead of paying it to Facebook the idea is to pay it for something positive, and the Internet user will provide visibility," he said. "The user becomes a philanthropist," said Massalha, who is of Egyptian origin. "As far as we know, no one else uses this model."

The company has also boasted success in other fields. Partnered with a Cairo optician, it campaigned in 2014 to fund 1,000 pairs of

spectacles for craftsmen and women, including embroiderers in the impoverished Fayoum province, southwest of Cairo.

The dramatic improvement in Menhom's life came through a joint campaign with the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) to supply running water to 1,000 homes in southern Egypt. About 7.5 million people in Egypt have no access to clean water in their homes. A video showing the comedian Maged al-Kedawny, along with the Arabic hashtag "a click connects to water," was viewed on Facebook more than two million times in three days after the campaign's launch in February.

One hundred homes have been connected to piped water since mid-March, according to UNICEF. "In the next six months, 1,000 homes will be connected to water in four provinces," said its Egypt representative, Bruno Maes.

Continued on Page 13



**AL-JENDAYA, Egypt:** Aaz Menhom stands next to a running tap in her yard in this village in Bani Mazar province in Minya governorate on April 5, 2016. — AFP



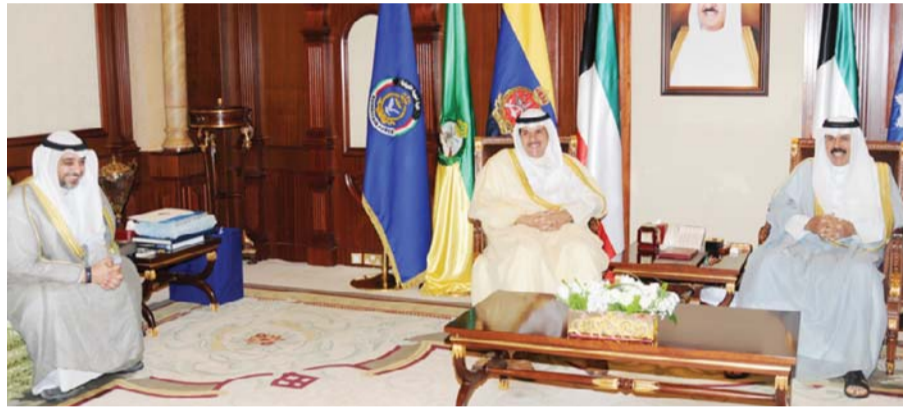
**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Chairman of Kuwait Banking Association, Chairman of Burgan Bank Majed Al-Ajeel, and association members.—Amiri Diwan and KUNA photos

## AMIR RECEIVES BANKING ASSOCIATION DELEGATION

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received the newly-elected Chairman of Kuwait Banking Association, Chairman of Burgan Bank Majed Al-Ajeel, and association members at Bayan Palace yesterday. The delegation presented to His Highness a report on the contributions of Kuwaiti banks to social responsibility (1992-2015). Deputy Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah attended the meeting.

Earlier, His Highness the Amir received His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Parliament Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem and First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah

Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince received Ghanem, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, and Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. His Highness the Crown Prince also received Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah, and Deputy Prime Minister, Finance Minister and Acting Oil Minister Anas Khaled Al-Saleh. His Highness the Crown Prince later received Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah, as well as State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah. — KUNA



**His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Information Minister Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah and Cabinet Affairs Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah.**

## KFH NAMES WINNERS OF BANKING CARDS CAMPAIGN'S LAST DRAW

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Finance House (KFH) named seven winners of the last draw of the new banking cards promotional campaign themed 'Shop and Win Back Up to KD 50,000 with KFH Cards' that had been launched in an attempt to encourage clients to use KFH credit, prepaid and debit cards while making purchases in Kuwait and overseas.

For every KD 10 spent on their KFH cards, clients got a chance to enter a draw and win back up to KD 500 of their daily spends for 100 days ending April 19th 2016. KFH Credit and Prepaid cards used in domestic and international retail spends and KFH Debit cards used in international retail spends were eligible for the daily draw.

The winners are Ahmad Saeid Abdulsalam, Omar Alrayes, Ayesha Alawadhi, Abdullah Bu Hamad, Abdullah Alhajraf, Khaled Shamwah, Sabika Alasfour, Meshal Almesban and Mohammad Aladwani.

KFH strives to continuously offer its clients new promotions and discounts in order to distinguish them among peers, not to mention to further bolster bank's leading position in the field of banking cards.

KFH marketing campaigns play a significant role in underlining KFH's principles that include boosting sales, and benefitting clients and merchants.

This new campaign is part of KFH's efforts to reward its clients and grant them additional value; thus achieving customer satisfaction and boosting their confidence. The campaign also aims at enhancing the bank's presence especially that it dominates the largest market share in the field of banking cards.

It is worth noting that KFH has won several awards in the field of banking cards which reiterates its success and efficiency in banking cards market. KFH enjoys high confidence and leadership in the market in addition to high quality products which have enabled it to achieve growth in cards market and increase the number of customers. KFH occupies the leading position as the issuer of banking cards and one of leading banks at the GCC level.

## KUWAITI CHARITY FUNDS SMALL ENTERPRISES IN SUDAN

**KHARTOUM:** Kuwaiti charity 'Direct Aid' has launched a fresh humanitarian initiative in Sudan aiming at financing small-sized enterprises and extending loans to female breadwinners. The initiative, which was announced by the charity's office in Khartoum at a launching ceremony attended



**Kuwaiti Ambassador in Sudan Talal Al-Hajri**

by Kuwaiti Ambassador in Khartoum Talal Al-Hajri, Khartoum Minister of Social Development Amal Al-Bili and several other Sudanese officials, targets a total 1,500 families with half a million euro in the first year of the project. "Kuwait, through its official and unofficial charities and societies, has long been interested in supporting charitable projects worldwide, including Sudan," the ambassador addressed the ceremony. He hoped that the project would enable a large number of people to carry out productive enterprises that could offer them a decent life. Meanwhile, Khartoum Minister of Social Development Amal Al-Bili hailed the initiative as aiming at turning from relief to social development. She voiced much appreciation to the State of Kuwait and its charities for their relentless support to the people of Sudan, Africa and world countries. — KUNA



## FM LEAVES FOR RIYADH

**KUWAIT:** Acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah left for Riyadh yesterday to participate in the opening of an international conference on late

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al-Faisal. The event is organized by King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies (KFCRIS), under the patronage of Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-

Saud. Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled was seen off at the airport by Assistant Foreign Minister for protocols Ambassador Dhari Al-Ajran and senior officials at the Foreign Ministry. — KUNA



## MONODRAMA FESTIVAL CONCLUDES 3RD SESSION

**KUWAIT:** The Third Kuwait International Monodrama Festival came to a close on Saturday night with staging 'Qoloub Shuja'a (brave hearts), written by the late Abdullah Al-Furaih, and directed and starred by Jamal Al-Radhan.

The performance, supervised by the Martyrs Bureau, tells the story of a father who conveys to his son a number of patriotic values and past experiences, it pays tribute to the noble people who sacrificed their lives in defense of the homeland during the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait (1990-91). It also highlights the role of the

Martyrs Bureau, an affiliate of the Amiri Diwan, in caring for the families of the martyrs who belong to 14 nationalities.

The festival constitutes an important juncture in the theatrical movement in Kuwait, in general, and the art of monodrama, in particular, said Assistant Secretary General of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) for the Arts Sector Dr Bader Al-Duweesh. "The Kuwaiti theater has had a remarkable influence regionally and internationally thanks to the presence of a number of distinguished troupes," he

said on the sidelines of the closing ceremony. Dr Duweesh thanked the participants in the festival for their rich contributions to the performances, lectures and symposium held during the week-long event. He also thanked chairman of the organizing committee Jamal Allaho and the members of the committee for their efforts to ensure the success of the last three sessions of the annual event. Opened on April 16 under the theme of 'Saad Al-Faraj Session', the festival brought together dozens of troupes, literary critics and artists from 12 countries. — KUNA

## News

In brief

### Kuwaitis in Vienna urged to carry int'l licenses

**VIENNA:** Kuwait Embassy in Austria has called on Kuwaiti nationals to carry International driving licenses, noting that the Kuwaiti driving license is not recognized by Austrian law. In a statement yesterday, the embassy called on Kuwaitis renting cars in Prague to abide by local laws and regulations in order to avoid violation of driving without a license, which carries a fine of between 36 and 2,180 euros.

### Golan Heights

**JEDDAH:** The Organization of Islamic Cooperation's (OIC) executive committee is due to hold an extraordinary meeting tomorrow to discuss the recent Israeli escalations in occupied Syrian Golan Heights, an OIC statement said yesterday. The meeting is being held at the request of the State of Kuwait, which holds the rotating chair of the OIC's Council of Foreign Ministers, to take a unified and strong position by the OIC Member States on the Israeli government's meeting that was held in the occupied Syrian Golan Heights and the remarks by Israel's Prime Minister that "the Golan Heights will forever remain under Israeli sovereignty."

### Waqf conference

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Cooperation between Islamic endowment organizations (Waqf in Arabic) worldwide is critical to showcase their illustrious history and role towards development, a Kuwaiti official said yesterday. Deputy Secretary General for administrative affairs at the General Secretariat of Awqaf in Kuwait Eman Al-Hemaidan said that a two-day forum on Awqaf was hosted by the Australian capital, Sydney, the first time such a forum takes place in a non-Islamic nation. The forum, entitled 'Waqf Development in Non-Islamic nations' comes as part of efforts to solidify Kuwait's position as the capital for Islamic Culture for the year 2016.

### Arab-African meeting

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait is set to co-chair with Chad an extraordinary meeting of the Arab-African partnership Coordination Committee due in Equatorial Guinea on April 29, a Kuwaiti diplomat said yesterday. During the meeting, Equatorial Guinea is expected to make a presentation on logistical preparations for hosting the Fourth Africa-Arab Summit, as well as recommendations to be produced by the second meeting of the summit's preparatory committee slated on April 27, Assistant Foreign Minister for Africa Ambassador Hamad Al-Mashaan said. Apart from Kuwait, Egypt, Mauritania, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Zimbabwe and Chad are poised to participate in the committee's meeting, he added. — KUNA

## KUWAIT TO HOST MEETING FOR INT'L COALITION COMMUNICATION GROUP

**KUWAIT:** A meeting of a communication group affiliated to the international coalition against the so-called Islamic State (IS) convenes today, Kuwait's Foreign Ministry said in a statement yesterday, noting that the meeting will be chaired by UAE, US and the UK.



**Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah**

"Kuwait, with the help of international community, will strive to combat IS and eliminate other terrorist groups who use the latest technologies and social networks to spread their ideologies," Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Suleiman Al-Jarallah said in the statement.

This use of technology is detrimental to social security; hence, it's important to gather international efforts to write up a multifaceted stringent strategy, which includes both household members and media outlets, he said. On the other side of the spectrum "of spreading violence and terror," this strategy will aim at promoting moderation, peace and tolerance, he explained. —KUNA

## KUWAIT, CUBA SIGN KD8.8 MILLION LOAN FOR HYDROELECTRIC POWER PLANTS

**KUWAIT:** The Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) signed on Saturday a loan agreement, worth KD 8.8 million, with Cuba to finance about 34 hydroelectric power plants there. The project aims to make use of existing water reserve behind dams to generate electricity and provide thermal fuel so as to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, in addition to expand and improve electrical services for the rural areas, said a statement issued by Kuwait's Embassy in Cuba.

This contributes to providing social services, achieving rural development, promoting agricultural production and reducing migration to big cities across the country, the statement added. The project, which will be fulfilled in seven years, will contribute also to supporting national industry, training institutions and scientific research centers at universities in this sector, it noted.

It includes establishing about 34 plants with a total capacity of 14.6 megawatts, and some distribution plants. The project's total cost is estimated at about KD 21.8 million, Kuwait's loan will cover about 40 percent of it, the statement pointed out.

The loan will be repaid with 21 years, including a grace period of seven years, in 28 semi-annual installments with an interest rate of three percent. Kuwait has signed with Cuba five loans so far, including today's, worth KD 22.5 million (\$76.5 million).

The deal was signed by KFAED Director General Abdulwahab Al-Bader and some representatives of the Cuban side, in the presence of Kuwait's Ambassador to Cuba Bader Al-Awadhi and KFAED regional manager for Latin America and Caribbean countries Abdullah Al-Musaibeh. — KUNA

## KUWAIT'S INFLATION UP 3.08% IN MARCH

**KUWAIT:** The Consumer Prices Index (CPI) recorded a hike of 3.08 percent last March, compared to the same month last year, a recent statistical report shows. The index figure for the month of March 2016 recorded an increase at 140.7, by 0.72 percent as a result of the rise in prices of some major groups of influential figures in the movement and low standard of some groups, said the report released by the Central Statistical Bureau. The figure showed stability in three main influential groups, and a drop in another four groups, while it recorded a hike in five others, it said.

### Main groups

The index for the first main group 'food and beverages' went up by 4.14 percent last March, compared to the same month of 2015, on a monthly basis of 0.45 percent. The price of six commodities within the same group fell on a monthly basis, as it witnessed a rise in two groups and stability in two groups, according to the report.

The figure of the second main group 'tobacco and narcotics' was stable in March, on a monthly basis, but went up on an annual basis of 1.13 percent. The report showed a dip in the figure of the third group 'clothing and footwear' by 0.62 percent on an annual basis, and a drop on an annual

basis of 0.08 percent. Inflation of the fourth group 'housing services' shot up by 6.25 percent last March by 6.25 percent on an annual basis, and that of the fifth group 'furnishing equipment and household maintenance' hiked by 2.89 percent on an annual basis.

### Other groups

The sixth group 'health' rose by 11.27 percent in March on an annual basis, and 0.31 percent on a monthly basis. The seventh group 'transport' fell on an annual basis of 1.44 percent, while the eighth group 'communication' went up on an annual basis of 0.79 percent.

The ninth group 'recreation and culture' went down on an annual basis of 1.15 percent, but the 10th group went up on an annual basis of 3.48 percent. The 11th group 'restaurants and hotels' edged up on an annual basis of 2.36 percent, and the last group 'miscellaneous goods and service' witnessed an annual hike of 0.69 percent.

This monthly report issued by the Central Statistical Bureau gives indications of the rates of changes in prices for the commodity groups influencing the families' expenditure and the ability of consumer spending. This index uses the year 2007 as the base year. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** Health Minister Ali Al-Obaidi (left) and KFAS Director-General Dr Adnan Shihab-Eldin sign the MoU yesterday. — KUNA



**Health Minister Ali Al-Obaidi (left) and KFAS Director-General Dr Adnan Shihab-Eldin shake hands after signing the agreement.**

## MINISTER STRESSES COOPERATION WITH KFAS FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

**KUWAIT:** A memo of understanding (MoU) hammered out yesterday between the Ministry of Health and the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) helps support medical science research in Kuwait, Health Minister Ali Al-Obaidi said.

Speaking at a signing ceremony, the minister said the agreement chiefly intends to stimulate and support medical research in order to update the base of health indexes and to provide policy and decision-makers with scientific data based on medical and health research. It also aims to promote medical and

health research, draw relevant cooperation policies and suggest research programs and priorities in Kuwait, the minister added.

The Health Ministry has reshaped the permanent committee for research coordination in collaboration with Kuwait University and other research agencies, mainly the KFAS, with a view to promoting scientific research in the country, he noted.

Meanwhile, KFAS Director-General Dr Adnan Shihab-Eldin said the MoU reflects continuing cooperation between the KFAS and the Health Ministry, noting that the KFAS

has allocated more than 60 percent of its research budget for medical and health domains.

The deal stems from the significance of coordination and communication and unification of visions and priorities among public and private scientific foundations, he pointed out. It aims at making use of scientific expertise in the fields of medical and health sciences and adopting research programs and activities that could fulfill relevant national needs and provide a local database of various health indexes, he added. — KUNA



## API UNDERSCORES MINOR PROJECTS' SIGNIFICANCE

**KUWAIT:** Minor projects are highly innovative and could prove beneficial to boosting the country's exports, Director General of the Arab Planning Institute (API) Dr Bader Malallah said yesterday. In a speech to kick off the inaugural contest of minor projects, organized by Kuwait Banking Association (KBA) and the Australian

College of Kuwait (ACK), Malallah said that Kuwait's experiences with minor projects have been dismal.

Failure has yielded a new vision, one that focuses on economic activities designed to assist the youth to hone their skills, Malallah said. Moreover, he said that the aim of the contest is to provide aspir-

ing entrepreneurs with the platform for which to display their projects. In order to boost Kuwait's economic capacity, these minor projects should be propagated, Malallah added. The contest features 13 projects of minor to moderate scale in various realms, including technological and environmental. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** Somnath Menon, Chief Operating Officer, Karl Stumke, General Manager, International Banking, and other ABK officials receive the award from Commerzbank AG representatives.

## ABK RECOGNIZED FOR 'EXCELLENT QUALITY' FROM COMMERZBANK AG

**KUWAIT:** Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) was recently presented the Award for Excellent Quality by Commerzbank AG. ABK was recognized because of its exemplary delivery of commercial payments and financial institution transfers in 2015.

Somnath Menon, Chief Operating Officer at ABK expressed his pleasure in receiving the award saying: "We are delighted to see ABK's commitment to international quality standards being recognized by Commerzbank. ABK's partnership with leading correspondent banks such as Commerzbank underlines our dedication to evolve as an institution that constantly provides our customers with the highest quality of service

always." In its role as an international financial institution, ABK utilizes the latest internationally approved systems and methods to facilitate transactions on a global scale such as Straight-through-Processing (STP). STP automates financial transactions and involves the capturing and processing of transactions in a single cost-effective simplified system.

Commerzbank AG is ABK's main Euro clearing bank and a leading international commercial bank with branches in more than 50 countries.

For more information on Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait please visit [www.eahli.com](http://www.eahli.com) or contact a customer service agent via 'Ahlan Ahli' at 1899899.

## ASIAN BANKER NAMES GULF BANK CHIEF IT OFFICER IN 'LEADING PRACTITIONERS' LIST

**KUWAIT:** Gulf Bank announced that its Chief Information Technology (IT) Officer, Peter Roberts, has been included in The Asian Banker's 'List of Leading Practitioners in the Middle East for 2016'. The Asian Banker is one of Asia's leading consulting companies in financial services research, benchmarking, and intelligence. Roberts received his award at The Asian Banker Awards Ceremony, which was held at the Ritz Carlton, Dubai International Financial Centre, United Arab Emirates, on 20 April 2016, in conjunction with the Middle East and Africa International Banking Convention.

Commenting on the award, Roberts said: "It is a privilege to be included among The Asian Banker's 'List of Leading Practitioners in the Middle East for 2016'. Gulf Bank is dedicated to leveraging technology in line with global practices to offer our customers innovative and easy to use products, with enhanced security and convenience. I am very proud to be part of such a dynamic and committed team and look forward to continuing our record of practical technical excellence and helping to turn new ideas and thinking into reality."

Each year, The Asian Banker selects around 30 senior bankers from local and regional banks to be recognized under the 'List of Leading Practitioner in the Middle East' program. The individuals identified have, in its opinion, significantly contributed to shaping their respective institutions and the banking and financial services industry at large. Individuals on the list may be responsible for a range of aspects, such as technology, innovation, retail banking, channels and analytics.

So far in 2016, Gulf Bank has been awarded, "Best Credit Card Program in the Middle East" by The Asian Banker; "Best Treasury and Cash Management Provider in Kuwait" by Global Finance; "Corporate Bank of the Year" and "Best Banking Rewards Program" awards from The European; "Best Retail Bank in Kuwait" and "Best Retail

Customer Service' awards from International Finance Magazine. The Bank has also received the 'Best Corporate Governance Financial Services Award for Middle East 2016' at the Ethical Boardroom Corporate Governance Awards, and has won the 'Finance and Banking' category at the Corporate LiveWire Global Awards 2016.

To learn more about any of Gulf Bank's awards, products and services, visit one of Gulf Bank's 56 branches, call the Customer Contact Center on 1805805, or log on to [www.e-gulfbank.com](http://www.e-gulfbank.com), Gulf Bank's bilingual website.



**Peter Roberts, Gulf Bank's Chief Information Technology Officer**

## EXHIBITIONS HELP PROMOTE TOURISM, ECONOMY: MINISTER



**KUWAIT:** Minister of Information Sheikh Salman Al-Sabah tours the Jewelry Arabia Kuwait exhibition. — KUNA

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait is keen on organizing specialized exhibitions which contribute to promoting economy and tourism, and turning the country to a Gulf tourist hub, said Minister of Information Sheikh Salman Al-Sabah.

Sheikh Salman, also Minister of State for Youth Affairs, made the statement on Saturday to reporters on the sidelines of inaugurating the Jewelry Arabia Kuwait exhibition. The event is organized by Bahrain's Arabian Exhibition Management for the first time since 25 years outside the Kingdom. About 60 companies from 17



countries are taking part in the four-day event. Kuwait is a key destination of hosting specialized exhibitions as it is keen on opening its markets for brothers, he said. He expressed his hope that the exhibition would contribute to achieving the joint Gulf commercial and economic integration. The minister lauded the Bahrain-Kuwait cooperation in several fields, noting that the exhibition will be an addition to all participating bodies and visitors. Meanwhile, Bahrain's Ambassador to Kuwait Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad Al-Khalifa commended the



brotherly relations between the two countries, stressing that Kuwait has a long history of commerce and civilization.

He voiced his happiness for organizing this joint exhibition for the first time outside the Kingdom. "Hosting this event in Kuwait under the wise political leadership is a source of pride," he said. He also praised keenness of Sheikh Salman on sponsoring the event that will contribute to making its success and excellence. The event includes some collections of leading designers and renowned global brands of jewelry and watch showcase. — KUNA

# MINISTRY ADVISOR RECEIVED THOUSANDS IN BRIBES

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** An Arab advisor working for the Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW) was referred to the public prosecution on charges of receiving hundreds of thousands of dinars in bribes from companies that have contracts with the ministry, Undersecretary Mohammed Bushehri announced yesterday. "Upon instructions from Minister Ahmed Al-Jassar, who had been tipped off concerning the advisor's activity, the ministry coordinated with criminal investigators and the suspect was caught red-handed," Bushehri explained. By tracking the suspect's bank account, hundreds of thousands of dinars were discovered, deposited by the companies working with the ministry, Bushehri added. He also noted that the companies involved would also be held accountable.

#### Social allowances

Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Planning and Development Hind Al-Subaih

stressed that the ministry was investigating why some citizens had been unlawfully receiving social allowances. Speaking on attending a workshop on designing and executing social security networks in the Middle East and North Africa region organized by the World Bank, MSAL and IMF, Subaih stressed that such workshops aimed at providing social aid as well as turning social security recipients into productive people through crafts and small projects.

Commenting on reports about her intention to reshuffle her assistant undersecretaries, Subaih denied such intentions for the time being, noting that any reshuffling would only be done for greater good and not just for the sake of reshuffling. Commenting on co-operative societies' problems, Subaih stressed that Sulaibikhat Co-op Society's board had been dissolved, while Sulaibiya Co-op Society's board would be dismissed soon since it has already resigned. She added that the treasurer of Rabiya Co-op Society had made some complaints about corruption and violations, but had not provided enough proof

and failed to show up several times to investigate his claims.

#### Court orders

In other news, the comprehensive court yesterday ordered Dasma and Bneid Al-Gar Co-op Society to pay a fruit supply company the sum of KD 194,000 the co-op owed it and had been reluctant to pay. Separately, the comprehensive court also fined a citizen KD 4,000 for insulting a police officer on duty. The court of misdemeanor had fined the suspect KD 50 in absentia, but he contested the verdict before the comprehensive court, which rejected his appeal and fined him KD 4,000.

#### Sport officials

The parliament's sports and youth committee yesterday met to discuss the suspension of Kuwaiti sport activities, said the committee chairman MP Abdullah Maayouf, noting that the committee decided to summon sport officials next week to investigate the matter.

Legalese

## UNDERSTANDING PAID ANNUAL LEAVE

By Attorney Fajer Ahmed

**W**orkers all around the world have different work cultures and capabilities. Some of us work better under stress, but some of us are more productive when things are planned. Some workers need breaks while others can work non-stop. And although more and more successful international companies are leaning towards giving employees the freedom of choosing their culture, most governments around the world feel the need to write clear guidelines that define employee rights in order to create a general work culture within the country, focusing on hours and time off for employees.

I know I have written comprehensively on employee rights, but this will be my first time talking in detail about vacations and days off. It is important for us to rest as human beings, because excessive work can negatively affect our health physically and mentally.

#### Annual leave

**Question: I have been working for a company in Kuwait for one year and six months now, and I have never taken a day off. I have now requested for my 30-day annual leave, and at first they did not agree. Do they have the right not to agree? Also, now that they have agreed, they are asking me for a one month salary deposit to make sure I come back. Is this legal?**

**Fajer:** According to the Kuwait labor law, you deserve a 30-day paid annual leave per year. Your company may not permit you to leave at a certain time, but they are not allowed to stop you from taking your annual leave. As for you having to pay a deposit in the amount of your salary in order for you to take your annual leave, this is illegal - in every sense. They cannot ask you for money in order for you to take your annual paid leave!

In fact, article 71 of Kuwait labor law clearly states that your company needs to pay you your paid leave before you take the leave. So if you are leaving for one month, they should pay you one month's salary in advance.

#### Days off

**Question: My contract does not state how many days off I have, so how do I know how many days off I deserve? Does it matter how many years I have been working in the company?**

**Fajer:** If your contract does not state how many days off, I suggest you double check your company's regulations and policies. Most big companies in Kuwait have regulations and policies that touch on matters such as annual leaves. If your company does not have regulations and policies, then please note that your days off are as per Kuwait labor law, which is 30 paid days per year.

**Question: I have been working for a company for six years and although my benefits and salary have changed over the years, I have not signed anything except my initial contract when I first came to Kuwait six years ago. I checked the policies and regulations of the company and it says that employees that have been working for five years and more are entitled to 40 days off, but my contract states 30 days off. Which one is legally binding?**

**Fajer:** In the labor law, when there is conflict between two sources that grant an employee his or her rights, then the source that gives more appealing benefits to the employee are the ones that are legally applicable. Therefore, since the policies and regulations of the company state that the employee has 40 days, the policies and regulations shall be applicable.

To make things clearer, if it was the other way around, the contract would be applicable. Let us say the policies and regulations of the company stated that all employees have a 30-day annual leave but your contract stated 40, then your contract is applicable and not the policies and regulations.

#### Days in balance

**Question: I have 60 days off in balance, and I have no intention in taking the days off anytime soon. My company says I need to take days off, because I cannot accumulate more than two years of leave. Is this true?**

**Fajer:** Yes, it is true as stated in article 72 of Kuwait labor law: "The worker shall have the right to accumulate his leave entitlements provided that they do not exceed two years and he shall be entitled to take his accumulated leave all at once subject to the approval of the employer."

**Question: Do I have the right to ask for compensation for my leave days instead of taking a holiday?**

**Fajer:** Yes, you can do so if you agree to the above, as your employer cannot force you to take compensation instead of leave. With that said, this is usually done at the end of an employee's contract. In other words, if an employee's contract ends, but he has a leave balance, he should be receiving compensation for his days.

For any legal questions or queries, email [ask@fajerthelawyer.com](mailto:ask@fajerthelawyer.com).

## 13 TEACHERS ARRESTED FOR GIVING PRIVATE TUITION AT COFFEE SHOPS



By Meshaal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** Thirteen expatriate teachers were arrested while giving private tuition illegally at a coffee shop, labor inspectors said yesterday. They include eight working for the private sector, four working in public schools and one on a dependent visa, said Mohammed Al-Thufairi, Head of the Manpower Public Authority's inspection team. They were arrested during a crackdown carried out as per instructions of Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Hind Al-Subaih and in collaboration with the Interior Ministry's residency affairs detectives, Thufairi added.

#### No parks

Municipal Council member and head of Farwaniya committee Nayef Al-Sour said that Ardiya and Sabah Al-Nasser do not have any parks for residents to relax. Accordingly, Sour demanded building two parks in those areas, especially since other areas include at least one or two parks. Separately, Municipal Council member and head of Hawally committee Yousif Al-Ghareeb demanded building speed bumps outside Failaka primary school for girls in Salwa in order to protect the schoolgirls and their parents from speeding cars.

## FILIPINOS IN KUWAIT EARNESTLY WATCH LAST PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE

By Ben Garcia

**KUWAIT:** Barely two weeks before presidential elections in the Philippines which is set to be held on May 9, Filipinos in Kuwait watched the last of three scheduled presidential debates organized by the Philippines Commission on Elections (Comelec). The debate, which was simulcast worldwide via TFC and Internet livestreaming, concluded with a clearer stance on many issues including criminality, economy, the rebellion in Mindanao, education, traffic congestions, etc.

Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) who are based in Kuwait anxiously awaited candidates to address the issues of OFWs. "I want to vote for a candidate that will finally show us the way. We want to have better opportunities in my home country - we need jobs, we need business opportunities, we need to improve peace and order. Maybe I will finally go home and stay there for good," said Premitivo Aguilar, a Filipino artist based in Kuwait who has been working abroad for the last 20 years.

#### 10 million

There are about 10 million Filipinos abroad and 1.3 million of them are eligible to vote in this year's election. Voting by OFWs started on April 9 and will end on the day of election in Manila (May 9). Frontrunner and Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte promised to create another department (ministry) for OFWs to look after the welfare of all Filipinos abroad. He also promised to create a bank that will serve as the central remittance office for all OFWs and place them where OFWs are located, and implement mandatory monitoring of all Filipinos abroad.

"The first sign of abuse against OFWs must be responded promptly and they will be sent home. They must receive mandatory repatriation and the government will undertake all costs so they can go back free of charge," Duterte said. "Whoever wants to go home, the government must have the legal aid to help them; every consular section must look after the welfare of every Filipino wherever they are in the world," he added.

Administration candidate Mar Roxas said he would focus more on strengthening the country's economy so as to convince OFWs to stay home. "If the economy is strong, which is continuously growing now, we can create more job opportunities, and if any OFW wants to go home for good, they can with all the opportunities created. We want OFWs to come home so you can be with your families - we care for families because they are the center of our society," he said.

#### New heroes

Grace Poe, another presidential contender, sees OFWs as the new heroes of the nation and its families. She expressed her gratitude to all OFWs who are continuously helping save the country's economy for many decades now. "Your contribution to the country's economy is really unmatched. So I propose to implement a universal healthcare system for OFWs. A health card will be provided for OFWs and we will talk to every country where you are staying to honor that card because the government will fund it. We will talk to every country bilaterally to protect you and your interests. We will talk to Saudi Arabia and tell them that we do not want its kafala (sponsorship) system; but foremost, I want to prepare the economy here in the Philippines so that if ever you want to go back home, we are ready," she said.

For Miriam Defensor Santiago, she would like to see that going abroad is a matter of choice and not a necessity. "A stronger economy must be accomplished. While we are still in this present status, a legal assistance fund is very important for OFWs. Filipinos must have a hotline to DOLE or OWWA, so they can ask for help if necessary directly. Our consul general should be ready at all times when they are in trouble," she said. Santiago is also hoping for an immediate implementation of the regional plan of the 10-member Asian countries to open their countries economically to all member states. "Once the 10 economies of 10 member countries open, it will create more jobs," she added.

#### Pension program

Vice President Jejomar Binay promised a pension program for all OFWs. "I would also like to propose a roadmap for OFWs to create a plan on what to achieve after years of working and staying abroad," he said.

The last presidential debate took place in the province of Pangasinan, the third richest voting population in the country. In the latest presidential survey, Duterte widened his lead in a poll ahead of the May 9 elections. Duterte, who is from southern Philippines' Davao city, led with 34 percent, followed by Poe with 22 percent, Binay at 19 percent and Roxas at 18 percent amongst the top contenders in the survey.

## MEC MENA wins Agency of the Year at the Festival of Media



MEC MENA was named Media Agency of the Year at the Festival of Media awards in Dubai last night. The awards celebrate the very best in media thinking and communications across the Middle East.

MEC also won Campaign of the Year for MAGGI Diaries, a comprehensive content case that documents four housewives' cultural and culinary journey as an inspiration to women throughout the region. Other wins included 3 Gold, 3 Silver and 3 Bronze Awards, making MEC the most awarded media agency of the night.

"This accolade is a testament to the amazing work our team in MENA delivers for clients," said Mohan Nambiar, CEO of MEC MENA. "Producing excellent results is our motivation and this recognition will further strengthen our commitment to delivering and driving our clients' businesses and brands forward. I am over the moon for all the team across the region."

Alastair Aird, MEC global COO and head of MEC's newly launched content offer MEC Wavemaker, commented, "This is just fabulous news and a huge endorsement for the MEC Wavemaker team in the Middle East. These wins are proof positive that our approach to creating content is the right one; it's specifically designed to make change happen - and measurably improving a brand's performance. This thinking is the root of the MENA team's success. And I couldn't be any prouder."

Rainer Mueller, Communication and Marketing Services Director, Nestlé Middle East, added, "MEC team! The recognition of your work at the Festival of Media Awards is well deserved, amazing, outstanding, mind-blowing, incredible... We are all very proud of you and we feel privileged to work with the best media agency team of the year. Keep on your passion to build great Nestlé brands, to delight our consumers, to enhance their lives, and win as many awards as you can. As mentioned yesterday, the new benchmark is now winning global awards. No pressure..."

#### MEC won in the following categories:

Agency of the Year

**Campaign of the Year:** MAGGI Diaries - A Journey of Women, Food and Change

#### Best Content Creation

Gold - MAGGI Diaries - A Journey of Women, Food and Change - MAGGI  
Bronze - Meet the Family - Nescafé Arabiana

#### Best Use of Digital Media

Gold - Mother to a Generation - NIDO Fortigrow

#### Best use of YouTube (new for 2016)

Gold - Celebrate the Breakers' Breaks - KIT KAT  
Silver - MAGGI Diaries - A Journey of Women, Food and Change - MAGGI

#### Best Engagement Strategy

Silver - Meet the Family - Nescafé Arabiana

#### The Creative Use of Media Award

Silver - Mother to a Generation - NIDO Fortigrow

#### Best Communications Strategy

Bronze - Celebrate the Breakers' Breaks - KIT KAT

#### Best Use of Content

Bronze - MAGGI Diaries - A Journey of Women, Food and Change - MAGGI



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Crime

Report

MAN MURDERED NEAR JLEEB RESTAURANT

**KUWAIT:** A man was stabbed to death near a restaurant in Jleeb Al-Shuyiukh, and police arrested the killer. A security source said that the victim, an Indian man, had two stab wounds, while the killer who had turned himself had an injury to the back of his thigh.

Harasser arrested

A harasser insulted policemen in Jabriya when a female citizen sought their help. He was arrested and charged with insulting a public employee and encouraging vice crimes.

Bird hunting

The supervision and inspection department is looking for a person who was reported hunting birds on a tree in a school while wearing a police uniform. A security source said the department received video footage showing a policeman hunting birds with a slingshot. He had also parked his car illegally and will be arrested by a special team.

Search for swindler

Less than 72 hours after news broke about an engineer who was accused of swindling several citizens out of millions and escaping out of Kuwait, a new case has emerged of another female citizen engaged in the same activity. A security source said that around 25 male and female citizens filed complaints at different police stations claiming they were swindled by a woman who made them believe she could invest their money and took thousands of dinars from them.

Bloodstains

Farwaniya Security Director Maj Gen Saleh Al-Enezi ordered three bedoon (stateless) men and two women to be sent to criminal detectives to find what happened before their arrest. The five were arrested in a car that had bloodstains and one of them had a stab wound. Preliminary information is that they were involved in a fight with others, and investigations are ongoing to find exactly what happened.

Illicit services

Vice detectives arrested a woman with dual citizenship, one of them European, following information that she organized suspicious activities and presented forbidden services on social media. A security source said detectives received information about the illicit services of the woman and when it was confirmed, she was put under surveillance and arrested. She said she is known among the youth as (Um Sh.). The suspect was born in a European country and is aged 23. She had photo albums of girls of various nationalities. She was sent to concerned authorities. — Al-Rai and Al-Anbaa

STRIKE LED TO INITIAL LOSSES OF \$200 MILLION

**KUWAIT:** Between \$175 million and \$200 million were lost during a three-day strike carried out by oil unions last week, according to official oil sources' estimations. Crude oil's production reached 3 million barrels per day while gas production slightly exceeded one billion cubic feet on Saturday, the sources added. Further, the sources expected production to rise over the coming two days to reach 3.1 million barrels per day when all gathering centers have rejoined service. Notably, the strike had stopped over 60 percent of Kuwait's oil production. However, oil exports did not stop or drop during the strike period thanks to oil reserves in northern and southern oil reservoir hangars of up to 12 million crude oil barrels. — Al-Anbaa



Water fees

Al-Anbaa

SO BEAUTIFUL TO SIT WITH MY AUNTS

By Nermin Al-Houti

Every Monday evening, children, grandchildren and loved ones meet in my father's aunts home, and this time we discussed a topic many families are suffering from - not only Kuwaiti, but many foreign societies too - lack of contacts. Discussions began when we spoke about WhatsApp and what this technological advancement has done in severing the ropes of contact between people. Rather how did this technology made writing the basis of human relations, which made most societies lose the language of speaking!

Here, my aunt spoke and asked those present, "who among you calls to check on others? May Allah help us, everyone is just holding the device and writes! Why do not we pick it up and call?"

That is the truth, and this is the case with most societies - communications are through a piece of metal, through which we write our feelings, sadness and pain, then it is sent through the electronic space without carrying the tones of sadness or joy. We are only satisfied with smiley or sad faces according to the occasion for which it was sent. Our emotions became enclosed inside that screen, and our feelings are drawn through those preset faces in the device until we lost the resonance of the smile and we forgot the groans of sadness. We miss the word "hello".

The word began with feelings, until it ended with our work, upbringing and the conditions of our lives, so how many officials process transactions with their employees through WhatsApp, and how many mothers check on their children, family and home through a message they send to the nanny in the house asking and answering what she asked? Who among us does not have many groups in which they write to check on the world's conditions and its societies, until our world is residing in WhatsApp.

We lost meditation, and we no longer live in our world, which made us not have the feeling to enjoy what the world has from the beauties from Allah's creations. We became similar to our devices, as they carry much information, but do not have emotions and feelings. When Almighty Allah created the human being, he differentiated between him and the rest of His creations with brains and speech, and here we are today, rejecting the bounty Almighty Allah gave us on speech, and accept to just be mere machines that write what they do not feel because they lost speech, and prefer to become a metal machine under the name of development and progress.

A final word: My aunt says, "Contact me as long as I am alive, and do not shed a tear for me when I die." — Translated by Kuwait Times

Al-Anbaa

VISIT PEOPLE BLINDLY

By Abdulmohsen Al-Meshari

A young man asked another where he worked and then asked him how much he earned. "I get KD 350 a month," he said, and the response was shocking: "What...only KD 350? How can you manage?! Your employer does not deserve the effort you exert in his company!" Accordingly, the poor guy started hating his job and quit after his pay raise request was rejected by the employer. He is now jobless.

A woman asked another who had just given birth what her husband brought her as a present, and she said nothing. "How come? Do you not mean anything for him?" the woman persisted, leaving the house after that time-bomb-like question that exploded when the husband returned home in the evening and they both argued, ending up divorced. The whole problem started with a simple word the visiting woman said.

Someone noticed that a father is relaxed and satisfied living alone. "Why doesn't your son visit often? How do you believe that he is too busy to do so," he asked, leaving the father developing hard feelings towards his own son.

It is as if Satan himself was speaking through those people's tongues, asking simple questions that seem like everyday ones. Why didn't you buy so and so? Why don't you own...? How can you bear with this life or person...? How dare you allow this?

These are questions people ask out of ignorance, curiosity or even passing their free time without knowing what their impact on the people we ask might be. The bottom line of this article is remind everybody, including me, to mind our own business and to go to people's houses blindly and come out dumb. I am not claiming to be perfect, but only reminding you and myself to do good. (The above was one of the most meaningful messages I received.) —Translated by Kuwait Times



WARBA BANK EDUCATES KUWAITI YOUTH ON ISLAMIC BANKING

PARTICIPATED AT AUM CAREER FAIR

**KUWAIT:** Warba bank, the fast-growing which provides a wide spectrum of banking and investment services compatible with Islamic sharia according to international levels, announced its participation at AUM's career fair which was held the university's campus on April 18. Warba's participation stems from its social commitment to develop graduates' professional skills while educating them on Islamic banking which nowadays witnesses a tremendous traffic in both of Kuwait and worldwide. The bank is keen to support the youth capabilities and pave the way for them to join its workforce.

In this regards, Warba bank confirmed its commitment to participate at different career fairs being held for young graduates. The bank elaborated that its social strategy, is mainly focused on supporting this category since it anticipates its leading role in boosting the banking sector which is one of the main pillars of the national economy and the fastest-growing.

During the fair, a professional team from Warba communicated with the students and provided them with all needed information about Islamic work field along to the bank's leading services and products.

It should be noted that Warba bank achieved several milestones in supporting youth. Previously, the bank organized several training program for graduates around the banking sector where over 50 young Kuwaiti had an insight on different banking operations. Moreover, and in support to its endeavor to employee young Kuwaiti talents, the bank certified the trainees who have successfully passed the extensive training program.

The bank as well continues to invest in its workforce and develop their professionalism by constantly having them enrolled in training seminars and workshops, which is efficient in shaping their skills to provide top-notch services to customers.

The bank as well continues to invest in its workforce and develop their professionalism by constantly having them enrolled in training seminars and workshops, which is efficient in shaping their skills to provide top-notch services to customers.

FINAL DECISION ON NEW AIRPORT PRACTICE TODAY

**KUWAIT:** The cabinet is expected during its weekly meeting today to make the final decision regarding the practice to build a new airport in Kuwait. According to informed sources, it is almost certain that the cabinet will instruct the Ministry of Public Works (MPW) to give the KD 1.312 billion project to Limak company. The source added that cabinet is scheduled also to discuss several other topics on its weekly agenda including bills approved by the government, proposed grilling motions and development projects.

In other news, Kuwait International Airport's arrival lounge was heavily crowded Saturday morning when six flights landed at the same time. Passengers crammed up before seven passport counters and they all waited at one baggage carousel, according to eye-witnesses. All arriving passengers were mixed, as there was lack of efforts to organize the newly-arrived passengers, except for a police captain who filled in for all his colleagues. Passengers were visibly frustrated especially since the high traveling season is yet to start. They questioned wondered how things would be like during vacations, Eids and the upcoming holidays.

An airport staff member who spoke on the condition of anonymity urged the Ministry of Interior and the Directorate General of Civil Aviation to provide enough staff members and to have more control over the total number of landing planes at one time. "If planes land with 20 minute intervals, the lounge will not be so crowded," he said. —Al-Anbaa and Al-Rai

EXEMPTION FROM ELECTRICITY INCREASES OPENS DOOR FOR MANIPULATIONS: EXPERTS

**KUWAIT:** Following the parliament's decision to treat Kuwaitis living in investment buildings (apartments) equally to those living in private residence areas (houses) and exempting them from electricity and water consumption price increases, a number of real estate experts said the decision was illogical and that it might open the door for manipulations and violations.

Board chairman of Sadeer Trading and Contracting Co and Kuwait Chamber of Commerce member Tareq Al-Mutawwa said that the decision was not feasible and that no country in the world imposes such laws. "It is unreasonable to charge expats differently from citizens for their electricity

and water consumption though they both live in the same building," he stressed, noting that such decisions might lead to various manipulations and endless problems.

Mutawwa added that the investment sector was not qualified to put such decisions in effect because most buildings have only one electricity meter or gauge for the entire building. "We do realize that the aim of the new prices is to rationalize consumption and spending...but how can that be done by exempting private residence areas?" he wondered, noting that MPs were only after pleasing their voters and the people at the expense of Kuwait's best interest. "Logically speaking, citizens must pay

the cost of their electricity and water consumption, therefore, I believe that the consumption categories would be the ideal system to be used," he noted.

Meanwhile, real estate expert Tawfiq Al-Jarrah said the decision and that of lifting subsidies ought to be studied carefully to avoid creating imbalances and problems that would affect the sector and the entire state. Jarrah added that many expats live in private residential areas and wondered how they would pay for their consumption. "This decision might turn private residence areas into investment ones," he warned, calling for unifying consumption prices for everybody and paying citizens special financial subsidies. — Al-Jarida





**Virginia governor enables 200,00 felons to vote in November**

MONDAY, APRIL 25, 2016

PAKISTAN'S KHAN SEES PANAMA PAPERS AS SECOND CHANCE TO OUST PM

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HANNOVER, GERMANY: US President Barack Obama, left, and German Chancellor Angela Merkel chat during the opening of the Hannover Messe industry fair yesterday.—AP

## OBAMA MAKES FAREWELL VISIT TO GERMANY ON FREE TRADE PUSH SHOWED UNITY WITH HIS 'FRIEND' THE CHANCELLOR

**HANNOVER, GERMANY:** US President Barack Obama arrived on a valedictory visit to Germany yesterday to see his "friend" Chancellor Angela Merkel, but their show of unity looked unlikely to silence opposition to their push for a transatlantic trade pact.

Obama jetted into the northern city of Hanover from London, where he warned yesterday that it would be a "mistake" to send Western troops into Syria and cautioned Britain on reduced global influence should it quit the EU.

While his fifth and final official trip to Europe's biggest economy is expected to cover global crises, one of the headline goals is to advance negotiations on what could become the world's biggest free trade agreement. Both sides say they aim to see the Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) finalised, at least in its broad outlines, before Obama leaves office in January.

However Merkel's Economy Minister Sigmar Gabriel cast doubt on those ambitions Sunday, warning the deal "will fail" if the United States refuses to make concessions in the protracted talks.

"The Americans want to hold fast to their 'Buy American' idea. We can't accept that. They don't want to open their public tenders to European companies. For me, that goes against free trade," Gabriel, a Social Democrat who is also Germany's deputy chancellor, told business newspaper Handelsblatt.

His comments came a day after tens of thousands of people marched against the US-EU free trade deal through the streets of Hanover, where Obama and Merkel are to open what is billed as the world's largest industrial technology fair on yesterday night.

### Syria troops 'a mistake'

Before he left for Germany, Obama told the BBC the United States would continue efforts to broker a transition deal between the Syrian regime and its moderate opponents to end the bloody civil war, but warned against "simple solutions". "It would be a mistake for the United States, or Great Britain, or a combination of Western states to send in ground troops and overthrow the Assad regime," he said.

Rather, he called for "international pressure" on "all the parties, including Russia and Iran, who, essentially, are propping up Assad". In the same interview, Obama reiterated his warnings about a so-called Brexit, saying "Britain would have 'less influence globally' if it voted to leave the European Union in June.

During Obama's seven years in office, the Democrat US president and the conservative German chancellor have grown closer and Obama sees her, among European leaders at least, as first among equals.

"I consider Angela one of my closest partners and also a friend," Obama told the Bild newspaper. "I've worked with

her longer and closer than any other world leader, and over the years I've learned from her," he said. Obama's two-day visit kicks off with talks with Merkel and a joint news conference. It will wrap up Monday with a keynote speech in which Obama is expected to frame his vision of transatlantic relations, and a meeting with Merkel and the leaders of Britain, France and Italy.

For Obama, the trip will be an opportunity to burnish his legacy and bolster Merkel, whose fortunes at home have been hit by her handling of the migration crisis. Critics say her openness to refugees only accelerated the vast flow of people coming from Syria and beyond. "I believe that chancellor Merkel's approach to the refugee crisis—and that of many Germans—has been courageous," Obama said, voicing an opinion heard less often in Germany than Merkel would like.

### Rocky relationship

Despite the diplomatic niceties, the relationship between Obama and Merkel has also had its

rocky moments. Merkel has backed austerity as the remedy to European sovereign debt crises, while Obama came down firmly in favour of short-term spending to buy time and a way out of the morass.

Officials admit US-German relations hit a low when it emerged that the US government had been tapping Merkel's phone. But they also point to the Ukraine crisis as a turning point that helped both leaders begin to work in tandem. Merkel, according to Obama, "has been essential to maintaining European unity against Russia's aggression against Ukraine". Yet Germany's strength as a partner in Europe has its limits. —AFP

## NOTICE / WARNING



This is to notify that Caesars International Travel Company has terminated the services of Mr. Vineeth Mathew Varghese - nationality: Indian - Civil ID no: (283030905524) as Reservation Officer w.e.f 9th November 2015, and warns anyone dealing with him on behalf of the company.

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The company also disassociates itself from all acts performed by the above mentioned person on behalf of Caesars Travel Company and Caesars Int'l Shipping & Logistics Co. from the date mentioned herein.

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## AFRICA'S LONGEST-SERVING LEADER EYES RE-ELECTION

**MALABO, Equatorial Guinea:** Africa's longest-serving leader, President Teodoro Obiang Nguema, was set to extend his 36-year hold on power yesterday as the tiny oil-rich nation of Equatorial Guinea went to the polls. Initially scheduled to be held in November, the vote was brought forward following a presidential decree, with no reason offered for the change.

Obiang, now 73, has ruled the west African country with an iron fist since 1979 when he ousted his uncle Francisco Macias Nguema, who had ruled the country since independence from Spain in 1968, in a coup and had him shot by firing squad. The president voted late morning in the race which pits him against six other candidates, but with Obiang almost certain to win, the main opposition parties have boycotted the poll.

In the last election in 2009, he was returned to office with a sweeping 95.37 percent of votes and was confident of victory once again. "I can't tell you the percentage, but we are going to win," he told reporters. "It is the continuation of what Equatorial Guinea is today. That is to say our country is a benchmark in democratic terms... it's an example." Obiang's regime has frequently come under fire from human rights groups for suppressing dissident voices and the media, as well as for widespread corruption.

Equatorial Guinea has become sub-Saharan Africa's third biggest oil producer in recent years, with oil revenues accounting for more than 70 percent of national income. But the wealth has not trickled down. While per capita national income stands at over \$10,000, more than half the population lives on less than two dollars a day. The incumbent is running as head of a coalition of 10 parties that includes the ruling Democratic Party of Equatorial Guinea. His adversaries in yesterday's vote, which ended at 6:00 pm (1700 GMT), are mainly newcomers and figures with very little political weight. Results are not expected until Thursday.—AFP

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## US DEMANDS SUDAN ALLOW REBEL CHIEF'S RETURN

**WASHINGTON:** The United States blamed South Sudan's government yesterday for the latest hold-up in efforts to end its civil war, but warned both sides the world will not tolerate backsliding. Rebel leader Riek Machar had been due to fly to Juba from Ethiopia on Saturday to join a transitional government, but President Salva Kiir's government blocked his flight. He is now due to return on Monday, but US special envoy to South Sudan Donald Booth said repeated delays had called into question both parties' commitment to the agreement.

"This marks the third time this week that plans for Machar to return ... have been frustrated by one side or the other," the senior diplomat told AFP in

Washington. "Machar frustrated the first two attempts by a last minute insistence on bringing additional security forces and additional heavy weapons - RPGs - with him," he said. "Then yesterday it was the government that closed the airport," he added. "The implementation of the peace agreement requires the formation of the transitional government - and that requires the return of Riek Machar to Juba."

Booth warned that the United Nations Security Council is due to meet tomorrow to discuss the crisis and that both sides could face additional international sanctions. "They are definitely on notice," he said. "The entire world is expecting them to live up to their word and to

implement the agreement that they signed last August."

### Humanitarian Crisis

Civil war erupted in South Sudan, Africa's youngest nation, in Dec 2013 when Kiir accused his former deputy Machar of plotting a coup. Tens of thousands of people have been killed and more than two million have been driven from their homes in a conflict that has reignited ethnic divisions. Machar fled Juba when war broke out but has since agreed to forge a transitional unity government with arch-rival Kiir, returning to his former post of vice-president.

Booth said Kiir's government had at the last moment raised questions about

screening for the weapons that Machar's 195 men would be allowed to bring with them. But he said two former Ethiopian officers had been mandated by ceasefire monitors to check the group's AK-47 assault rifles, machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades. "There really was no excuse for this," he told AFP. "So it really does call into question the activity over the past week and the real willingness of both parties to proceed with this."

Asked whether Washington now believes Juba's assurances that the flight can go ahead next week, Booth was cautious. "Well, they've come up with reasons one side or the other for this not to happen," he said. "They are going to have to

work this out between the two of them."

### Descent Into Chaos

South Sudan became independent from Sudan in 2011 after many years of fighting with northern loyalist forces, and the United States has long been a key supporter. But the young country's rapid descent into in-fighting has frustrated its international backers and caused a terrible humanitarian disaster and refugee crisis. A 1,370-strong armed rebel force has arrived in Juba as part of the peace deal and government forces say they have pulled all but 3,420 of their troops from the city. All other combatants will have to remain at least 25 km outside the capital. — AFP



**HUSSAINIYAH, BAGHDAD:** People sit near the scene of a suicide attack after a suicide car bomb struck a checkpoint yesterday. — AP

## CLASHES ERUPT BETWEEN KURDISH, SHIITE FIGHTERS IN IRAQI TOWN

### SUICIDE BOMBER KILLS AT LEAST 14

**BAGHDAD:** Heavy clashes erupted yesterday between Kurdish peshmerga forces and Shiite paramilitary troops inside a contested town north of Baghdad, a spokesman said.

A quarrel between two neighbors, a Kurd and a Shiite Turkoman, evolved into a military confrontation between the peshmerga forces and Shiite fighters who share the town of Tuz Khormato, said Karim al-Nouri, the spokesman for Iraq's paramilitary forces - which are made up mainly of Shiite militias.

Al-Nouri accused the Kurds of using tanks and shelling homes belong to Turkoman residents, saying senior officials were in talks to end the conflict. He said the clashes resulted in casualties, but didn't give a specific number.

Alarmed by the development, Iraq's Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi ordered the Joint Military Command to "take all the necessary mil-

itary measures to control the situation in Tuz Khormato and to avoid the consequences." Local officials in the town were not available to comment. Tuz Khormato is located about 130 miles (200 kilometers) north of Baghdad.

### Suicide bomber

Elsewhere yesterday, officials said suicide attacks targeting security forces in two Baghdad suburbs killed at least 14 people and wounded dozens.

A suicide car bomb struck a checkpoint in the eastern suburb of Hussainiyah late Saturday night, killing six civilians and four soldiers, a police officer said. He added that another 28 people were wounded in the attack. The Islamic State group claimed the attack in a statement posted on a militant website.

Another police officer said a suicide car bomb

struck a passing military convoy at around the same time in the southern suburb of Arab Jabour, killing four soldiers and wounding eight others. A day earlier, a suicide attack on a Shiite mosque in the southwestern suburb of Radwaniyah killed 13 worshippers and wounded 35 others, a police officer said.

Three medical officials confirmed the casualty figures from the weekend attacks. All officials spoke on condition of anonymity as they were not authorized to release the information. Iraqi forces backed by US-led airstrikes have pushed IS back on a number of fronts in recent months, clawing back territory seized by the extremists during their sweep across northern and western Iraq in 2014.

But IS has continued to carry out attacks in and around Baghdad, mainly targeting security forces and the country's Shiite majority. — AP

## JEWISH WOMEN PRAY AT HOLY SITE, ANGERING RABBI

**JERUSALEM:** A liberal women's group has held a special Passover prayer service at a Jerusalem holy site, drawing criticism from the site's ultra-Orthodox rabbi, who called it a "provocation." The group, Women of the Wall, calls for gender equality at the Western Wall, the holiest Jewish prayer site. The site is overseen by a rabbi who enforces conservative customs, including separate prayers for men and women.

The group planned to hold an all-female "priestly blessing," a prayer typically done by men, but Israel's attorney general banned it from doing so. The Justice Ministry said a women-led priestly blessing has never been held at the Western Wall. In a compromise, dozens of women prayed yesterday, but a group leader said they did not perform the priestly blessing. Some Orthodox Jews protested. — AP

## ALGERIAN PRESIDENT GOES TO SWITZERLAND FOR MEDICAL TESTS

**ALGIERS:** Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika has traveled to Switzerland for medical tests. A statement from the president's office says the 79-year-old went to Switzerland on Sunday for a private visit and "periodic medical tests." The statement doesn't give any more details. Bouteflika suffered a stroke in 2013. He only rarely makes televised appearances and is always seen in a wheelchair.

Rumors about the Algerian president's poor health have resurfaced recently, especially after a photo was posted on French Prime Minister Manuel Valls' Twitter account on April 10 in which he appears weakened. Bouteflika took office in 1999 and has been re-elected three times, with the constitution modified to do away with a limit on presidential mandates. — AP

## KURDISH FORCES TO KEEP TERRITORY TAKEN FROM SYRIAN GOVT FORCES

**BEIRUT:** Regional Kurdish security forces will keep territory taken from pro-Syrian government forces during a three-day outbreak of violence in northeastern Syria, a truce document announced yesterday showed, with both sides to release prisoners taken during the clashes.

Fighting broke out between Kurdish Asayish forces and pro-Syrian government security forces on Wednesday in Qamishli, near the Turkish border. A peace accord took effect at 3:30 p.m. (1230 GMT) on Friday and the truce was holding on yesterday.

A Syrian Kurdish YPG official said this was the second biggest outbreak of fighting between President Bashar al-Assad's government and regional Kurdish forces since Syria's civil war began in 2011. During the fighting, Asayish forces seized control of a number of government-controlled positions in the city of Qamishli in Hasaka province as well as its main prison.

The truce agreement said "the prevailing military situation will be maintained as it is," indicating territory taken from government control will not be returned. Syrian Kurdish regional interior minister Canaan Barakat, speaking in Qamishli yesterday to announce the terms of the truce, said 17 civilians, 7 Asayish members and 3 YPG members had been killed in the clashes.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based group tracking the five-year-old war in Syria, said 22 members of Syrian government forces died and 80

were taken prisoner. It said 23 civilians died during government shelling of Kurdish-controlled areas.

The agreement also said: the structure of the pro-government national defense forces present in Qamishli will be reconsidered; prisoners and detainees taken by both sides will be released; compensation will be paid to civilians who lost relatives or suffered material damage during government shelling; and, the regime is to no longer interfere in the local society.

The truce also stipulated the state of emergency in the city should be lifted. The Observatory said life is slowly returning to normal but the main market remains closed. Qamishli, near the Turkish border, is mostly controlled by Kurdish security forces, though pro-Assad forces still hold a few areas in the city centre, and its airport. This co-existence is largely peaceful.

Syrian Kurdish forces now dominate wide areas of northern Syria and set up their own government there. Syria has become a patchwork of areas controlled by the government, an array of rebel groups, Islamic State militants, and Kurdish militia.

Mediators have struggled to get Syria's combatants to honor a Feb. 27 cessation of hostilities deal to enable peace talks to proceed. On Friday, the UN special envoy for Syria vowed to take the talks into next week despite a walkout by the main armed opposition with both sides gearing up to escalate the war. — Reuters

## OBAMA URGES RESTORATION OF SYRIA CEASEFIRE

**HANOVER, GERMANY:** US President Barack Obama made a plea yesterday for warring parties in Syria to return to peace talks and "reinstat" a ceasefire, as he defended a refusal to establish a safe zone in the country. "I spoke to (Russian) President Vladimir Putin early last week to try to make sure that we could reinstate the cessation of hostilities," he told a news conference in Germany.

That was the clearest indication yet that the White House believes an increasingly troubled ceasefire has disintegrated as regime and rebel bombardments claimed 26 lives yesterday.



**HANOVER, GERMANY:** US President Barack Obama waves from a balcony after a welcoming ceremony upon arrival at the Herrenhausen Palace yesterday. — AFP

The White House has argued that the ceasefire, while imperfect, is worth pursuing and is the only way out of the brutal five-year conflict. But its stance is bringing Washington and its allies into ever more conflict with rebel groups on the ground, which continue to be on the receiving end of regime attacks.

Pressure on Obama is increasing in the United States, which in is the throes of a fiercely fought presidential election race, and from European allies who want to stop vast flows of refugees.

Many of Obama's critics have called for a safe zone to be established, something that could bring Western militaries into direct conflict with Russian and Syria forces already in the area. Obama insisted that establishing a safe zone "is not a matter of an ideological objection on my part." "As a practical matter, sadly, it is very difficult to see how it would operate short of us essentially being willing to militarily take over a big chunk of that country."

Obama has come under criticism for his handling of Syria's war, with opponents saying he could have done more to stem the bloodshed. But the US president-who came to power vowing to withdraw US troops from Iraq and Afghanistan-has stood fast in his opposition to plunging the United States into another ground war in the Muslim world. — AP

## YEMENI, UAE TROOPS ENTER QAEDA-HELD CITY

**ADEN/KUWAIT:** Yemeni and Emirati troops advanced into the southern port city of Mukalla yesterday, officials and residents said, entering a stronghold of Al-Qaeda's Yemeni wing for the first time in over a year of war. Fighter jets from the mostly Gulf Arab alliance pounded the city on Sunday and killed 30 militants, residents said, as the military coalition ramped up an offensive to wrest swathes of southern Yemen from Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP).

Mukalla has been the centre of a rich mini-state that Al-Qaeda built up over the past year as it took control of an almost 600-km band of Arabian Sea coastline and pocketed customs revenues from the port. Losing Mukalla would take away the AQAP's main source of revenue, which has enabled it to thrive for over a year, but the alliance offensive appeared too strong for it to withstand. "The liberation of Mukalla from the hands of the Al-Qaeda terrorist organization has begun," local governor Ahmed Saeed Bin Breik said in a statement.

"Al-Qaeda fighters are departing," said one resident who reported that coalition armoured vehicles and armed forces had entered the city. Local officials said clerics and tribesmen had negotiated with the militants to get them to leave Mukalla peacefully and residents said their fighters were withdrawing westward to neighboring Shabwa province. Dozens of armoured vehicles and hundreds of troops gathered in Ramah, around 70 km north of Mukalla, to prepare to move in, they added.

Yesterday's air strikes on Al-Qaeda in Mukalla were carried out in coordination with a ground offensive in militant-controlled territory further west, a Yemeni military official said. The push is being led by the United Arab Emirates, which has been training and arming local recruits for months, according to southern Yemeni tribal and political sources. The UAE is part of a mostly Gulf Arab coalition that intervened in Yemen's civil war in March last year to support the internationally recognised government after it was forced into exile by the armed Houthi group, an ally of Iran.

### Winning Back Territory

Sunday's air strikes come as Yemen's government meets with the Houthis in Kuwait to try to find a solution to the conflict. Around 6,200 people have died in the war, which has focused mostly around the country's Houthi-controlled centre and north, while a security vacuum spread in the south. The United States has for years used drone strikes in Yemen to target AQAP, which has plotted to place bombs on international airliners and claimed credit for the Charlie Hebdo magazine attack in Paris last year.

Fearing more air strikes, residents reported that local families were bundling into cars and driving

out of town. On Saturday, Yemeni troops battled Al-Qaeda at Al-Koud near Zinjibar, another southern city considered an Al-Qaeda stronghold, while an air strike from a drone killed two suspected Al-Qaeda fighters south of the city of Marib. In a statement on its official Twitter account, AQAP said it carried out a suicide bombing attack against the government troops pushing into al-Koud.

The Houthis control the capital Sanaa in the north while the Saudi-backed Yemeni government has tried to re-establish itself in the southern port city of Aden. Only in the last month has its fledgling army begun to make gains against the militants and organize to take back lost territory. — Reuters



**LAHJ, Yemen:** Forces loyal to the Saudi-backed Yemeni president patrol a street in this southern city yesterday during an operation to drive Al-Qaeda fighters out of the southern provinces. — AFP



# TRUMP TELLS CONNECTICUT VOTERS HE'S 'NOT TONING IT DOWN' 'EVERYTHING I SAY I'M GOING TO DO, FOLKS'

**BRIDGEPORT, Connecticut:** A confident Donald Trump told supporters on Saturday that he's not changing his pitch to voters, a day after his chief adviser assured Republican officials their party's front-runner would show more restraint while campaigning. "You know, being presidential is easy - much easier than what I have to do," he told thousands at a rally in Bridgeport, Connecticut. "Here, I have to rant and rave. I have to keep you people going. Otherwise you're going to fall asleep on me, right?" Trump declared to the crowd that he has no intention of reversing any of his provocative policy plans, including building a wall along the length of the Southern border with Mexico.

"Everything I say I'm going to do, folks, I'll do," he said. Trump's new chief adviser, Paul Manafort, met Thursday with top Republican officials and told them his candidate, known for his over-the-top persona and brashness, has been "projecting an image" and that "the part that he's been playing is now evolving."

## Clinton on Trump

Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton, speaking at a rally in Central Falls, Rhode Island, warned voters that Trump is attempting to modify his positions as he seeks to appeal to a broader audience beyond the Republican primaries. "Trump keeps saying things like, 'You know, I didn't really mean it. It was all part of my reality TV show. Running for president will be on your screen,'" Clinton said. "Well, if we buy that, shame on us."

Clinton said Trump wants to "go after every one of the rights we have." She also ripped into Trump and Texas Sen. Ted Cruz's ability to conduct foreign policy, telling the rally inside a steamy high school basketball gym, "What they say about the world is not only offensive, it's dangerous."

At a rally in Waterbury, Connecticut, earlier Saturday, Trump joked about how it's easy to be presidential, making a series of faux somber faces. But he said told the crowd he can be serious and policy-minded when he has to be. "When I'm out here talking to you people, I've got to be different," Trump said.

The Republican front-runner and most of his rivals in both parties were out campaigning Saturday across the quintet of Northeastern states holding primaries on Tuesday - Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Rhode Island and Connecticut. For the Republicans, in particular, the stakes are high as Trump looks to sweep the remaining contests and reach the required 1,237 delegates needed to clinch the nomination, while his rivals Texas Sen. Ted Cruz and Ohio Gov. John Kasich look to thwart his efforts and force the race into a contested convention. If the convention goes to a second ballot, many pledged delegates become free to vote for any candidate.

## Trump on Cruz

Trump once again suggested that Cruz is ineligible to run for president because he was born in Canada. "Rafael! Straight out of the hills of Canada!" he declared, referring to the Cuban-American Cruz by his given name. Most experts say that Cruz is eligible to serve in the White House even though he was born to an American mother on Canadian soil, but Trump has worked to sow doubts.

Cruz, in Pennsylvania on Saturday, addressed around 1,000 supporters in a high school outside Pittsburgh, saying that Tuesday "is going to be a pivotal day" in the Republican presidential contest. But the Texas senator also traveled on Saturday to Indiana, which doesn't vote until next month. He spoke to nearly 1,000 people at the Boone County Fairgrounds in Lebanon, Indiana, promising to protect religious liberty if he became president.

Polls show Trump with a double-digit lead in Pennsylvania, but he has a single-digit lead in Indiana where Cruz's deep evangelical roots could give him a boost. Clinton campaigned in Connecticut before her visit to Rhode Island. She joined families at a doughnut shop in New Haven, a few blocks from Yale University, where she attended law school and met her future husband, President Bill Clinton. She discussed ways to raise wages, promote early childhood education and reduce the pay gap between men and women.

"Equal pay - we shouldn't be talking about it in 2016. It is almost embarrassing," Clinton said. Workers described their struggles with employers, home foreclosure and low wages. Clinton said it was "way past time that we have a raise in the nationwide minimum wage" of \$7.25 an hour and said the nation should support cities and states like New York and California "that are willing to put a higher floor under low-wage workers."

Clinton's rival, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, spoke to a boisterous crowd of mostly young people in Baltimore and railed against big banks and highlighted his differences with Clinton on everything from the minimum wage to free-trade agreements.

Sanders hammered at "disastrous trade policies," describing them as not a sexy issue but an important one, saying that "we are seeing corporatism after corporatism shut down in the United States, throw millions of workers out in the street, people who are earning a living wage."

In an interview for NBC's "Meet the Press," Sanders said he's trailing Clinton because "poor people don't vote." He added: "That's just a fact. That's a sad reality of American society. And that's what we have to transform." — AP



**BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT:** Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks during a campaign rally on Saturday. — AP

## VIRGINIA GOVERNOR ENABLES 200,000 FELONS TO VOTE IN NOVEMBER

**RICHMOND:** More than 200,000 convicted felons will be able to cast ballots in the swing state of Virginia in November under a sweeping executive order Gov. Terry McAuliffe announced Friday. The Democrat said restoring the rights of felons to vote and run for office will help undo the state's long history of trying to prevent African-Americans from fully participating in our democracy. "This is the essence of our democracy and any effort to dilute that fundamental principle diminishes it, folks, for all of us," McAuliffe said on the steps of Virginia's Capitol, before a crowd of more than 100 people that included many felons. Left-leaning advocacy groups were there as well, handing out voter registration forms.

Republicans called the order a bald-faced political move by McAuliffe - a close friend of Democratic presidential front-runner Hillary Clinton - to help his party hold onto the White House. "I am stunned yet not at all surprised by the governor's action," House Speaker William J. Howell said in a statement. "This office has always been a stepping stone to a job in Hillary Clinton's cabinet."

Republicans said ex-offenders who committed violent crimes, like murder, should not be allowed to vote or have other civil rights restored. "Terry McAuliffe wants to ensure that convicted pedophiles, rapists, and domestic abusers can vote for Hillary Clinton," said Senate Republican Caucus Chairman Ryan T. McDougle.

Kimberly Carter, 45, filled out a voter registration card shortly after watching the governor's speech. Now working as a customer service representative, she said she's been prevented from voting her entire adult life after a drug arrest in her late teens. "You make a mistake, 20 years later you're still paying for it," she said.

## Who is effected

Nationwide, nearly 6 million Americans are barred from voting because of laws disenfranchising felons, according to The Washington-based Sentencing Project. Virginia, Iowa, Kentucky and Florida are the only states that still remove voting rights for felons for life unless a state official restores them.

Such policies make black Americans of voting age four times more likely to lose their voting rights than the rest of the adult population, disenfranchising one of every 13 African-American adults nationwide, but Virginia is even more punishing. It's among three states where more than one in five black adults have lost their voting rights, according to a recent Sentencing Project report. Howell said Republicans are reviewing whether McAuliffe overstepped his legal authority. Republicans pointed to a letter written by a lawyer for Democratic Gov. Tim Kaine in 2010 rejecting the idea that the governor had the ability to grant blanket restoration of rights. McAuliffe said he is certain he has such authority after consulting with legal and constitutional experts, including Virginia Attorney General Mark Herring.

Constitutional scholar A.E. Dick Howard, who presided over the most recent rewrite of the Virginia Constitution 45 years ago, said McAuliffe has broad discretion in restoring civil rights, and has now ended one of the last remaining legacies of an earlier constitutional convention that was "committed to white supremacy." "The last ghost of the 1902 convention was buried today," Howard said. The governor's order enables every Virginia felon to vote, run for public office, serve on a jury and become a notary public if they have completed their sentence and finished any supervised release, parole or probation requirements as of April 22. — AP



**RICHMOND:** Gov. Terry McAuliffe holds up the order he signed to restore rights to felons in Virginia at the Capitol on Friday. — AP

## TEEN SHOOTS 2 OUTSIDE PROM BEFORE COP KILLS HIM

**ANTIGO, WISCONSIN:** An 18-year-old gunman opened fire outside of a high school prom in northern Wisconsin, wounding two students before a police officer who was in the parking lot fatally shot him, authorities said yesterday.

The attack happened late Saturday outside the Antigo High School prom, said Eric Roller, the chief of police in Antigo, a community of about 8,000 people roughly 150 miles north of Milwaukee. Roller said the gunman - later identified as Jakob E. Wagner - shot the two students as they exited the building, though he didn't say whether investigators believe they were specifically targeted or discuss a possible motive for the attack.

"Officers were in the parking lot patrolling the activities and heard the shots and an officer immediately fired upon the shooter, stopping the threat," he said. He said the gunman was then taken into custody.

The Unified School District of Antigo said Wagner had approached the school with a high-powered rifle and a large ammunition clip. The district said in a statement that "quick actions" taken by police and district staff to secure the building "prevented what might have otherwise been a disaster of unimaginable propor-

tions, and we are extremely grateful for their well-rehearsed response."

The female victim was treated and released and the male victim was undergoing surgery for injuries that weren't life-threatening, police said. After the attack, students were escorted from the prom to safety and the victims' families were notified. — AP



**FREDERICK, MARYLAND:** Republican presidential candidate, Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas speaks during a rally at the Weinberg Center for the Arts on Thursday. — AP

## STUDENT LOAN ISSUE MAY MUDDY CRUZ'S APPEAL TO YOUNG VOTERS

**AUSTIN:** When Ted Cruz kicked off his White House bid at Liberty University, he told the crowd "y'all can probably relate" to the \$100,000-plus in student loan debt he ran up in college and paid off only a few years ago. Since then he's appealed for support from college seniors who are piled with student loans and scared about the prospects for getting out of debt.

But Cruz hasn't offered a plan to cut the cost of college and, in the Senate, opposed letting millions of Americans reduce their student loan payments. While working previously as a private lawyer in Houston, Cruz helped represent a lender who went to the Supreme Court to keep an Arizona man from avoiding interest payments on his student loans by filing for bankruptcy.

Cruz's half-sister, Roxana, borrowed about \$35,000 before graduating from medical school at Boston University in 1991, then defied years of court orders in two states before finally settling the case by paying more than \$64,000.

None of this helps the Texas senator's appeal with young voters. Many turned out for the Iowa caucuses won by Cruz, but Republicans under 30 generally haven't voted in significant numbers in many states since then. On average Cruz has been supported by 27 percent of those under 30 across all states with exit polling, compared with 30 percent for Republican rival Donald Trump.

Student loans can be a thorny issue for candidates. Trump has offered few ideas for easing student debt except to say the federal government shouldn't profit from such loans. Democrat Hillary Clinton came out last summer with a \$350 billion plan to make college more affordable, only to be widely mocked after she asked on Twitter: "How does your student loan debt make you feel? Tell us in 3 emojis or less." The other Democrat in the race, Bernie Sanders, has gone the furthest on the issue with an expensive plan for free college education.

## Cruz's own struggle

Alessandra Gennarelli, a University of Texas sophomore who is co-chairwoman of Millennials for Cruz, says the candidate's own struggle with college debt helps people relate to him and she's not bothered that he doesn't have a plan to lower college costs. "The main thing is fixing the economy," she said.

Cruz wrote in his autobiography that he relied heavily on student loans in college at Princeton while working two jobs, making \$7.50 per hour at the campus video service and twice that at the tutoring company Princeton Review. Things got easier after he graduated from Harvard Law School. Before joining the Senate in 2013, Cruz was a private attorney in Houston where he made \$1.7 million in salary and bonuses during his final year.

There, Cruz opposed Francisco Espinosa, an airline baggage handler who incurred more than \$13,000 in debts to attend technical school in Arizona but then filed for bankruptcy - proposing to pay back the principal of his loan over time but not roughly \$4,000 in interest.

Cruz helped represent Espinosa's lender and objected to bankruptcy protection because the original judge had not included a finding that paying back the loans with interest was an "undue hardship." A brief co-signed by Cruz argued that excusing interest payments could "open the floodgates" and let others duck debts including "taxes, domestic support obligations, drunk driving personal injury and death liabilities and criminal fines and restitution."

The case reached the Supreme Court, which ruled 9-0 against Cruz's side. Charles Wirken, an Arizona attorney who also represented the lender, said, "We didn't really care about (Espinosa's) \$20,000. It was the millions and millions and millions of dollars at stake in other bankruptcies." "If people could go to school, borrow money - tens of, or hundreds of thousands of dollars - and then just turn around and ... dash into a bankruptcy and get it discharged, that would have substantial consequences," Wirken said. He contended, despite the high court's unanimous decision, that Cruz was "on the side of the law and rules." — AP

## MEXICANS SEEK NEWS OF LOVED ONES AFTER DEADLY EXPLOSION

**COATZACOALCOS, MEXICO:** Desperate relatives gathered outside a petrochemical plant Thursday hoping for news about loved ones still unaccounted for a day after an explosion killed at least 13 workers. Officials said 18 workers had been reported missing.

About 30 families massed at a plant entrance road, where a sharp chemical smell still hung in the air about 2 kilometers (a mile) from where the blast occurred Wednesday afternoon. Many wore facemasks to ward off the pungent odor.

Shoving broke out as people unsuccessfully tried to force their way into the installation in Coatzacoalcos on Mexico's southern Gulf coast. Some shouted at marines and soldiers who were called in to guard the facility, and they threw rocks at a white government SUV when it arrived at the scene.

Rosa Villalobos traveled about four hours by bus from the city of Veracruz to scour Coatzacoalcos hospitals looking for her son, Luis Alfonso Ruiz Villalobos, a 25-year-old worker at the plant. When she couldn't find him she showed up at the plant entrance.

"What I want is for justice to be done in my son's case, for there to be no impunity," Villalobos said. "I'm going to stay here. Even though I have no money, even though I have nothing to eat, I'm staying put."

Some volunteers brought food and drink to the families. After a while authorities began taking people inside in small groups to see a list of those confirmed dead. Some left crying after seeing their loved ones' names.

Jose Antonio Gonzalez Anaya, director of the state oil company Petroleos Mexicanos, said one area of the plant was still too hot to enter and

the death toll could rise. The blast in this industrial port city forced evacuations of nearby areas as it sent a toxin-filled cloud billowing into the air. State oil company Petroleos Mexicanos, or Pemex, said 136 workers were injured. Twenty-four remained hospitalized.

The head of Mexico's civil defense agency, Luis Felipe Puente, wrote on his Twitter account that emergency personnel had been able to enter the burned-out plant and found 10 bodies. Three other workers had previously been reported dead immediately after the explosion.

Gonzalez Anaya, the Pemex chief, told Radio Formula that 13 of the injured were in serious condition. He said the blast was caused by a leak of as-yet unknown origin. Pemex released photographs of Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto touring the facility later Thursday. Antonio Mariche, who accompanied the Villalobos family in search of Luis Alfonso, vowed that the families would demand a full account of what happened.

"To the president, to the state governor, to the head of Pemex, we will not allow any more cover-ups like have happened with previous accidents," Mariche said. "They have covered up the numbers (in the past); there have been people who disappeared and regrettably never appeared. ... We will go to the last consequences to make sure this doesn't keep happening."

Pemex said it and another company, Mexichem, operated the Clorodas 3 plant of Petroquímica Mexicana de Vinilo, which produces the hazardous industrial chemical vinyl chloride. In early February, a fire killed a worker at the same facility. — AP



**COATZACOALCOS, MEXICO:** Rosa Villalobos stands in front of army soldiers as she holds up a photo of her son, Luis Alfonso Ruiz, 25, (on the right of the photo), as she tries to get information on his whereabouts outside one of the main entrances to the Pajaritos petrochemical complex on Thursday. — AP

**Alghanim Electronics**

**Service Center**

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

All Alghanim Electronics customers who have left their electronic appliances for the purpose of repair service on or before 31/12/2015 are kindly requested to collect them within two weeks from this notice date.

Last date to collect your products is 10/05/2016.

If these products are not collected before the above date, Alghanim Electronics reserves the right to dispose of these products.

## THE POPE'S WORRIES ABOUT TEENS BEING HAPPY AND KIDNAPPED CHRISTIANS

**VATICAN CITY:** Happiness is not an app you can download on your mobile phone, Pope Francis told thousands of teenagers yesterday at a mass to mark a weekend dedicated to youth.

"Freedom is not always about doing what you want. In fact it is the gift of being able to choose the right way," he said in a homily punctuated by regular bursts of applause from the crowd on a packed St Peter's Square. "Your happiness has no price. It cannot be bought and sold: it is not an application you download on a mobile phone. Even the latest version cannot help you to grow and become free in love."

An estimated 70,000 teenagers were in Rome for a weekend of events to celebrate Francis's Jubilee year dedicated to the theme of mercy. In a surprise move on Saturday, the 79-year-old pontiff heard confessions from 16 of them and a video message from him was broadcast at a rock and rap concert in the Stadio Olimpico.

One of the teenagers chosen to confess to the leader of the world's 1.2 billion Catholics said she had been trembling as she approached the chair on which the pope was sitting in St Peter's Square. "But as soon as I sat down I had the feeling of being next to a normal person rather than the pope. Francis is really one of us,"

Anna Taibi, 15, told La Repubblica newspaper.

The Sicilian teenager said she had been touched by Francis's tenderness as he listened to her confession. "I expected him to give me a penance ... instead he absolved me and let me go." The importance of mobile phones to contemporary teenagers was also reflected in Francis's message to the concert. Clutching an iPhone, he told his audience that living without Jesus was like not having any signal. "Always be sure to go where there is a network: family, parish, school," he said.

### Pope concerned about kidnapped Christians in Syria

Pope Francis is also praying that a "merciful" God will touch the hearts of those in Syria who have abducted Catholic and Orthodox faithful, including bishops and priests, so that the captives will be released soon.

Francis told tens of thousands of people in St. Peter's Square where he celebrated Mass yesterday that he was very concerned about those held captive in Syria, which has been ravaged by five years of civil war.

The pope didn't cite any particular hostage by name. He also appealed for prayers for all persons held kidnapped in the rest of the world.



**VATICAN CITY:** Pope Francis poses for a selfie with a priest after a mass for the Youth day of the Jubilee Year at St Peter's square. — AFP



**BELGRADE, SERBIA:** Serbian Prime Minister and Progressive Party leader Aleksandar Vucic, center, leaves a polling station with his daughter Milica after voting for the parliamentary elections yesterday. — AP

## SERBIA'S GENERAL ELECTION TESTS EU BID AMID FAR-RIGHT SURGE

### WILL SERBIA JOIN THE EU?

**BELGRADE, SERBIA:** Serbs voted yesterday in an election that is seen as a test of the prime minister's proclaimed bid to lead the Balkan nation to the European Union amid an ultra-nationalist surge which favors close ties with Russia instead.

Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic called the election two years early, saying he needed a new mandate to press ahead with tough reforms

demanding by the EU as the country faces deep economic and social problems. But his opponents say he really wants to tighten his autocratic rule and win another four-year mandate while he is still popular.

The populist Serbian Progressive Party led by Vucic, who has transformed from an extreme nationalist into a pro-EU reformer, is

slated to win most of the 250 seats in parliament. If Serbia remains firmly on the EU path, or sways away from it, will depend on whether the party gets enough votes to rule alone or if it has to form a coalition government with some anti-Western group.

"I am almost certain that we will carry on our European integration process and we will have to speed up the process of (EU) accession," Vucic said after voting yesterday. "And of course, preserve our traditional ties with our friends (Russia) in the east." Vucic added "that has to be one of the strategic, long term decisions of Serbian people and I'm not going to make any compromises with right-wing political parties."

### Will election have a hand in Serbia joining the EU?

The right-wing revival has seen growing support for the Serbian Radical Party, headed by firebrand nationalist Vojislav Seselj who is slated to return to Parliament after being acquitted of war crimes by a UN tribunal. Liberal pro-Western opposition groups are fragmented and sidelined, struggling to reach the 5 percent parliamentary threshold. They include a party led by former President Boris Tadic.

Seselj has said the vote is a de-facto referendum on whether Serbia joins the "enemy" EU, or turns to some kind of union with "our traditional ally Russia." "We can form a coalition only with the parties that will give up European Union (membership) and choose integration with Russia," Seselj said as he cast his ballot yesterday. "These elections are very important for Serbia."

While pro-Russian sentiments in Serbia are traditionally high because of close historic and cultural ties, many Serbs would also like to see their country reach the economic and democratic standards of the rich EU nations. "Our membership in the European Union is something we have to fight for, because there is no other way for us," said Blazo Mitric, a Belgrade resident, upon casting his vote.

While no major surprises are expected, the vote could tilt Serbia to the right. Any rekindling of nationalism in the Balkans is considered more dangerous than in the rest of Eastern Europe because of the wars in the 1990s that claimed some 100,000 lives. Western countries have sought to pacify Balkan nations by keeping them on track for EU membership. This could fail if Serbia gives up EU integration and turns to Russia instead, analysts say. There are 6.7 million voters in the election. — AP



**GRACANICA, Kosovo:** Kosovo Serb woman casts her vote during Serb parliamentary elections on Sunday, April 20, 2016. — AP

## ANTI-EU CAMPAIGNERS IN UK URGE MARINE LE PEN TO STAY AWAY

**LONDON:** A leader of the campaign for Britain to leave the European Union says the government should ban French far-right leader Marine Le Pen from coming to the UK to support the cause.

Le Pen's National Front party says she plans to travel to Britain before the June 23 referendum on EU membership. She backs a British exit, and wants France to hold a similar referendum.

Labour Party lawmaker Gisela Stuart, co-

chair of the Vote Leave group, says Le Pen should be banned because of her "divisive and inflammatory comments" about Muslims and others.

UK Independence Party leader Nigel Farage says he doesn't support a ban, but considers Le Pen's presence unhelpful and would "rather she didn't come." Home Secretary Theresa May said yesterday that she can't comment on individual immigration decisions. — AP

## DUTCH JOURNALIST ARRESTED IN TURKEY AFTER CRITICIZING ERDOGAN

**ANKARA:** A Dutch journalist was arrested early yesterday at her home in Turkey for tweets deemed critical of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, according to her Twitter account. "Police at the door. No joke," wrote Ebru Umar, a well-known atheist and feminist journalist of Turkish origin.

Umar, 45, recently wrote a piece critical of Erdogan for the Dutch daily Metro, extracts of which she then tweeted, leading to her arrest. "I'm not free," she said in a second tweet as she left her home in Kusadasi, a resort town in western Turkey.

Dutch blog Geenstijl said they had received an sms message from Umar saying she was to appear before a judge yesterday morning, and that she had been arrested after someone reported her tweets on a hotline set up by the Turkish officials.

The hashtag #freeebru was trending in the Netherlands, with Dutch politicians and commentators calling for her release. Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte said in a tweet that he "had had contact with @umarebru last night. Our embassy is in close contact with her for assistance".

Education Minister Jet Bussemaker told Dutch WNL television "it is absurd that you can be arrested for a tweet." The foreign ministry told AFP it was following the case closely and was in contact with authorities in Turkey.

### Umar's background

Umar, who reportedly became a journalist under the influence of Theo van Gogh-

er Dutch filmmaker later murdered for making a controversial film about Islamic culture—had written about a diplomatic spat between Turkey and the Netherlands.

A political storm erupted this week over reports an email sent by the Turkish consulate to Turkish organizations in the Netherlands asked people to forward emails and social media posts which insult Erdogan or Turkey. Rutte said he would ask Ankara to clarify the call. The Turkish consulate said the note was sent by a consular official who used an "unfortunate choice of words" that was misinterpreted.

The case followed outrage in Germany after the government there gave a green light for authorities to begin criminal proceedings against popular comic Jan Boehmermann for performing a satirical poem about Erdogan. Trials in Turkey for insulting Erdogan have multiplied since his election to the presidency in August 2014, with nearly 2,000 such cases currently open.

In September 2015 freelance Dutch journalist Frederike Geerdink was deported from Turkey after being detained during clashes between Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) rebels and Turkish security forces. It was the second time she had been taken into custody: in April Geerdink was put on trial on charges of spreading "terrorist propaganda" for the PKK but was then acquitted. "Thinking of dutch columnist @umarebru, now locked up in a #kusadasi police station. Utter disgrace," she tweeted Sunday. — AFP

## FRENCH GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS THE UK'S NUCLEAR PLANT PROJECT

**PARIS:** France's economy minister has confirmed the government supports French energy company EDF's nuclear power plant project in southwest England.

Emmanuel Macron told the Journal du Dimanche newspaper yesterday that the final investment decision "may be confirmed next September." The decision was expected in May but EDF, which is majority-owned by the French government,

decided Friday to take more time to consult with the company's unions. Some of them have expressed concerns about the financing of the 24 billion euro project.

Macron insisted the project must not be further delayed. The Hinkley Point nuclear power plant could ultimately produce 7 percent of British electricity and create 25,000 jobs, according to EDF. It had been due to start producing electricity in 2023. — AP

## NORWEGIAN FIGHTER JET FIRES AT CONTROL TOWER DURING TRAINING

**HELSINKI:** The Norwegian Air Force says an F-16 fighter jet accidentally fired at a lookout tower near three military personnel during target practice earlier this month, but that no one was hurt.

Air Force spokesman Maj. Stian Roen said the incident occurred shortly after midnight on April 13 on the island of Tarva, off Norway's western coast. Roen

said yesterday that the aircraft was supposed to fire at a simulated target on the airfield some 500 meters away but that "something went wrong." The lookout tower was slightly damaged by the gunfire, he said. Roen said he couldn't give further details pending the outcome of an investigation by a special commission. — AP



**German Chancellor Angela Merkel.** — AFP

## MERKEL OWES PARTY MEMBERSHIP FEES

**BERLIN:** German Chancellor Angela Merkel owes her party 9,500 Euros in membership fees, Bild am Sonntag weekly reported yesterday, as the party failed to inform her of an change in rules requiring her to contribute more. A spokesman for the Christian Democratic Union's chapter in the northern state of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania confirmed to national news agency DPA that Merkel owed the party fees, but declined to state the sum.

He added however that the chancellor

was not to blame, as she had simply not been informed of the change in rules. Since the amendment, which came into force in 2013, members of the government are required to contribute six percent of their monthly parliamentary allowances and salaries to the party.

Prior to the change, the contribution was a fixed sum. Her party said Merkel, who is an elected MP for a district of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, would pay the sum due this year. — AFP

## INDIA REVOKES PASSPORT OF TYCOON WHO OWES \$1 BILLION



**NEW DELHI:** Indian business tycoon and owner of Kingfisher Airlines Vijay Mallya gets into his car outside the Parliament on Feb. 27, 2013. — AP

**NEW DELHI:** India yesterday revoked the passport of a flamboyant Indian businessman accused of fleeing to London in March while owing more than a billion dollars to Indian banks.

External Affairs Ministry spokesman Vikas Swarup said the decision to revoke Vijay Mallya's passport was taken considering the evidence gathered by India's Enforcement Directorate, which has been investigating the tycoon's massive debts.

The ministry was also consulting legal experts on seeking Mallya's deportation from the UK to face charges of money laundering and financial irregularities. The opposition Congress party has accused the government of letting Mallya flee India while being pursued by banks for debts totaling 90 billion rupees (\$1.3 billion). The government denies the charge.

India's Finance Minister Arun Jaitley defended Mallya's departure, saying the banks had not initiated the legal process to prevent him from leaving by the time he boarded the flight out of India. The Enforcement Directorate told the government that Mallya was not cooperating with the investigators, after he ignored three dates when he was summoned to give evidence to them.

The government last week suspended the businessman's passport, after giving him a week to explain why his passport should not be revoked. The government was committed to bringing Mallya back to India to face justice and was "considering steps for Mallya's deportation," Swarup told reporters Friday.

Mallya was once hailed as India's version of British tycoon Richard Branson for his investments in a brewing and liquor company, an airline, a Formula One team and an Indian Premier League cricket club. His downfall was triggered by the failure of Kingfisher Airlines, which he launched in 2005. The Indian government in 2012 suspended the license of the airline after it failed to pay pilots and engineers for months.

Mallya ceded management control of his flagship United Spirits Limited to global spirits company Diageo. Diageo's agreement last month to pay Mallya \$75 million in exchange for his resignation as chairman of USL prompted a legal push by competing creditors, who say they should have the first claim to that money. Mallya is famous for a flashy lifestyle and lavish parties attended by fashion models, Bollywood movie stars and cricket players. — AP

## KAZAKHS STAGE RARE PROTEST OVER FARMLAND PRIVATIZATION

**ALMATY:** Hundreds of people held a rare public protest in the Kazakh oil industry hub Atyrau yesterday against new regulations which they fear will allow foreigners to buy local farmland, although the government has said this would not happen.

The Central Asian nation whose area is roughly the same size as Western Europe amended its Land Code last year, aiming to speed up the privatization of farmland which is now mostly leased rather than owned by farmers.

The amendments, due to take effect from July 1, allow the government to sell land to joint ventures, provided they are controlled by Kazakh residents. Land sales to foreigners remain barred but the maximum term of lease to foreigners is extended to 25 years from 15 years.

Critics see this as a threat to national security. The activists in the western city of Atyrau were denied permission for the protest but staged the protest nonetheless, newspaper Ak Zhai, which is based in Atyrau, reported.

The rally was also covered by private

Kazakh website Tengrinews.kz and several activists posted photos and videos online. Tengrinews gave the attendance as in the hundreds, which was supported by the pictures and footage online.

The reports said regional governor, Nurlan Nogayev, addressed the crowd in Atyrau's central square, promising to bring up the issue with the central government and make sure the activists are not prosecuted. There was no mention of the protest on the state news agency. Public protests in Kazakhstan are illegal without preliminary approval from local governments, which activists say is routinely denied.

High oil prices in the past decade allowed the government of President Nursultan Nazarbayev, in power since 1989, to maintain relatively high living standards in the nation of 18 million which is the second-biggest exporter of hydrocarbons in the former Soviet Union after Russia. But the drop in oil prices has hit Kazakhstan hard, forcing it to allow the local tenge currency to slide 45 percent against the dollar while economic growth is expected to be near zero this year. — Reuters

## PAKISTAN'S KHAN SEES PANAMA PAPERS AS SECOND CHANCE TO OUST PM AT LEAST THREE OFFSHORE HOLDING COMPANIES LINKED TO PM

**ISLAMABAD:** Pakistani opposition politician Imran Khan led a party rally yesterday to rail against Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, seizing on the Panama Papers leak linking Sharif's family with offshore wealth as a second chance to unseat the leader.

Former cricket hero Khan, who staged protests in Islamabad for months in 2014 over alleged electoral fraud, has threatened to call new demonstrations for Sharif's resignation, saying this month the prime minister has lost the "moral authority to rule."

Khan aides insist the government is wobbling and it is time to strike. Critics, however, say Khan may be overplaying his hand for the second time. "We demand the resignation of the prime minister on moral grounds," said Shafiqat Mahmood, a senior leader of Khan's party.

This month, leaked documents from the Mossack Fonseca law firm in Panama showed Sharif's sons Hassan and Hussain, and daughter Maryam, owned at least three offshore holding companies registered in the British Virgin Islands.

The International Consortium of Investigative Journalists, which studied the papers, said those companies had engaged in at least \$25 million in property and acquisition deals.

Sharif said his children have done nothing wrong - he gave in to opposition demands for a Supreme Court appointed inquiry commission on Friday and said he would resign if it found wrongdoing - but opponents accuse the family of using the tax haven to launder stolen money and dodge taxes.

The ruling party has dismissed Khan's threat of fresh protests and says the 2014 demonstrations against electoral rigging had also damaged Khan's credibility after election tribunals ruled that the 2013 poll was largely free and fair.

"Imran is just really desperate for any kind of shortcut to becoming prime minister and with these leaks he thinks he's hit the jackpot," Muhammad Zubair, minister for privatisation



**Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.** —AFP

and a member of the prime minister's media team, told Reuters. "But it would be a big mistake to launch any movement right now ... The public is just tired of his agitational politics."

### Accountability

Sharif was left weakened by Khan's previous protests, which the army helped Sharif ride out in exchange for control of security and foreign policy, areas Pakistan's generals have long considered to be their domain.

Khan, who captained Pakistan to its only cricket World Cup victory in 1992, is expected to draw tens of thousands to an Islamabad park later yesterday. But to have any realistic chance of displacing Sharif, he will have to have the backing of the powerful military.

The army has not commented publicly on Khan's new threat of protests, but on Tuesday, the army chief, arguably the country's most powerful man, spoke out against corruption in

general. "Across the board accountability is necessary for the solidarity, integrity and prosperity of Pakistan," General Raheel Sharif said while addressing a military function.

But while the military may have seen Khan as useful in the previous protests, by putting pressure on the civilian government and enabling the army to convince it to fall into line with its wishes, the generals also see him as a nuisance for seeking to end the fight against the Pakistani Taliban and negotiate peace.

Few believe that Khan has won over the generals, and without the military's backing there is little chance Khan will succeed in dethroning Nawaz Sharif. "Right now, someone should tell Imran Khan that one Sharif is not ready to quit and the other Sharif is not ready to take over," Pakistan's largest independent weekly paper, The Friday Times, wrote in an editorial, referring respectively to the prime minister and army chief. They are not related. — Reuters



**ATHENS:** Greece's Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras, left, welcomes NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg before their meeting at Maximos Mansion on Friday. —AP

## SOUTHERN BALKAN STATES AGREE TO WORK TOGETHER ON IMMIGRATION

**ATHENS:** Foreign ministers of Greece, Macedonia, Albania and Bulgaria said Friday they will work to improve coordination along southern Europe's migrant trail. "Still today, activists, NGOs and human smugglers are cooperating across borders in an easier manner than state institutions do," Macedonian Foreign Minister Nikola Poposki said following the two-day talks in Thessaloniki.

"I think that one of the messages we are sending from this meeting is that we are going to coordinate our efforts, we are going to try to avoid having solutions that are going to be at the expense of only one country," Poposki added. "We have to send a message that (the) road to the Balkans, for the migrants, is not going to see the same evolution as it has seen at 2015."

More than a million refugees and other migrants, who arrived on the Greek islands in smugglers' boats from Turkey, passed through Greece to Macedonia and other countries on the western Balkan corridor since the beginning of 2015, on their way to Europe's prosperous heartland. But the route closed this year, as a crackdown by Austrian authorities had a domino effect all the way to Macedonia's border with Greece, leaving more than 50,000 people stranded on the Greek side - including about 10,000 at the

closed border crossing of Idomeni.

The border closure, and repeated efforts by migrants on the Greek side to force their way into Macedonia, prompted tension between the two governments: Macedonia accused Greece of doing nothing to stop the attempts, and Greece complained of heavy-handed Macedonian police tactics. The two neighbors have been at odds for decades over Macedonia's official name, which Athens says should be altered to imply no claims on the neighboring Greek province of Macedonia.

### The neighbors agree

"Foreign policy must overcome problems, and solve them through negotiations," Greek Foreign Minister Nikos Kotzias said. The four neighbors agreed that special action is needed in responding to vulnerable groups of migrants, such as unaccompanied minors, and to work together more closely on fighting human trafficking. Earlier Friday, Greece's prime minister criticized Turkey for preventing a NATO force in the Aegean Sea from expanding its activities further south. NATO has deployed ships in the northern Aegean to help combat migrant smugglers but has not deployed in the southern Aegean area. Greece says this is because Turkey objects, considering it to be a demilitarized area. — AP

## TWO BRITONS, ONE INDIAN HELD FOR ILLEGALLY TRANSPORTING MIGRANTS

**BUDAPEST:** Two Britons and an Indian were arrested in Hungary on Saturday night accused of trying to transport more than a dozen migrants illegally to Austria, Hungarian police said.

Until it sealed its southern border last autumn, Hungary was the main gateway to northern Europe, predominantly Germany, for hundreds of thousands of migrants fleeing poverty and violence in the Middle East and Africa.

The flow slowed to a trickle as the Hungarian border fence forced migrants south to Croatia and Slovenia, which early this year effectively sealed their frontiers too. But migrants have continued to cross the fence in small numbers, and police still regularly detain people who try to trans-

port migrants to the West, according to police reports.

The two Britons - a 26-year-old man identified as A. S. and 31-year-old S. M. S. - were carrying 11 Syrian and Afghan citizens when stopped in their Nissan along the motorway that leads to the border, police said.

In a separate arrest, 34 year-old Indian national S. M. was driving an unspecified number of Somalis and Pakistanis toward Austria when his BMW was pulled over.

No further details were immediately available. Hungary is part of the European Union's Schengen zone in which passport controls have been abolished, but police carry out regular identity checks on the motorway to the Austrian border. — Reuters

## NEPAL MARKS ANNIVERSARY OF QUAKE THAT KILLED NEARLY 9,000

**KATHMANDU, NEPAL:** People gathered yesterday at the remains of a historic tower in Nepal's capital that collapsed in a devastating earthquake a year ago, as Nepalese held memorial services to mark the anniversary of a disaster that killed nearly 9,000 people and left millions homeless.

Minor protests were also held, with demonstrators angry at the slow rate of reconstruction in the wake of the magnitude-7.8 quake that ravaged vast areas of Nepal. Prime Minister Khadga Prasad Oli laid a wreath at the ruins of the Dharahara tower in the heart of Kathmandu. The iconic structure collapsed in the quake, killing 132 people. In all, 8,856 people died in the April 25, 2015, disaster.

Participating in the memorial ceremonies were people who lost loved ones in the quake, and others who simply came to pray for those killed. "I lost a friend who was working at the top of the tower on that day. I hope he and others are in a good place," said Ram Shrestha, pointing at the remains of the Dharahara tower. He said that he had just stepped out a few minutes before the earthquake struck to go shopping.

### The recollection of a witness

Madhav Newpane, who runs a shop near the tower, witnessed its collapse. He returned yesterday with a bouquet of flowers and candles. "There were many people killed here on that day. I will never be able to forget that day," Newpane said. About 100 protesters scuffled with riot police outside the prime minister's office demonstrating against the slow reconstruction of the homes. More than 600,000 homes were destroyed and around 185,000 damaged in the quake.

"Government, where is recon-

struction. Open the gates of the government," the protesters chanted as they tried to force their way through a police barricade. According to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, an estimated 4 million people are still living in substandard temporary shelters in conditions that pose a threat to their health and well-being. Only 661 families have received the first installment of a 200,000-rupee (\$1,868) government grant, getting 50,000 rupees (\$467) so far.

Nepal has made almost no progress in rebuilding from the

quake despite foreign donors pledging more than \$4 billion in aid during a donor's conference last year. The government, in disarray for nearly a decade, has not regrouped enough to be a strong force for reconstruction.

Out of the \$4.1 billion pledged, Nepal has so far received just \$1.28 billion. The delay in getting the money has been blamed on the government taking months to set up the National Reconstruction Authority, which was done only in December.

Finance Minister Bishnu Prasad Paudel said the delay was because

it was necessary to conduct a detailed survey of the damaged houses before reconstruction could begin. "Nepal had signed a written commitment in black and white that there would not be any reconstruction without the detailed beneficiary survey during the donor's meeting," Paudel said Friday. "But until the detailed beneficiary survey was completed, there was no way we could go ahead with the actual reconstruction." Now that the work is completed in 11 of the 14 districts affected by the earthquake, work will proceed at full speed, Paudel said. — AP



**KATHMANDU, NEPAL:** Nepalese protesters shout slogans against the government as they are stopped by police on the first anniversary of the devastating earthquake yesterday. About 100 protesters scuffled with riot police outside the prime minister's office demonstrating against the slow reconstruction of the homes. More than 600,000 homes were destroyed and around 185,000 damaged in the quake. — AP

## PHILIPPINE MAYOR WIDENS POLL LEAD AHEAD OF MAY 9 ELECTION

**MANILA:** A tough-talking Philippine mayor has widened his lead in a poll ahead of May 9 presidential elections, but analysts said yesterday his chances will likely be hurt by a storm of criticism over a rape joke and offensive remarks against major Western allies.

Mayor Rodrigo Duterte of southern Davao city led with 34 percent of 4,000 respondents in the Pulse Asia survey released Sunday, while Sen. Grace Poe followed with 22 percent in the poll commissioned by the ABS-CBN TV network.

Vice President Jejomar Binay was third at 19 percent, while former Interior Secretary Mar Roxas got 18 percent among the top contenders in the survey, which had a margin of error of plus or minus 1.5 percent, according to ABS-CBN. Pulse Asia President Ronald Holmes said the survey was concluded before Duterte's remarks last week in which he joked he wanted to be the first to rape a beautiful Australian missionary who was killed and sexually assaulted by inmates during a 1989 hostage-taking crisis in a Davao prison.

Australian Ambassador Amanda Gorely tweeted that "rape and murder should never be joked about or trivialized" and "violence against women and girls is unacceptable anytime, anywhere," remarks which were backed up by her American counterpart in Manila. Duterte later angrily asked the two ambassadors to shut up in a campaign rally. When a reporter mentioned about the Philippines' diplomatic ties with the US and Australia possibly being cut over the issue, Duterte quipped: "If I become president, go ahead and sever it."

### Social media's role

After rival candidates and social media commentators criticized Duterte, the 71-year-old mayor clarified that his comments were in response to a hypothetical question from the

media about the possibility of the two Western allies initiating an act to cut their ties with Manila. President Benigno Aquino III, who has endorsed Roxas's candidacy, also hit Duterte, saying the US is one of the country's largest trading partners. Australia has been helping the government forge a peace deal with Muslim guerrillas in the country's south, where Duterte lives.

It remains to be seen how much those criticisms would weigh down on Duterte's survey ratings, Holmes said, adding that the next survey results would be released this week. When Duterte cursed Pope Francis in December after getting trapped for hours in a huge traffic jam caused by the pontiff's visit to Manila in January last year, he apologized and took steps to ease criticisms among dominant Catholic Filipinos, but still saw a marginal decline in his survey rating, Holmes said.

Some analysts, however, said the impact on his candidacy could be serious. Political analyst Ramon Casiple said Duterte stands to lose many undecided voters, especially women and the marginalized who were leaning to support him if they start questioning his fitness to lead an entire nation and if they start to fear that he may bring the Philippines into a conflict with other nations.

"This may strike at the heart of his attraction - his portrayal of himself as champion of the masses," Casiple said. Rival candidates, Casiple said, would likely try to raise Duterte's controversial remarks during a final debate to be televised live nationwide later yesterday. Known for his expletives-laden speeches, Duterte built a political name with his iron-fist approach to fighting crime in Davao, where he has served as mayor for 22 years. His bold pledge to eradicate crime, especially drug trafficking and kidnappings, as well as corruption in three to six months has resonated with the public, but also sparked alarm and doubts. — AP



**MANILA:** Presidential candidate Mayor Rodrigo Duterte clenches his fist during a campaign sortie at Silang township. — AP

## RENEWED GUN DEBATE IN AUSTRALIA 20 YEARS AFTER MASS SHOOTING IS AUSTRALIA'S REAL PROBLEM ILLEGAL GUNS?

**PORT ARTHUR, AUSTRALIA:** Carolyn Loughton still carries a bullet in her shoulder from one of the world's worst mass shootings that killed her daughter 20 years ago and galvanized Australia to drastically clamp down on guns.

Loughton threw her body over her 15-year-old daughter Sarah, but could not save her from a gunman with two semi-automatic assault rifles who methodically took headshots in a Port Arthur, Tasmania, cafe on April 28, 1996, killing 35 people.

In response, the Australian government severely restricted ownership of semi-automatic firearms, pump-action shotguns and other rapid-fire weapons. It also bought back nearly 700,000 guns from the public at a cost of \$390 million.

Since then, the country has experienced only one case that meets the generally accepted definition of a mass shooting - four deaths in a single event - a 2014 incident in which a farmer shot his wife and three children before killing himself. Now a person living in America is around 10 times more likely to be killed by a gun than in Australia, and President Barack Obama has held up Australia's strict gun laws as a good example after repeated mass shootings in the US.

### The debate returns

Today, as Australia approaches the 20th anniversary of the Port Arthur tragedy - to be remembered by a ceremony Thursday - there is renewed debate over guns amid a review of the landmark National Firearms Agreement, adopted after the 1996 attack, and the loosening of some gun-related regulations.

The review was recommended after a government inquiry into the December 2014 Sydney cafe siege that left two people and the gunman dead. Gun enthusiasts fear that any changes to the agreement could mean greater restrictions on gun ownership, while gun control advocates say the country is backsliding on its restrictions.

Taking center stage in the debate is whether Australia should import the Adler A110 shotgun, a Turkish-manufactured lever-action weapon that can fire eight cartridges in as many seconds. That's almost as fast as a pump-action shotgun.

Loughton, now 60, sees the Adler question as a tipping point. She is speaking out for the first time to protect the country's stringent gun laws. "I've probably got 20 years of my life left. I wouldn't have thought that I would ever have to go down this track," said Loughton. "But I have seen and I know more than anybody should ever have to experience, and on my last breath on my last day, I don't want to say I could have done something."

Pro-gun activists argue that Australia's real problem is illegal guns. They point out that the Islamic State-inspired gunman in the Sydney cafe siege, Man Haron Monis, never held a gun license and his sawed-off pump-action 12-gauge shotgun had not been registered. Authorities could not trace where Monis had obtained it. Sen. David Leyonhjelm, a



**PORT ARTHUR, AUSTRALIA:** The date and place "Sunday, 28th April 1996 Port Arthur" are engraved on a memorial to honor the 35 people killed by a lone gunman 20 years ago. — AP

vocal gun proponent, complains that Australians have become "disarmed victims." Loughton and gun control advocates say they see the erosion of gun controls. They point to relaxed requirements to establish the legitimate need for a gun and decisions by several states to waive a 28-day waiting period for a gun owner to apply for a permit to own more than one weapon.

### No constitutional right to bear arms

Unlike in the US, Australians don't have a constitutional right to bear arms and personal protection is not recognized as a "genuine reason" required by law to own a gun. Many say that what sets the Adler shotgun apart is a promotional video that focused on how quickly its magazine could be emptied. The video attracted a lot of attention from gun enthusiasts and horrified opponents. Last August, the government blocked imports of the eight-shot Adler pending the outcome of the firearms review.

Gun Control Australia, an advocacy group, says allowing the weapon to be imported "will have a devastating impact on Australia's strong gun laws." The group's concerns include that the Adler's short lever action makes it quicker to reload than other guns in its class, a claim the gun's Australian importer denies.

Sen. Bridget McKenzie, who last year formed the

Parliamentary Friends of Shooting group, said it is important to "have some serious methodology behind the decisions we're making rather than, 'Oh, that looks scary, therefore it must be bad'."

In the meantime, thousands of five-shot versions of the Adler have been sold in Australia with minimum restrictions. Gunsmiths are already increasing the Adler's magazine capacity to 10 cartridges and more. In a breakdown in Australia's harmonized gun laws, the extended magazines are legal in all states except in New South Wales, the most populous. "I can make them as big as you want," gunsmith Nik Halliwell said of the Adler magazine capacity. "If you want a 100-shot lever action, in theory, it's possible to do."

Gun advocates argue that the Adler should be available to category A license holders, the least restrictive and most common license. But Loughton and other activists say both versions of the gun should be available only to the much more restrictive category C and D licenses that are reserved for farmers, professional shooters and government agencies. Philip Alpers, a Sydney University gun policy analyst, said the shotgun had been imported to fill a gap in the Australian market created by the Port Arthur bans. "Whenever a firearm type is restricted, the arms industry does its best to circumvent the law," he said. — AP

## INDONESIAN NAVY IMPOUNDS CHINESE TRAWLER FOR ILLEGAL FISHING

**JAKARTA:** Indonesian warships have detained a Chinese trawler allegedly operating illegally in Indonesian waters, just weeks after a confrontation between vessels from the two countries caused tensions, the navy said yesterday.

The trawler was intercepted by two navy ships on Friday after receiving information that a ship wanted by Interpol in the northwest of Sumatra, navy spokesman Edi Sucipto told AFP.

The boat has been taken to a naval base in Belawan, North Sumatra for investigation. "We are currently questioning the crew to find out more about the case," Sucipto said, adding that one of them had a gunshot wound to his leg. "It was not our officers who shot him, he was probably shot by the

Argentinian authorities," he said.

The Chinese trawler was previously reported to have been fishing illegally in Argentine waters in late February. Argentine forces in March opened fire on and sank a Chinese boat illegally fishing in the South Atlantic after it attempted to ram a coast guard vessel.

Indonesia in 2014 launched a tough crackdown on illegal fishing which involves sinking foreign vessels caught fishing without a permit after impounding the boats and removing the crews. Its foreign minister protested to Beijing after the Chinese coast-guard last month stopped an Indonesian patrol boat from detaining a Chinese trawler. Beijing also voiced concern last year after Indonesia destroyed an impounded Chinese fishing vessel. — AFP

## CHINA'S XI WARNS OF FOREIGN INFILTRATION THROUGH RELIGION

**BEIJING:** China must be on guard against foreign infiltration through religion and stop "extremists" spreading their ideology, President Xi Jinping told a top-level meeting on managing religion, state media reported yesterday.

China must also manage the Internet to promote the Communist Party's religious theories and policies, the official Xinhua news agency cited Xi as saying. "We must resolutely resist overseas infiltration through religious means and guard against ideological infringement by extremists," Xi was quoted as saying at a two-day national working conference on religion that ended on Saturday. The ruling Communist Party says it protects freedom of religion, but it keeps a tight rein on religious activities and allows only officially recognized religious institutions to operate.

The government is concerned about what it sees as the growing influence by Islamists in the Xinjiang region in the far west where hundreds of people have been killed over the

past few years in violence between members of the Muslim Uighur community and majority Han Chinese.

Officials there have stepped up regulations banning overt signs of religious observance, like veils or beards. Separately, some Chinese Christians say authorities are limiting their activities and taking down crosses on churches in coastal Zhejiang province.

Authorities have said crosses are removed because they violate regulations against illegal structures. Protests broke out in 2014 in the heavily Christian city of Wenzhou, also in Zhejiang, over the government's cross demolition campaign. In January, authorities also said a Christian pastor was being investigated for suspicion of embezzling funds. The investigation came after the pastor opposed the campaign to remove crosses. Communist party members must adhere to Marxist principles and remain "staunchly atheist," Xi said in his remarks. — Reuters

## UN HUMAN RIGHTS CHIEF URGES THAI JUNTA TO ALLOW DISSENT

**BANGKOK:** The UN's top human rights official is urging Thailand's military government to ease limits on free speech, especially those restricting debate over a proposed constitution that faces a referendum in August.

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein also expressed concern in a statement Friday about the mil-

itary's expanding role in policy-making and law enforcement. Thailand has been ruled by a military junta since a May 2014 coup ousted an elected government. The junta uses arbitrary detention to punish critics, and recently announced strict limits on public expressions of criticism or support of the draft constitution, a move directed chiefly against the charter's opponents. — Reuters

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN NORTH KOREAN CRISIS

**PYONGYANG:** North Korea says it successfully tested a submarine-launched missile, while its foreign minister tells AP his country is ready to give up further nuclear tests under conditions. A look at key developments yesterday:

### Missile test

Pyongyang said it successfully test-fired a ballistic missile from a submarine - a worrying development because mastering the ability to fire missiles from submerged vessels would make it harder for outsiders to detect what North Korea is doing before it launches, giving it the potential to surprise its enemies. Hours before the announcement, South Korean military officials said the North fired what appeared to be a ballistic missile from a submarine off its eastern coast.

The South's Joint Chiefs of Staff said the projectile traveled about 30 kilometers Saturday evening. That's a much shorter than the typical distance of a submarine-launched ballistic missile, which can fly at least 300 kilometers. US Strategic Command, headquartered at Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska, said its "systems detected and tracked what we assess was a North Korean submarine missile launch from the Sea of Japan." It said the missile launch "did not pose a threat to North America."

### US response

The US State Department said that in response to Saturday's launch, it was limiting the travel of

North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Su Yong and his delegation to UN functions in New York, where they are attending a UN meeting on sustainable development. The US noted "launches using ballistic missile technology are a clear violation of multiple UN Security Council resolutions."

"We call on North Korea to refrain from actions that further destabilize the region and focus instead on taking concrete steps toward fulfilling its commitments and international obligations," said State Department spokesman John Kirby.

### North to stop nuke tests if

In New York, North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Su Yong told The Associated Press that his country is ready to halt its nuclear tests if the United States suspends its annual military exercises with South Korea.

He also defended the country's right to maintain a nuclear deterrent and warned that North Korea won't be cowed by international sanctions. And for those waiting for the North's regime to collapse, he had this to say: Don't hold your breath.

Ri held firm to Pyongyang's longstanding position that the US drove his country to develop nuclear weapons as an act of self-defense. At the same time, he suggested that suspending the military exercises with Seoul could open the door to talks and reduced tensions.

"If we continue on this path of confrontation, this will lead to very catastrophic results, not only

for the two countries but for the whole entire world as well," he said. "It is really crucial for the United States government to withdraw its hostile policy against the DPRK and as an expression of this stop the military exercises, war exercises, in the Korean Peninsula. Then we will respond likewise." DPRK is an abbreviation for North Korea's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

South Korea's Foreign Ministry called the North's proposal "not worth considering." Human rights representatives can visit North, but at own risk. North Korea's foreign minister said international human rights organizations are welcome to inspect conditions in the North - but some might have to travel at their own risk. "We have our doors open for anybody who is interested to come to the DPRK and see the reality," Foreign Minister Ri Su Yong told The Associated Press in an interview, using the acronym for North Korea's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

But Ri said there are risks for those who want to "totally fabricate" the situation in the North. One person that he indicated would definitely not receive a warm welcome is the UN's special rapporteur on the situation of human rights in North Korea, Marzuki Darusman.

Darusman has been very outspoken about human rights abuses in the North and suggested regime change might be the only solution - a position that has made him persona non grata in Pyongyang.



**SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA:** A South Korean man watches a TV news program showing an image published in North Korea's Rodong Sinmun newspaper of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un at Seoul Railway station yesterday. — AP

### North defends jailing American

North Korea's foreign minister defended the jailing of an American university student for alleged anti-state activities, but told The Associated Press that he would inform authorities in Pyongyang there is concern in the US over the student's fate. He also noted that other detainees have been

released before serving their full sentences.

North Korea's highest court sentenced Otto Warmbier, a 21-year-old University of Virginia undergraduate, to 15 years in prison at hard labor after he confessed he had tried to steal a propaganda banner as a trophy for an acquaintance who wanted to hang it in her church. — AP



Nine-year old Isla Stanton walks among springtime bluebells in woodlands near Ashford, England yesterday. The weather has turned cold with sudden downpours across most of England. — AP

## INTERNET CLICKS COME WITH A CAUSE IN EGYPT

Continued from Page 1

Several companies are financing the \$170,000 project, which includes a hygiene awareness program. Among the sponsors are US giant SC Johnson, Egypt's Wadi Degla and the Emirati ride hailing app Careem. "In the end everyone is a winner, there will be more people who see the cam-

paign, and the more money invested, the more partner companies gain visibility," said Careem's director in Egypt, Shalaby Hadeer. Bassita, which won a 2015 Orange Prize for African social ventures, wants to export its success story. "Europe needs environmental projects, Africa perhaps more in health and transportation. This model can apply to all those problems," said Menonville. — AFP

## SAUDIS AWAIT PRINCE'S VISION OF FUTURE

Continued from Page 1

But he added, "Laying out a vision is the first step on a road of a million miles - the implementation remains."

Many of the broad outlines of Vision 2030 are already known; they include an efficiency campaign within the government, a bigger role for the non-oil private sector, and more aggressive management of the kingdom's foreign assets to increase returns. Given the modest impact of the past reform drives, financial markets have moved little before the Vision 2030 announcement.

King Abdullah, who died in Jan 2015, was widely seen as a reformer when he ascended the throne in 2005. He developed an investment promotion agency, began a big scholarship scheme for Saudis to study abroad and let women vote in municipal elections for the first time. But on top of the persistent oil dependency, problems such as a shortage of affordable housing and uneven health care were only partially resolved.

The current reform drive may be more effective. Prince Mohammed has conducted a tightly controlled public relations campaign to present himself as a dynamic reformer, and concentrated power over all ministries related to the economy in a council which he chairs. The scale of his authority has persuaded many Saudis that he may be able to break down bureaucratic barriers and cut through the red tape that has stifled many government operations.

"The first quick win will be the efficiency and cooperation," said Prince Mansour al-Saud, senior planning manager at the state-controlled Saudi Industrial Development Fund, who participated in workshops to discuss the reforms. "Everybody will sense improvement in every single aspect of government work, in education and healthcare services."

But there is concern that the dead weight of Saudi bureaucracy will once again resist change. "There will be a need for a restructuring process inside each ministry to meet program requirements. Workshops over a few months will not wipe off five decades of bureaucracy," said Saudi economist Fadl Al-Boainain. Many Saudis also fear the reforms will hit their wallets, as the government cuts price subsidies for fuel and utilities, and wage rises in the public sector - which employs most Saudis - slow.

"Future Vision plan - the most important thing is to stay away from citizens' pockets," one person tweeted. Another tweeted that the plan would ensure the kingdom's survival in an era of cheap oil but "it will be hard on the citizens". Officials have said the poorest citizens are likely to be compensated with cash payments for higher utility costs.

On Saturday, King Salman replaced minister for water and electricity Abdullah Al-Husayen, who had drawn public criticism for his handling of water price increases in December. King Salman issued a decree ordering his dismissal and replacement in the interim by Agriculture Minister Abdel Rahman Al-Fadli, said the official SPA news agency. His removal comes after the government reduced subsidies on electricity, water and other services. In March, the Arab News daily reported that Husayen had called on citizens to get permits to dig their own wells in the face of increasing complaints about high water bills. And earlier this month the newspaper said that the advisory Shura Council "appeared unconvinced" when its members grilled Husayen and his officials about the bills.

Prince Mohammed told Bloomberg News in an interview this month that the ministry's implementation of the new water tariff was "unsatisfactory". "Now, we are working diligently on reforms within the water ministry so that things will be in accordance with the agreed plan," the prince has said, without elaborating.

It is not yet clear whether Vision 2030 will include politically sensitive social reforms - for example, in education, the judiciary and women's rights - to reduce the influence of a conservative religious establishment. Prince Mohammed told Bloomberg that "we believe women have rights in Islam that they've yet to obtain". But while increasing women's participation in the economy is a declared goal of the reforms, he and other officials have so far not promised radical, specific change.

This has not stopped many Saudis from hoping. Mashaal, a saleswoman at a Riyadh lingerie shop, said she believed women might ultimately be permitted to drive. "I can't wait for the day when women are allowed to drive. I don't want to spend my salary on transportation or on drivers - it would have been cheaper to let women drive than build the Riyadh metro at a cost of billions of riyals." — Agencies

## ZUMA PRAISES 1979 IRANIAN REVOLUTION

TEHRAN: South Africa's embattled President Jacob Zuma praised Iran's 1979 revolution yesterday at the start of a three-day state visit which he said could "dramatically expand trade" with the Islamic republic. The overthrow of a US-backed Shah was a source of encouragement as black South Africans fought against apartheid, Zuma said at a press conference with President Hassan Rouhani, before later meeting Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's supreme leader.

With international sanctions against Iran now lifted under its nuclear deal with world powers, business activity is likely to increase. "Iran occupies a special place in our struggle against apartheid," Zuma said, noting how Tehran cut ties with South Africa when it was under white rule, only resuming relations in 1994 after Nelson Mandela was elected as its first black president. Mandela, who served one term before voluntarily standing down in 1999, visited Tehran before his election and soon after leaving office.

"South Africans were inspired by the 1979 revolution, which showed that emancipation is possible, whatever the odds," said Zuma, the first serving South African president to visit since. Having signed eight cooperation agreements ranging from energy development to business insurance, Zuma said the nuclear deal was an opportunity to deepen commer-

cial links. "The challenge is to dramatically expand trade volumes," he added.

Rouhani, whose government in January implemented last summer's nuclear deal with Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States plus Germany, paid tribute to Mandela, who died aged 95 in 2013. "Let us cherish the memory of the late Nelson Mandela," after whom a street is named in Tehran, Rouhani said. "He is so very much revered by both the South African and the Iranian people."

Rouhani, who Zuma confirmed has been invited to visit South Africa, said he would like to see direct flights opening up from Tehran. Zuma's trip comes as he is under fire and accused of corruption at home. Julius Malema, the firebrand head of South Africa's radical opposition Economic Freedom Fighters, warned that he could seek to remove Zuma's African National Congress (ANC) government "through the barrel of a gun".

Late last month, a constitutional court ruled Zuma had violated the constitution in using public funds to upgrade his private residence and said he must repay the money. Malema, 35, was expelled from the ANC in 2012 when he was head of the party's youth wing, having said the government was not doing enough to help South Africa's poor. — AFP

## KSE FIRST PUBLIC ENTITY TO BE PRIVATIZED

Continued from Page 1

"We hope to perform to the best of all expectations," Khaled noted, saying that the company seeks to transform KSE into a force to be reckoned with. KSE's privatization will help transform Kuwait into a financial and commercial hub, Khaled added. In December, Hajraf had announced that

Kuwait Bourse Co would officially take over KSE on April 24, 2016 in an intricate four-stage process set to conclude in Dec 2016. The company's ownership shares are divided, where 50 percent belong to citizens and 6 percent is government owned, while 44 percent is allocated to global investors. KSE's privatization comes as part of CMA's plans to ramp up development and boost the country's economy. — KUNA

## PANEL RAISES PRICES OF WATER FOR APARTMENTS

Continued from Page 1

The Assembly debated the vision but did not vote on it, an action that was strongly criticized by several MPs. Shaye said that the Assembly is not required to vote on the plan because it only includes government programs and it will not be able to carry out any privatization without coming back to the Assembly for approval. He added that many of the programs included in the government vision need prior approval of the Assembly to implement.

In another development, MP Hamdan Al-Azemi called yesterday for transforming the customs department,

which is currently a body under the finance ministry, into an independent authority similar to other GCC states. He said the department is ready to transform because it has 4,800 employees working at 11 exits who work almost independent of any ministry or department. He said creating an independent customs authority will boost its work to international levels, and demanded that some pay allowances should be given to customs employees.

MP Khalil Abul yesterday called for creating an independent addiction center separate from the psychiatric hospital, saying that having the addiction center inside the hospital has resulted in a number of negative impacts.

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<p><b>20"</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 Speed Choice</li> <li>• Tilting Angle</li> </ul> <p><b>8</b> KD 900</p>	<p><b>16"</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 Speed Choice &amp; Oscillation</li> <li>• 8 hours timer</li> <li>• Remote Control</li> </ul> <p><b>12</b> KD 900</p>		

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### RED ALERT AS URAWA GO TOP IN JAPAN

**TOKYO:** Urawa Reds served notice of their title credentials yesterday when they edged Kawasaki Frontale 1-0 away to go top of the J-League. Japan's best-supported side ended Kawasaki's unbeaten record when Yuki Muto smashed home the winner 10 minutes into the second half. It completed a perfect week for the Reds after they reached the knockout stage of the Asian Champions League. They improved to 19 points from eight games in the first of the J-League's two stages. Kawasaki have 17 points with Kashima Antlers stuck on 16 in third place after they were upset 2-0 at home by Kashiwa Reysol. "We controlled the game well and kept looking to attack," said Reds coach Mihailo Petrovic. "Many people thought Kawasaki were a more attacking team than us, so I look forward to reading the analysis of journalists in tomorrow's papers." Japan striker Takashi Usami gave 2014 treble winners Gamba Osaka a lift following their Asian Champions League elimination, scoring a late winner in a 1-0 victory at hapless Avispa Fukuoka. Reigning Japanese champions Sanfrecce Hiroshima climbed to fourth on 14 points after a double from Nigerian-born striker Peter Utaka gave them a 2-1 win away to Yokohama F-Marininos.—AFP

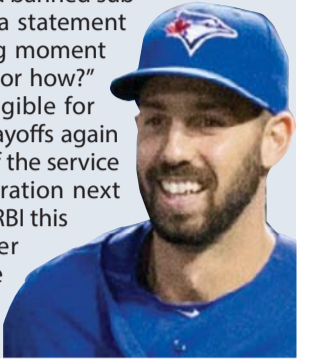


### INDIA'S SPORTS STARS DISMAYED AT KHAN MOVE

**NEW DELHI:** India's sports stars reacted with dismay yesterday after Bollywood's Salman Khan was appointed goodwill ambassador for India's Olympic team in the Rio Games later this year. Khan, who was cleared last year of killing a homeless man in a hit-and-run crash, was named by the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) on Saturday to boost public support for the team in a country obsessed with cricket. But Olympic wrestler Yogeshwar Dutt questioned how a film star was qualified to promote the country's athletes, suggesting the appointment of well-known sports persons instead-including those who had represented their country. "Everybody has the right to promote movies in India, but Olympics is not a place to promote films," Dutt, who won bronze at the 2012 Olympics in London, said on Twitter. "Can anyone tell me what is the role of good will ambassador? Why are you fooling the public?" he said. Khan's appointment comes months before the release of his new film "Sultan" in which he plays a wrestler.—AFP

### COLABELLO SUSPENDED FOR 80 GAMES AFTER DRUG TEST

**TORONTO:** Blue Jays first baseman Chris Colabello was suspended Friday for 80 games without pay after testing positive for the same anabolic steroid that caused Philadelphia pitcher Daniel Stumpf to be disciplined last week. The commissioner's office said Colabello tested positive for dehydrochloromethyl-testosterone, which is sold under the name Turinabol. "On March 13, I got one of the scariest and most definitely the least-expected phone calls of my entire life. I was informed by the players' association that a banned substance was found in my urine," Colabello said in a statement released by the union. "I have spent every waking moment since that day trying to find an answer as to why or how?" The suspension means Colabello would be ineligible for postseason play should the Blue Jays reach the playoffs again this season. It also means Colabello will fall short of the service time required to become eligible for salary arbitration next winter. Colabello is hitting .069 (2 for 29) with one RBI this season. While he was benched by Boston pitcher Steven Wright last Sunday, he missed only one game.—AP



## ABK SPONSORS SOCCER TOURNEY FOR SPECIAL NEEDS SCHOOLS

**KUWAIT:** Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) yesterday announced its successful sponsorship of Kuwait Educational Academy Football Tournament. The event, hosted in the

Yarmouk Sports Club in Mishref on 13th April, witnessed the participation of students from different special needs schools. The tournament was held in an effort to

encourage individuals with special needs to engage in sports activities. The exciting event featured a final football game between Kuwait Educational Academy School and Om

Hani School to conclude the game for the season. The first place went to Kuwait Educational Academy School. ABK supports initiatives that focus on engaging individuals

with special needs in the Kuwaiti society as part of its CSR strategy for 2016. It will continue to play an active role in supporting this segment through similar opportunities.

## POELS CLAIMS FIRST MONUMENT FOR SKY

**ANS:** Wout Poels handed Team Sky their first ever Monument success by winning Liege-Bastogne-Liege yesterday. While Sky had established themselves as perhaps the dominant Grand Tour outfit since their creation in 2010, winning the Tour de France three times in four years with Bradley Wiggins and Chris Froome, they had never mastered the biggest one-day classics.

That all changed yesterday as Poels out-sprinted Switzerland's Michael Albasini and Rui Costa of Portugal at the end of the gruelling 248km Ardennes classic raced in freezing conditions that included showers of snow at times. "It's really nice, I'm really happy. I honestly can't believe that I won today, so I'm really happy," Poels told Belgian TV after his win. "The weather was even snowing, it was a really hard day. I like the last (categorised) climb, we got away there. It was really hard conditions."

"I didn't feel super any more but everybody was really tired." The route had to be altered due to the treacherous conditions caused by snow, with 5km from the original course removed and a 30km section through a forest bypassed.

Albasini made an attack on the final categorised climb on the hilly course, the Cote de Rue Naniot with around 2.5km left.

Costa, Samuel Sanchez and Poels were the only riders able to follow that dig as pre-race favourite Alejandro Valverde—a three-time former winner—was caught out. Valverde finished down in 15th at 12sec.

#### 'Good little dig'

Poels first attacked the leading group of four on the final drag up to the finish in the Liege suburb of Ans before opening out the sprint in the final 250m and holding on to win in 6hr 24min 29sec. Albasini tucked in behind him but didn't have the strength

to pull past as Sanchez wilted and Costa settled for third.

"I did a little dig, it was a good one," said Poels of the final uphill drag before the tight left-hand bend that ushered in the finish. "After the corner I went full (gas) and it worked!" A seven-man breakaway braved the cold, snow, rain and even hail at times on a miserable day to be spending almost six and a half hours in the saddle. Inside the final 50km, the breakaway group, which at one point held a 10-minute lead, started to split up.

On the tough La Redoute climb 40km from the finish, there were just two left in Alessandro De Marchi and Nicolas Edet.

But Valverde's Movistar team were turning the screw in the chasing peloton. De Marchi and Edet held on until 24km left having spent more than 200km in the lead as Etixx took up the pace-setting for Julien Alaphilippe and Dan Martin, second and third respectively behind Valverde at the midweek Fleche Wallonne race.

They would eventually have to settle for 22nd and 46th respectively, with Martin almost two minutes off the pace. Onto the Cote de la Roche-aux-Faucon with 20km left, the field really started breaking up.

With 18km to go Colombian Carlos Betancur—a team-mate of Valverde—went on the attack but was reeled in 2km later.

On Saint-Nicolas Russian Ilnur Zakarin and Italian Diego Rosa got a gap but it didn't last long either. It was Albasini who finally made a significant attack stick with just three riders able to stay with him. Many felt he'd be the best sprinter come the finish but specialist climber Poels simply proved fresher.

"He did a great sprint," Albasini said of Poels. "After 250km it's freshness that counts more than a sprinter's ability."—AFP



**JEREZ DE LA FRONTERA:** Moto GP riders Valentino Rossi of Italy, center, Jorge Lorenzo of Spain, left, and Marc Marquez, also of Spain, pose with a flag of Japan on the podium of the MotoGP race of Spain's Motorcycle Grand Prix at the Jerez race track in Jerez de la Frontera, southern Spain, yesterday. Rossi won the race, Lorenzo was second and Marquez third.—AP

## MASTERFUL ROSSI WINS SPANISH GRAND PRIX

**JEREZ DE LA FRONTERA:** Valentino Rossi led from start to finish with a masterly ride to win the Spanish Grand Prix in Jerez yesterday ahead of world championship rivals Jorge Lorenzo and Marc Marquez.

Rossi remains third in the MotoGP standings despite his first win in 10 races, but the Italian moves to within 24 points of championship leader Marquez and seven points of Yamaha teammate Lorenzo.

Victory in Spain was especially sweet for Rossi after he lost out on the title last year in the final race of the season in Valencia amid claims Marquez had deliberately obstructed Rossi in the final races of the season to aid his compatriot Lorenzo's title challenge.

"I had good pace, I had a good start and a win like this is a special taste," said Rossi. The seven-time world champion has now won nine races across all categories in Jerez, but

this was his first success since 2009. "I think this was the perfect weekend because we start to go faster from Friday morning," added Rossi.

"We worked very well with the bike, during the race it was fantastic, so I have to thank all the team, especially my crew." Rossi's fast start ensured there was no drama at the first corner before gradually pulling away to win by over two seconds. However, Lorenzo was left frustrated at a tyre problem he believed cost him victory.

"Rossi was a bit faster than me in the beginning of the race, but in the middle I could keep the distance and when I was catching him suddenly the tyres on the straight when I went through the gears starting spinning like I had a wet tyre," he said.

"It is a pity because at the end of the race I was very strong and I could probably won

the race with a big margin, but because of the spinning I couldn't do more and I had to slow down to finish the race." Marquez was momentarily pushed down to fourth at the start by his Honda teammate Dani Pedrosa, but quickly recovered to ensure his place on the podium for the fourth time in as many races this season. And the two-time world champion was happy to settle for third on a weekend where he struggled to match the pace of the Yamahas. "I pushed behind Lorenzo, but I tried one, two, three times then I thought, ok, 16 points is good for the championship and those two guys were faster today," he said.

"The most important thing is that we are leading the championship, so for that reason I am happy. "In front of all these fans I expected a better race, but today was impossible."—AFP



**ANS:** Wouter Poels of Team Sky celebrates as he crosses the finish line to win the Liege-Bastogne-Liege cycling classic in Ans, Belgium yesterday. Michael Albasini of the Orica Greenedge team placed second and Rui Costa of the Lampre Merida team finished third.—AP

## CANTERBURY CRUSADERS PUT BRUMBIES TO THE SWORD

**CANBERRA:** The Canterbury Crusaders ran in six tries as they put a disappointing ACT Brumbies to the sword in their Super Rugby clash in Canberra yesterday. After scoring four tries in the first half, the Crusaders crossed for two more in the second to win 40-14 and send an ominous warning to the rest of the competition.

The bonus point win means the Crusaders move to second place overall on the Super Rugby table, one point behind leaders the Waikato Chiefs.

However, the Brumbies have now conceded the lead in the Australian conference to southern neighbours the Melbourne Rebels. "Not too many things went wrong for us today," Crusaders captain Kieran Read said.

"I'm so proud of the boys. They really stood up tonight," Read said he was pleased with the Crusaders' defensive efforts, which led to a host of turnover ball. "We were able to put a lot of pressure on them and get some rewards on them in terms of territory and then obvi-

ously capitalise." The Crusaders were superior in all areas against the Canberra-based side. Their forwards were stronger and more committed at the breakdown while the backs dominated their Brumbies rivals in defence and attack.

Giant winger Nemani Nadolo was almost unstoppable in the first half, opening the scoring when he steamrolled his way over after just five minutes. The Brumbies struck back with a try to Robbie Coleman on the 10-minute

mark, but the Crusaders were in again three minutes later when Jone Macilai touched down after tireless flanker Matt Todd stole the ball at the breakdown and gave his right winger a clear run to the line. All Black fullback Israel Dagg and hooker Codie Taylor added two more tries to effectively put the game out of the Brumbies' reach by halftime. The home side were briefly back in the contest when winger Joe Tomane scored in the corner six minutes after the restart, but Taylor added his second try

to put the lead back out to 19 points before replacement flyhalf Marty McKenzie strolled over under the posts to complete the scoring.

The Crusaders have a bye next week but the Brumbies must now travel to New Zealand to take on the Highlanders in Dunedin. "That was very disappointing," Brumbies captain Stephen Moore said. "There were a couple of turnovers that were very costly. We gave them a good lead and couldn't peg them back." — AFP

## WASHINGTON REDSKINS SIGN CORNERBACK JOSH NORMAN

**WASHINGTON:** Josh Norman posed for photos with a pen and his new contract and smiled ear-to-ear alongside Washington Redskins general manager Scot McCloughan and family members decked out in fresh team gear.

Two days after being cast off by the Carolina Panthers, Norman found a place he was wanted, signing with the Redskins on Friday.

One of the NFL's top cornerbacks, Norman held out for a long-term deal but never got it from the Panthers, who rescinded the franchise tag that would have paid him \$13.9 million next season.

The 28-year-old had a career-high four interceptions, 16 passes defended and 56 tackles last season for NFC champion Carolina.

Norman posted the hashtag "Hail" with several emojis on his verified Twitter account to announce he'd picked the Redskins over other suitors, and several new teammates congratulated him and welcomed him to Washington.

"Let me be the first to say Welcome to the Family," defensive back DeAngelo Hall tweeted. Earlier in the afternoon and Thursday, Washington players used Twitter to try to convince Norman to sign. It only took one visit to make that happen.

"Hell of a job by @Redskins front

office," defensive lineman Ricky Jean-Francois tweeted. Norman visited the Redskins' facility in Ashburn, Virginia, on Friday and left with a new deal. Joining the Redskins was a much happier occasion for Norman than getting shown the door by the Panthers, who wished him well in a terse statement earlier in the week. "After a number of conversations with Josh's agent we realized that a long-term deal was not attainable," Panthers general manager Dave Gettleman said in a release. "We have decided to rescind the franchise tag freeing Josh to immediately become a UFA."

Norman's signing fills a major need for the Redskins, who had Bashaud Breeland and Will Blackmon and don't know what they'll get from Chris Culliver, who tore the ACL in his right knee last season and is still recovering.

During training camp in 2015, Norman got into a scuffle with Carolina quarterback Cam Newton and also got into one during a game with Odell Beckham Jr., which eventually led to the New York Giants receiver being suspended. Norman bothered opposing quarterbacks, too. According to STATS, he held opponents to the lowest QB rating in the league. His departure leaves a void for Carolina, which could receive 2017 draft-pick compensation.—AP



**LONDON:** Men's elite race winner Kenya's Eliud Kipchoge (L) and women's elite race winner Kenya's Jemima Sumgong (R) pose with Britain's Prince Harry (C) during the winners presentations for the elite races of the 2016 London Marathon in central London yesterday. — AFP

## MARATHON WINS FOR KIPCHOGE AND SUMGONG BOOST KENYA

**LONDON:** Eliud Kipchoge and Jemima Sumgong gave a timely boost to the tarnished reputation of Kenyan athletics yesterday with courageous wins in the men's and women's London Marathons.

Kipchoge set a new course record for the men in winning the full-distance London race for the second straight year.

The 31-year-old former track star clocked an official time of 2hrs 03mins 04secs, the second fastest run in history over the distance, just seven seconds shy of the world record set by fellow Kenyan Dennis Kimetto at the Berlin Marathon in September 2014.

Kipchoge broke clear of another Kenyan, Stanley Biwott, with about three kilometres to go and sprinted home well ahead of Biwott with track legend Kenenisa Bekele of Ethiopia in third.

He celebrated by raising his finger as he made the final turn but appeared to realise just before the line that he could have broken Kimetto's world best time.

Kipchoge is the first man to win back-to-back London marathons since Martin Lel of Kenya in 2008. "With six kilometres to go it was a tie between going for the world record time and winning. I am happy I have ran the course very well," he told the BBC.

"I am really happy with the programme I've been undergoing and I'm happy with the course record today." The crowd is what pushed me. It is a wonderful crowd in every kilometre, except in the tunnel, they cheer you and it keeps you moving." For Biwott it was the second time he has finished runner-up in London after 2014. He was fourth behind winner Kipchoge last year. His time of 2:03:51 was a personal best. Former Olympic and world track champion over 5,000 and 10,000 kms Bekele showed a return to form after a niggling series of injuries.

Earlier Kenya's Sumgong survived a bad fall late in the race to win the women's London Marathon for the first time.

Sumgong banged the side of her head off the

road when three runners went down after clashing at a drinks station, but she rejoined the leaders and eventually outpaced last year's winner, Tigest Tufa of Ethiopia, over the last mile.

It was the Kenyan's first major marathon victory since Rotterdam three years ago and followed runner-up finishes in Boston, Chicago and New York.

She posted an unofficial time of two hours 22 minutes and 58 seconds, five seconds ahead of Tufa with third place going to Florene Kiplagat of Kenya in 2:23:29.

The Kenyan double in London will boost morale back home after the shockwaves that came from 40 Kenyan athletes testing positive for banned substances over the past five years.

The east African nation's government has subsequently moved to avoid a potential ban from the Rio Olympics by passing a new law last week to make doping a criminal offence. None of Kenya's current top marathon runners have been implicated in the doping scandals. — AFP



Julio Jones and Josh Norman (right).

## CALF INJURY ENDS PIETERSEN'S IPL STINT

**NEW DELHI:** Former England batsman Kevin Pietersen will miss the remainder of the Indian Premier League (IPL) season due to a calf injury, the flamboyant stroke-maker has said.

The 35-year-old faced only one ball in Rising Pune Supergiants' match against Royal Challengers Bangalore on Friday but retired hurt after he damaged the muscle when he turned sharply back to the crease when he aborted an attempted single.

"Over & out, India! Injuries are all part of the job! Horrible tear in my calf!" Pietersen said on his Instagram account. "Sad to be leaving a really great bunch of boys but looking forward to being back with my family! London bound for a summer off! Vacation till November!"

Sacked by England in 2014 after repeated run-ins with team management, Pietersen has not completely abandoned hope of a return to international cricket. He is toying with the idea

of an improbable comeback with the country of his birth once he is eligible to represent South Africa next year.

"Yes, it is a thought in my head," Pietersen said earlier this month. "If it happens, it happens, if it doesn't, it doesn't. Obviously, playing international cricket is something I have done for a very long time."

Pune are currently second bottom in the IPL standings with only one win from four matches and captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni said Pietersen's injury could be a "blessing in disguise" for the team, who have 10 more regular season matches remaining. "We're playing with six bowlers, yet our death bowling isn't great," Dhoni said after the defeat by Bangalore. "Maybe we can look to bring in (all-rounder) Albie Morkel or Mitch Marsh in the next game. With the kind of players we've got, it has always been difficult to drop someone. We need to strengthen our bowling line a bit." — Reuters



Kevin Pietersen

## CHIEFS 'LUCKY' TO STAY TOP AS CHALLENGERS THREATEN

**WELLINGTON:** Waikato Chiefs' captain Sam Cane admitted his side were "a bit lucky" after a 28-27 victory over the Wellington Hurricanes exposed cracks in their grip on the Super Rugby competition.

The Canterbury Crusaders closed to be one point behind the Chiefs with a six-try bonus point win over the ACT Brumbies. The Chiefs benefited from a questionable try in a wafer-thin victory that showed the Hurricanes are also likely to be serious contenders at the business end of the season.

Western Stormers and Golden Lions also remain threats ahead of Australia's best the Melbourne Rebels and ACT Brumbies as the regular season passed the halfway stage.

At the bottom of the table, it was a historic weekend for Japan's Sunwolves who posted their first win at the expense of the Jaguares from Argentina in the battle of the competition newcomers.

The Chiefs triumphed after a dubious try to register their seventh win in eight games while the Hurricanes dominated much of the game only to let themselves down with handling lapses and wayward goal kicking.

"We were a bit lucky," Cane conceded. "We didn't play very well. The Hurricanes were probably the better team." The Hurricanes had an edge in the forwards and fly-half Beauden Barrett frequently exposed defensive lapses.

He set up the Canes' first try for Cory Jane, scored himself, landed a pressure drop goal and made a break in the last play of the game that should have produced a winning try.

But on the downside he missed two penalties and two conversions, while his pass to an unmarked Jason Woodward at the end of the game was dropped.

### BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT

The Chiefs were thankful for the counter-attacking creativity of fullback Damian McKenzie plus his kicking skills as he superbly judged the swirling wind to convert all four tries.

They also received the benefit of the doubt when their first try was awarded to Seta Tamanivalu although replays seemed inconclusive as to whether the ball was legally grounded.

The Crusaders notched their seventh consecutive win when they outplayed the Brumbies 40-14 yesterday. It was the seventh consecutive win for the red-and-blacks who produced an offloading game that left the Brumbies stranded.

In Cape Town, veteran Schalk Burger and

debutant Brandon Thomson featured in the Stormers 40-22 win over the Queensland Reds to stay top of the Africa 1 conference.

Burger came off the bench to provide telling leadership after the Australians threatened an upset by taking a five-point lead with 28 minutes remaining.

Thomson, a 21-year-old who started the season as the fourth-choice Stormers fly-half, also came on in the second half and calmly kicked three penalties and a conversion.

The Lions, the Africa 2 conference leaders, used a 10-minute numerical advantage to score three tries en route to a 45-10 bonus-point triumph over Southern Kings in Port Elizabeth.

They were up 14-5 when Kings flanker Thembelani Bholi was sin-binned and the score

had ballooned to 33-5 by the time he returned.

The Coastal Sharks snapped a three-match losing streak with a 15-14 win over defending champions the Otago Highlanders in Dunedin.

Gary April booted five penalties to score all the points for the Sharks who were tryless despite the Highlanders playing most of the game with 14 men after centre Jason Emery was red-carded for a dangerous tackle on Willie le Roux. In Tokyo, the Sunwolves rebounded from last week's 92-17 hiding by the Central Cheetahs to stun the Jaguares 36-28.

The Cheetahs, meanwhile, were beaten 36-14 by the Melbourne Rebels who scored 26 unanswered points in the second half. The NSW Waratahs ran in six tries to one to beat the Western Force 49-13. —AFP



**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE:** Leicester Tigers' New Zealand wing Telusa Veainu (3rd L) is tackled by Johannes Goosen of Racing Metro 92, (below) and Juan Imhoff of Racing Metro 92 (R) during the European Champions Cup semi-final rugby union match between Leicester Tigers and Racing 92 at The City Ground in Nottinghamshire, central England yesterday. — AFP



MLB results/standings

Washington 2, Minnesota 0; NY Yankees 3, Tampa Bay 2; Toronto 9, Oakland 3; Cleveland 10, Detroit 1; Chicago White Sox 4, Texas 3 (11 innings); Houston 8, Boston 3; Cincinnati 13, Chicago Cubs 5; NY Mets 8, Atlanta 2; Philadelphia 10, Milwaukee 6; Baltimore 8, Kansas City 3; LA Dodgers 4, Colorado 1; Arizona 7, Pittsburgh 1; St. Louis 11, San Diego 2; San Francisco 7, Miami 2; LA Angels 4, Seattle 2.

American League					National League				
Eastern Division					Eastern Division				
	W	L	PCT	GB		W	L	PCT	GB
Baltimore	11	5	.688	-	Washington	13	4	.765	-
Toronto	9	10	.474	3.5	NY Mets	9	7	.563	3.5
Boston	8	9	.471	3.5	Philadelphia	9	9	.500	4.5
NY Yankees	7	9	.438	4	Miami	5	11	.313	7.5
Tampa Bay	7	10	.412	4.5	Atlanta	4	13	.235	9
Central Division					Central Division				
Chicago White Sox	12	6	.667	-	Chicago Cubs	13	5	.722	-
Kansas City	11	6	.647	0.5	St. Louis	9	8	.529	3.5
Cleveland	8	7	.533	2.5	Cincinnati	9	9	.500	4
Detroit	8	8	.500	3	Pittsburgh	9	9	.500	4
Minnesota	5	13	.278	7	Milwaukee	7	11	.389	6
Western Division					Western Division				
Oakland	10	8	.556	-	LA Dodgers	11	7	.611	-
Texas	10	8	.556	-	Colorado	9	8	.529	1.5
Seattle	8	9	.471	1.5	Arizona	10	9	.526	1.5
LA Angels	8	10	.444	2	San Francisco	9	10	.474	2.5
Houston	6	12	.333	4	San Diego	7	11	.389	4



DENVER: Starting pitcher Kenta Maeda #18 of the Los Angeles Dodgers delivers against the Colorado Rockies at Coors Field on Saturday in Denver, Colorado. — AFP

ROMAN GONZALEZ DEFENDS WBC FLYWEIGHT CROWN

LOS ANGELES: Roman Gonzalez of Nicaragua enhanced his reputation as one of the world's best pound-for-pound fighters here Saturday after easily defeating Puerto Rico's McWilliams Arroyo to retain his World Boxing Council flyweight crown. The 28-year-old champion improved his record to 45-0 (38 knockouts) to claim a unanimous decision over the game but outclassed Arroyo in a bruising 12-round contest at Los Angeles's iconic Forum sports arena in Inglewood. Two judges scored it 119-109 in Gonzalez's favor with the third card marked at 120-108. The scores did not flatter the champion. It was Gonzalez's fourth defense of the title he won after beating Japan's Akira Yaegashi in Tokyo two years ago. After a cagey first round, Gonzalez began to gain the upper hand from the second onwards, hounding Arroyo around the ring and peppering his opponent with

flurries of precise shots to the body and head. Gonzalez rocked Arroyo with a jolting left midway through the third round that left the Puerto Rican wobbling before closing with another combination. Arroyo's task was made harder in the fourth round when the sole of one of his boots flew off, leaving him clearly distracted as Gonzalez dominated again. Arroyo however appeared determined not to become Gonzalez's 39th knockout victim, and did well to continue to evade trouble as the champion stalked him relentlessly around the ring. With Gonzalez comfortably ahead going into the later rounds, Arroyo needed something special to produce an upset. But after going toe-to-toe with Gonzalez towards the end of the 11th, Arroyo was unable to conjure the knockout required to depose the champion, who held on with relative ease for the win. — AFP

GOLOVKIN DESTROYS WADE TO RETAIN CROWN

LOS ANGELES: World middleweight champion Gennady Golovkin confirmed his status as the most devastating finisher in boxing here Saturday, demolishing American challenger Dominic Wade inside two rounds to score his 22nd consecutive knockout. The 34-year-old Kazakh star delighted a packed house of 16,353 fans at Los Angeles's famous Forum sports arena with an explosive performance to overwhelm Wade. The Los Angeles-based Golovkin is aiming to become the biggest draw in boxing following the retirements in the past year of Floyd Mayweather and Manny Pacquiao-and Saturday's spectacular win only enhances his box office appeal. Golovkin is hoping to secure a superfight against Mexican middleweight champion, Saul Canelo Alvarez, who fights Britain's Amir Khan in Las Vegas next month. Golovkin threw down the gauntlet after his latest knockout performance, challenging Alvarez or Khan to meet him. "It doesn't matter who wins," he said of Alvarez and Khan's May 7 fight. "I feel great. I'm here now, and I'm here to stay. I'm not going anywhere. Give me my belt, give me my belt! Let's fight." Golovkin, who improved to 35-0 with 32 knockouts, entered the ring to loud roars, with the stadium reverberating to chants of "Triple G, Triple G" throughout. ECHOES OF PRINCE Wade, unbeaten in 18 fights prior to the contest, entered to the strains of Prince's "1999", a homage to the music superstar who regularly played concerts at the Forum before his sudden death last week. Yet a lyric from the song—"Trying to run from the destruction"—was to prove eerily prescient for Wade, who was in trouble almost from the opening bell as Golovkin went about his assignment with

ruthless efficiency. Golovkin dropped Wade for the first time near the end of the first, flooring the American with as he countered a left hook. Although the blows that felled Wade did not appear to carry much of a sting, there was no ambiguity about the strength of the barrage he uncorked in the second. Wade found the canvas once again after another venomous hook from Golovkin left him doubled over. Wade rose and fought on but two left uppercuts followed by a right sent Wade crashing to the floor once more from where there was no return. "His power is real," the outclassed Wade said. "I tried to get comfortable but once he hits you it makes it very hard to get comfortable. "I could have done maybe one or two things differently but he's a great champion and he's got everything you need to be a great champion." POUND FOR POUND KING? Golovkin's trainer, Abel Sanchez, went further, insisting the Kazakh could lay claim to being the best pound-for-pound fighter in the world after a 16th consecutive title defense. "I think it's obvious who the pound for pound number one is," Sanchez said. "I don't think there's ever been a fighter, in any era, in any weight division that has dominated his weight division at a championship level the way Gennady has. "He makes good fighters look amateurish," Sanchez, who works with Golovkin at his mountain training camp in Big Bear, northeast of Los Angeles, said he believed the Kazakh had not yet demonstrated the full power of his punching. "I don't think he's ever hit someone 100 percent," Sanchez said. "I think he may have hit someone 100 percent in the gym, but I don't think he's done it in a fight. That situation will come when someone tests him." — AFP



INGLEWOOD: Gennady Golovkin of Kazakhstan punches Dominic Wade on way to a second round TKO during his unified middleweight title fight at The Forum on Saturday in Inglewood, California. — AFP

KENTA MAEDA PASSES ROCKY TEST WITH FLYING COLORS

DENVER: Japanese pitcher Kenta Maeda held Colorado hitless into the sixth inning and A.J. Ellis lined a two-run homer as the Los Angeles Dodgers beat the Rockies 4-1 on Saturday. Maeda (3-0) allowed three hits - all in the sixth - no runs and struck out eight in 6 1/3 innings as the right-hander lowered his ERA to 0.36. With a wind-up reminiscent of countryman Hideo Nomo, Maeda was cruising along until one out in the sixth when DJ LeMahieu singled for Colorado's first hit. Nomo remains the only pitcher to throw a no-hitter at Coors Field - on Sept. 17, 1996. Ellis hit his first homer of the season in the second to help the Dodgers end a five-game slide in Denver. Kenley Jansen threw a perfect ninth for his eighth save. Tyler Chatwood (2-2) allowed three runs before exiting after the fourth with an elevated pitch count.

YANKEES 3, RAYS 2

Brett Gardner hit a solo home run with two outs in the bottom of the ninth to give New York victory over Tampa Bay, spoiling the impressive major league debut of the Rays' top pitching prospect Blake Snell. Gardner singled home the tying run in the seventh and then connected on a 3-1 pitch from Erasmo Ramirez (4-1) two innings later, pointing toward the Yankees' dugout as he trotted to first base and the ball soared into the second deck in right field. Andrew Miller (1-0) worked a scoreless inning for the win, getting a double-play grounder to end the ninth. Japan's Masahiro Tanaka gave New York seven quality innings opposite Snell, perhaps baseball's premier pitching prospect. The slim left-hander permitted one run and two hits in five innings, striking out six and walking one.

NATIONALS 2, TWINS 0

Tanner Roark struck out a career-high 15 and allowed only two hits over seven innings in a dominating performance that carried the Washington Nationals past the Minnesota Twins. Roark and a trio of relievers combined to fan 18, the most by Washington since its arrival from Montreal in 2005. Roark (2-2) twice struck out the side and fanned at least two in four other innings. It was only the second time in 52 career starts that the right-hander reached double digits in strikeouts - the other was on July 6, 2014, when he fanned 11 at San Diego. Jonathan Papelbon got three outs to complete the combined two-hitter and earn his seventh save. Ryan Zimmerman drove in two runs and Bryce Harper had a pair of doubles for the Nationals, whose 13-4 start under new manager Dusty Baker matches the 1981 Expos and 2012 Nats for the best in franchise history. Phil Hughes (1-3) took the loss.

REDS 13, CUBS 5

Eugenio Suarez and Adam Duvall hit three-run homers in the sixth inning as Cincinnati finally broke through against Chicago's dominant pitching. A victory would have given the Cubs (13-5) their best start since 1907, the year they won the first of their back-to-back World Series titles. A four-homer splurge ended Chicago's domination of its NL Central rival. This series opened with Jake Arrieta's second career no-hitter in a 16-0 win Thursday night. Jon Lester kept it going, throttling the Reds in an 8-1 victory the following night. John Lackey couldn't hold a 3-2 lead in the sixth inning on Saturday night. Suarez's homer off Lackey (3-1) put the Reds up 5-3 and started a seven-run inning. Duvall connected off Trevor Cahill, and Scott Schebler followed with a solo homer. The Reds hadn't hit three homers in an inning since 2012.

CARDINALS 11, PADRES 2

Rookie Aledmys Diaz had his first five-hit game while Jedd Gyorko and Jeremy Hazelbaker hit three-run homers as St. Louis comfortably beat San Diego. Diaz had a two-run double in the ninth, while Gyorko homered off his old team and Hazelbaker snapped an 0-for-17 slump. Gyorko and Stephen Piscotty each had three hits, and Piscotty hit a solo homer in the sixth. Gyorko and Hazelbaker homered off Carlos Villanueva, who pitched for the Cardinals last year before signing with the Padres as a free

agent. Michael Wacha (2-0) and three relievers combined on a four-hitter. Kevin Quackenbush (1-1) allowed two runs and one hit in 1 1/3 innings for the loss.

GIANTS 7, MARLINS 2

Jake Peavy pitched seven innings for his first win and added a two-run single off Miami ace Jose Fernandez. Gregor Blanco tripled twice and scored two runs while Matt Duffy had three hits and scored for the Giants, who have won two straight following a five-game losing streak. Peavy (1-1) failed to get past the fifth inning in his three previous starts and had another up-and-down outing against the Marlins before finishing strongly to end his skid. Miami had runners on base in each of the first six innings but Peavy repeatedly pitched out of trouble while giving up seven hits with four strikeouts and one walk. Fernandez (1-2) allowed four runs over six innings in his first career start at AT&T Park.

DIAMONDBACKS 7, PIRATES 1

Chris Herrmann drove in four runs with a home run and double and Rubby De La Rosa gave up three hits over six-plus innings as Arizona beat Pittsburgh. Herrmann, the backup catcher who was 1 for 20 at the plate entering the game, doubled in a run in the second and hit a three-run homer off A.J. Schugel in Arizona's five-run eighth. The four RBIs tied Herrmann's career high. De La Rosa (2-3), whose previous two appearances were out of the bullpen, didn't allow a hit after Sean Rodriguez's home run with two outs in the second inning until Gregory Polanco's infield single to start the seventh. David Peralta homered for the second straight night, a solo shot off Juan Nicasio (2-2), to put the Diamondbacks up 2-1 in the third. Nicasio gave up two runs on just three hits in six innings.

ANGELS 4, MARINERS 2

Mike Trout drove in the tying and go-ahead runs with a home run against Felix Hernandez and Cliff Pennington also homered to lift Los Angeles over Seattle. Nelson Cruz put Seattle ahead 2-1 in the sixth with his second homer in two nights after an eight-game drought. But Trout responded in the bottom half when he drove a 1-0 pitch to center field after a leadoff single by Rafael Ortega. It was Trout's third homer of the season and fifth of his career against Hernandez (1-2). Trout, the 2014 AL MVP, entered the game with a .354 career average against the 2010 AL MVP - the highest by any player with at least 50 at-bats against Hernandez. Hector Santiago (1-0) allowed two runs and four hits over six innings and struck out seven. Huston Street got his fifth save in five chances.

METS 8, BRAVES 2

David Wright hit a two-run double and Steven Matz earned his second straight win as New York stayed hot by beating power-deprived Atlanta. Neil Walker and Asdrubal Cabrera hit back-to-back home runs in the ninth against right-hander Ryan Weber. The Mets had 15 hits and have homers in eight straight games. Matz (2-1) allowed two runs on nine hits with eight strikeouts in 6 1/3 innings. The Mets have won seven of nine, including the first two games of the series against Atlanta. The Braves have lost four straight and were held without a homer for the 12th straight game. Atlanta is last in the majors with only three homers through 17 games - 22 fewer than the Mets. It is the team's longest drought since going 13 straight games without a homer in May 1983. Jhoulys Chacin (0-1) allowed four runs, three earned, in 5 2/3 innings.

PHILLIES 10, BREWERS 6

Maikel Franco hit his third homer in two days and Odubel Herrera homered and reached base five times as Philadelphia beat Milwaukee. Franco hit his fifth homer and drove in four runs after hitting two homers in a 5-2 win over Milwaukee on Friday night. Phillies right-hander Charlie Morton exited in the second inning after straining his left hamstring running to first on a sacrifice attempt. Brett Oberholtzer (1-0)

replaced Morton. Franco hit a go-ahead, three-run homer in the fourth inning off Chase Anderson (1-2).

WHITE SOX 4, RANGERS 3, 11 INNINGS

Slump-ridden Jose Abreu hit an RBI single with one out in the bottom of the 11th inning, leading Chicago over Texas. After Texas tied it in the ninth on Elvis Andrus's sacrifice fly off David Robertson, the White Sox went on to win for the fourth time in five games. Dioner Navaro drew a leadoff walk in the 11th from Nick Martinez (0-1), the last of five Texas relievers. Austin Jackson was hit by a pitch and Adam Eaton walked to load the bases. One out later, Abreu grounded a single to left field for the second game-ending hit of his career. He took a .180 batting average into the game. Matt Albers (1-0) pitched a scoreless inning.

ORIOLES 8, ROYALS 3

Chris Davis homered and had four hits and Manny Machado extended his hitting streak to 16 games for Baltimore. Mark Trumbo had three hits and four RBIs for the Orioles, and Tyler Wilson (1-0) won his first start this season. Davis, who led the majors with 47 home runs last season, hit his sixth homer in the second inning and had an RBI single during the Orioles' four-run fourth. He tied a career high for hits and hiked his average from .192 to .246. Machado singled in his first at-bat and doubled in a run in the fourth. He entered hitting an American League-leading .397. Kris Medlen (1-1) allowed seven runs on nine hits and three walks in 3 2/3 innings.

ASTROS 8, RED SOX 3

Colby Rasmus hit a tie-breaking grand slam in the fifth inning to lead Houston over Boston and snap a four-game skid. He drove in a fifth run with a double in Houston's three-run eighth for his most RBIs since he had six on June 2, 2011. The game was tied at 1-1 and Clay Buchholz (0-2) had retired eight straight before walking Luis Valbuena with no outs in the fifth. George Springer singled with two outs before Buchholz plunked Carlos Correa to load the bases. Rasmus then launched a 93 mph fastball with two strikes to the seats in right-center field for his fifth career grand slam and Houston's second this season to make it 5-1. Mike Fiers (2-1) allowed five hits and two runs with six strikeouts in 5 1/3 innings for his second win in a row.

INDIANS 10, TIGERS 1

Corey Kluber struck out 10 over eight impressive innings and Yan Gomes homered and drove in five runs for Cleveland in its rout of Detroit. Kluber (1-3) happily accepted the offensive output to earn his first win of the season. The 2014 AL Cy Young Award winner, who went 9-16 last year, gave up two hits and no walks in eight innings. Kluber had got just three runs of support in his first three starts. This was his fifth game with at least 10 strikeouts and zero walks since the start of the 2014 season - only Clayton Kershaw (8) and Max Scherzer (6) have more. Games came in hitting .143 with one RBI and no extra-base hits in his last eight games. He singled home a run in the first, hit a three-run homer in the third and added an RBI double in the seventh. It was his second career five-RBI game. Anibal Sanchez (2-2) struggled for the second straight start.

BLUE JAYS 9, ATHLETICS 3

Troy Tulowitzki hit two solo home runs and Josh Donaldson added a three-run blast to help Toronto snap Oakland's six-game winning streak. J.A. Happ (3-0) allowed three runs and seven hits in seven innings to win his third straight start. Ezequiel Carrera had the first fourth game of his career and scored three times for the Blue Jays. He also made a pair of diving catches in left, one on Chris Coghlan in the fifth and another on Khris Davis in the ninth. Mark Canha homered for the Athletics, whose seven-game road winning streak ended. Tulowitzki homered to begin the fifth and seventh innings, the 12th multihomer game of his career. — AP

## QUINE WINS IT IN SECOND OT, ISLANDERS TOP PANTHERS 2-1

**SUNRISE:** Alan Quine was a newborn when the New York Islanders last won a playoff series. He spent most of this season in the minors. His NHL debut was a mere two weeks ago, the team adding him to the roster as an emergency callup. And now he's a playoff hero. The 23-year-old Quine put the Islanders in position to end a 23-year drought between playoff series wins. His slap shot at 16 minutes of the second overtime - 96 minutes into the game - narrowly beat Florida goalie Roberto Luongo, and New York topped the Panthers 2-1 in Game 5 of their Eastern Conference quarterfinal series.

The game started Friday, ended Saturday at 12:16 a.m., and the Islanders - now up 3-2 in the series - will try for the

clincher in Brooklyn yesterday. "Right in my wheelhouse," Quine said of the power-play winner, "and I just ripped it."

Thomas Greiss' spectacular series continued, stopping 47 shots for the Islanders. He's saved 92 of the last 95 shots he's faced. "I think we're playing great hockey," Panthers coach Gerard Gallant said. "We're getting great scoring chances. The kid's playing really well. ... Hopefully, sooner or later, we're going to get some breaks."

Luongo made 40 saves for Florida, which missed a penalty shot in the first overtime, then was whistled for two penalties in the second overtime.

**'DEFINITELY DISAPPOINTING'**  
The Isles' second OT power play came

when Derek Mackenzie was called for slashing at 14:31, and Florida succumbed. Quine took a pass out of the high slot from Marek Zidlicky - who didn't play in any of the series' first four games - and fired a blast from the right side that beat Luongo.

The Islanders swarmed the ice in celebration. Luongo fell onto his back, and Gallant's frustration with the call was evident.

"Definitely disappointing," Gallant said. "But what do you do? They call penalties and penalties are part of the game. Make a great shot, they score the winning goal. It was a great hockey game."

Frans Nielsen scored in the first period for the Islanders. Aleksander Barkov

scored in the third for the Panthers, and had a chance for an NHL first - an overtime penalty shot goal. The Islanders' Calvin De Haan closed his hand on the puck in the crease 7:19 into the first overtime and Barkov was awarded the third OT penalty shot in league history as a result. And like the other two, it missed.

Barkov's backhand was handled by Greiss, and play continued. Said Barkov: "The goalie made a great save." Said Greiss: "I'm lucky I got it."

It was the second overtime game of the series, the other New York's home win in Game 3.

Exclude Florida's empty-net goal that sealed Game 2, and all five games of this matchup between 100-plus-point regu-

lar-season clubs has been of the one-goal variety.

"We'll be ready for Sunday," Panthers defenseman Brian Campbell said. Florida tied it 1:59 into the third. Jonathan Huberdeau got knocked down in the left circle but Jaromir Jagr retrieved the puck, played it back toward the right point, and Barkov scored off Alex Petrovic's pass to knot the game at 1-1.

Nielsen put New York on top with 6:29 left in the opening period, putting home the rebound of a shot by Thomas Hickey. About four hours later, Quine entered Islanders' lore. "We got the bounce on the power play," Islanders coach Jack Capuano said, "from a guy that was in the American Hockey League a month ago." — AP

## CELTIC EDGE CLOSER TO TITLE DESPITE DRAW

**GLASGOW:** Celtic moved to within touching distance of a fifth consecutive Scottish Premiership title despite being held to a disappointing 1-1 draw by Ross County at Parkhead. Leigh Griffiths fired Celtic into a 23rd-minute lead with a sizzling shot that briefly lit up a subdued crowd at Celtic Park. However, a sensational strike from Stewart Murdoch levelled the match in the 64th minute as Celtic failed to take full advantage of Aberdeen's 3-0 defeat to St Johnstone on Friday.

The full-time whistle was greeted with jeers from the home support, who vented their anger at departing manager Ronny Deila and his players. Despite this, the Hoops are now nine points clear with four games remaining and could clinch the championship with a win away to Hearts next Saturday if Aberdeen fail to pick up maximum points in their match with Motherwell.

"I think the first half was okay but the second half was not good," said Deila, who will leave the club in the summer. "We got stressed and we got too open and in the end 1-1 was a fair result." Ross County manager Jim McIntyre, whose side are sixth, felt the visitors could have won the match. "I think we put so much effort into the game today. I definitely think our chances were far better than theirs," he said.

"For me it was about getting the balance right between being hard to beat and carrying a threat and I think we certainly did that today," Deila's announcement that he will soon depart the Glasgow giants had done little to boost the numbers or atmosphere within Celtic Park following last weekend's Scottish Cup semi-final defeat to Old Firm rivals Rangers.

However, the home crowd finally came to life midway through the first half when Griffiths rifled the Hoops in front. The Scotland striker was allowed too much

room on the edge of the box after collecting a pass from Colin Kazim-Richards and he drilled an unstoppable strike into the top corner.

### MURDOCH SCREAMER

Minutes later, Australian star Tom Rogic somehow missed a chance to double Celtic's advantage as he fired wide from five yards out after getting on the end of a cross from Patrick Roberts.

County keeper Scott Fox then got down low to tip a fierce effort from Nir Bitton round the post while at the other end Craig Gordon held on to a low drive from Ian McShane. County's Liam Boyce then missed a chance to haul his side level as the unmarked striker sent a header straight to Gordon from eight yards out.

The visitors passed up another opportunity five minutes after the break when Michael Gardyne blasted over from six yards out under no pressure after collecting a headed knock-on from Alex Schalk.

A 25-yard screamer from Murdoch levelled matters in the 64th minute after a period of sustained pressure from County. An attempted clearance only went as far as Murdoch who took a touch before smashing a shot beyond Gordon, although the goalkeeper complained about a County player in an offside position blocking his view. The Celtic fans thought Kazim-Richards had put the Hoops in front again but the Turkish striker fired wide and was quickly replaced by Kris Commons.

Dutch striker Schalk then sent a powerful strike from 25 yards inches wide as County came close to snatching a winner of their own. Elsewhere, Dundee United edged closer to relegation from the top flight as Hamilton Academical sealed a 3-1 win over Mixu Paatelainen's side to leave them eight points adrift at the bottom of the table. —AFP



**STUTTGART:** Tournament winner Angelique Kerber of Germany poses with her trophy in her reward, a Porsche Boxster 718, after winning her final match against Laura Siegemund of Germany at the WTA tennis tournament in Stuttgart, Germany, yesterday. —AP

## KERBER DEFENDS STUTTGART TITLE

**STUTTGART:** Australian Open champion Angelique Kerber picked up her second title of 2016 with a 6-4, 6-0 victory over qualifier Laura Siegemund for back-to-back wins in Stuttgart yesterday. "It's amazing to be able to defend my title here," beamed Kerber after her repeat success in the WTA claycourt tournament. "I had goosebumps, it's simply been a perfect week." In an all-German final, Kerber claimed her first win since her Melbourne triumph in January with an impressive display against Siegemund. The qualifier had beaten seeds Simona Halep, Roberta Vinci and Agnieszka Radwanska, all ranked in the world's top ten.

"I have never felt so much emotion out on the tennis court as I have in the last few days," said Siegemund, a trained psychologist who is

working towards her doctorate. "It happened exactly as I feared it would: God pulled the plug on me," she added, after the final took just 81 minutes.

"I haven't had a day off here and no time to enjoy my results, so I'll definitely do that now." Having not dropped a set en route, this was Siegemund's debut in a WTA final and Kerber's first since the Australian Open. Kerber beat her Germany Fed Cup team-mate Annika Beck in the second-round, then Spain's Carla Suarez-Navarro in the quarters and Petra Kvitova in the semi-final.

But the world number three got off to a false start when she found herself 3-0 down in the tight first set before fighting her way back. She then raced into a 2-0 lead in the second as

Siegemund had to briefly receive treatment.

Kerber then dominated the 28-year-old Siegemund, who will shoot up the world rankings from 71 to 42 on the back of her performances in Stuttgart, and kept finding her shots on the baseline to quickly race to a 4-0 lead. Having broken Siegemund to go 5-0 up, Kerber used her first championship ball to seal the win which again includes the prize of a luxury sports car. Having suffered a drop in form after her Melbourne triumph, Kerber says she has had to learn to deal with the hype of being a Grand Slam winner.

"I have learnt in the last few weeks to use every single minute to store up with energy and strength," said Kerber as she got her clay-court season off to a winning start. —AFP

## BRIGHTON EYE AUTOMATIC PROMOTION, DONS RELEGATED

**LONDON:** Brighton bolstered their bid for automatic promotion to the Premier League with a 3-1 win at Charlton on Saturday, while Milton Keynes Dons were relegated to the third tier after a 4-1 thrashing by Brentford.

Chris Hughton's Brighton are third in the Championship but only goal difference is keeping them below leaders Burnley and second placed Middlesbrough with two games remaining in a thrilling finale to the promotion race.

Burnley had moved to the top of the table following a 1-0 victory at Preston on Friday and they remain in pole position after Middlesbrough were held to a 0-0 draw by Ipswich at the Riverside Stadium.

Brighton ignored a protest by fans of relegated Charlton, who delayed the match by several minutes when they threw balloons on the pitch, to take the lead through Sam Baldock. Jiri Skalak and Tomer Hemed also netted for Brighton after Johann Berg Gudmundsson's equaliser for Charlton. "It's a wonderful position to be in and one we would not have expected to be at this stage of the season," Hughton said.

"We are all desperate to get promotion in whatever way that is. We certainly deserve to be in there with the two other teams." At the other end of the table, third bottom Milton Keynes' relegation to League One was confirmed in dispiriting fashion. Nicky Maynard's early opener gave Dons the perfect start, but goals from Sergi Canos, Lasse Vibe, Ryan Woods and Jake Bidwell ended their one-season stay in the

Championship. "I'm sick really. If I'm being honest, we've not been good enough all year," Milton Keynes Dons manager Karl Robinson said. "There will be a lot of talking going on in the next seven days for obvious reasons, but certain people will not be here next season." Sheffield Wednesday were unable to seal a play-off place after Derby striker Darren Bent's 82nd-minute header cancelled out Barry Bannan's stunning opener for the sixth placed Owls in a 1-1 draw at the iPro Stadium. That result gave hope to seventh placed Cardiff, who dramatically defeated relegated Bolton 2-1 to move within four points of Wednesday.

Zach Clough gave Bolton an early lead but Kenneth Zohore equalised after Niall Maher's red card for the visitors and Cardiff nicked it through Peter Whittingham's penalty deep into stoppage-time.

Whittingham's winner sets up a fascinating meeting between Wednesday and Cardiff at Hillsborough next weekend, with the south Wales club needing a win in their penultimate game of the season to remain in the hunt for a play-off place. Fourth-placed Hull's chances of automatic promotion are over following a 2-2 draw with Leeds. Rotherham secured another season in the Championship with a goalless draw at Wolves, while Fulham are also safe despite a 3-1 loss to Nottingham Forest. Bristol City can also look forward to another season in the second tier after a 2-2 draw at Blackburn. QPR drew 1-1 with Reading and at Huddersfield were held to a 1-1 draw by Birmingham. — AFP



**FRANKFURT:** Mainz's goalkeeper Loris Karius lets the ball pass to give Frankfurt a 2-1 lead during a German first division Bundesliga soccer match between Eintracht Frankfurt and FSV Mainz 05 in Frankfurt, Germany, yesterday. —AP

## CAVS HOLD OFF PISTONS, TAKE 3-0 LEAD IN SERIES

**AUBURN HILLS:** In their second postseason together, LeBron James, Kyrie Irving and Kevin Love might finally be hitting their stride as a group. At the very least, Cleveland's trio of stars looks awfully comfortable, and the Cavaliers are closing in on a first-round sweep. James had 20 points and 13 rebounds, and Irving made a pair of big 3-pointers down the stretch to help the Cavs beat the Detroit Pistons 101-91 on Friday night. Cleveland now leads the series 3-0, with Game 4 coming up Sunday night. Love scored 20 points of his own for the Cavs, and so far this feels like a far cry from last year's playoffs, when injuries to Irving and Love forced James to carry Cleveland in its NBA Finals loss to Golden State. "I think right now we're in a great flow as far as us three," James said. "When we're on the floor we understand what we want individually and as a team. Guys are picking their spots."

Irving scored 26 points for Cleveland, which overcame a gritty effort by the Pistons in Detroit's first home playoff game since 2009. Andre Drummond scored 17 points for the Pistons, but Detroit fell behind toward the end of the third quarter, and a late rally came up short. The Pistons have now lost 11 straight playoff games against Cleveland, and they've lost nine in a row overall in the postseason.

Down by nine in the fourth, Detroit went on an 8-0 run, forcing the Cavs to call a timeout. Irving responded with a 3-pointer, and J.R. Smith added one of his own to make it 95-90. Irving made it an eight-point game with a 3-pointer in the final minute. Detroit coach Stan Van Gundy was exasperated by the fact that Cleveland out-rebounded his team 46-32. "Rebounding's been one of our strengths all year. It's been terrible in this series," Van Gundy said.

Love had 12 rebounds and Tristan Thompson had 10, including eight at the offensive end. The Cavs also had three players score at least 20 points - the third time that's happened in this series. A raucous, towel-waving crowd tried to give Detroit a boost. Pistons fans booed James early and often, although the Cleveland star threw down a two-handed dunk on his team's first offensive possession.

Detroit rookie Stanley Johnson, who seemed eager to get into a verbal battle with James and the Cavs after Game 2, scored nine points in a fearless first half Friday, but James had the final word before halftime, making a jumper with less than a second left in the second quarter to give Cleveland a 54-53 lead.

Cleveland methodically built a 79-73 lead

after three quarters, and after a three-point play and a 3-pointer by James early in the fourth, the Cavs were up by nine. It was 87-86 after Detroit's run, but the 3s by Irving and Smith helped Cleveland hold on.

With 1:34 remaining, the public address announcer at the Palace announced the results of a replay review with his popular "Deeeeeeeetroit Basketball" call, but it turned out he was mistaken and had to correct himself. Officials were giving the ball to the Cavs.

Detroit's chances were all but extinguished when Irving sank a 3-pointer from the right corner with 43 seconds remaining, and James ran back to midcourt for a celebratory chest bump.

### CELTICS 111, HAWKS 103

Isaiah Thomas scored a career-high 42 points, and Boston held on to beat Atlanta in Game 3 of the Eastern Conference first-round series. Evan Turner, inserted into the starting lineup, had 17 points and seven assists. Amir Johnson added 15 points and seven rebounds as the Celtics closed to 2-1 in the best-of-seven series. Playing by far their best first half of the series, Boston led by as many as 20 points before seeing that mostly



**AUBURN HILLS:** Reggie Jackson #1 of the Detroit Pistons tries to get around the defense of Iman Shumpert #4 of the Cleveland Cavaliers in the second quarter during game three of the NBA Eastern Conference quarterfinals at the Palace of Auburn Hills. Cleveland won the game 101-91 to take a 3-0 series lead. — AFP

## VILLA FLOPS WON'T BE PROTECTED FROM FAN BACKLASH

**BIRMINGHAM:** Relegated Aston Villa's beleaguered players face three more weeks of public humiliation before their nightmare season comes to an end. But Villa caretaker manager Eric Black has no plans to shield any of his highly-paid but underachieving troops from their fate in the final fixtures.

Angry Villa fans have targeted goalkeeper Brad Guzan, defender Joleon Lescott and midfielder Leandro Bacuna for particular ridicule, with the trio's every touch booed during Saturday's 4-2 defeat at home to Southampton.

But Black, who was also criticised by supporters for his substitutions, insists the abuse directed at players and himself will not influence his team selection for the remaining three games.

"When you're bottom of the league with 16 points and you're relegated, whether you're in the right frame of mind I don't know, but I can only pick on what I see," Black said.

"People will have to judge things for themselves but I can only pick it on 37 years of football experience. 'That is all I go on. I can't pick it on what journalists say or what supporters say.'

"That would be unprofessional of me and there would be no point in me being here if we just had a lottery and picked the team.

"I am standing there so I will take it. That is not a problem," Black admitted he could have no complaints about the hostile atmosphere that greeted Villa in their first home game since their first re-

legation for 29 years was confirmed last weekend.

### WORST SEASON

"I can understand the fans' frustration and the fans will definitely have their ideas on the team and the players they want to see," he added.

"I think that multiplies because of the circumstances but I can't be led down that road. I can't succumb to that and I won't. 'It is difficult circumstances for everybody and I don't want to be accusing the fans of anything because they keep turning up. 'They are trying to voice their opinions in certain ways about certain players.'

"But we are professional people, the garden is not always rosy and you have

to respond and that's all we can do. 'I'm not here to tell the fans what to do. They have had the worst season in recent history for this club. 'They have seen poor performances and poor results and they have every right to voice their anger.'

Two goals from Dusan Tadic helped Southampton to a victory that was more comfortable than the scoreline suggested. He added to Shane Long's opener while Sadio Mane made it 4-2 late on after Ashley Westwood had twice pulled Villa within one goal. Southampton still harbour hopes of qualifying for the Europa League and manager Ronald Koeman said: "What you like is, at the end of the season, to play for something.

"That is always better than when the season is over. We are winning again and

putting the pressure on them. 'That's what we like to do and we have to do it next week. 'Liverpool have a tough schedule with the Europa League and that's always difficult to keep the momentum in the Premier League. 'That's good because we are close but we need more wins, we know.'

Jay Rodriguez made his first start for the Saints since September and Koeman was delighted with his contribution. "Everyone knows Jay played twice in the under-21s and in the last two matches he came from the bench," said Koeman.

"Today was the last step he makes by starting. Normally it's a player who can score goals and what he needs is game time. It was a good opportunity to start." — AFP

## PSG BEAT LILLE TO RETAIN FRENCH CUP

**PARIS:** Ten-man Paris Saint-Germain beat Lille 2-1 in the French League Cup final at the Stade de France on Saturday to remain on course for a domestic clean sweep of titles. The Ligue 1 champions took the lead five minutes before half-time in contentious circumstances, with Javier Pastore's shot passing through the legs of an offside Layvin Kurzawa on its way into the net. But Lille hit back shortly after the restart when Djibril Sidibe fired a free-kick through the wall and into the net.

The capital city side were dealt a huge blow when Adrien Rabiot was shown a second yellow card for a cynical foul on the impressive Sofiane Boufal with 20 minutes remaining. But a moment of madness from Lille goalkeeper Vincent Enyeama allowed Angel Di Maria to roll in the winner with 16 minutes to play for his 15th goal of the season. Laurent Blanc's men now have three trophies this term with a French Cup final against Marseille to come, as they look to ease the pain of their Champions League quarter-final defeat to Manchester City.

"My players, even at 10 against 11, wanted to win that game," coach Blanc told television channel France 2, after his team won the final for the third year in a row. "We have a season to finish in the league and the French Cup on May 21, when we can end on a good note.

"Now we have already won the League Cup, I hope my players will be focused and motivated for the French Cup." PSG thrashed Bastia 4-0 12 months ago to seal a record fifth League Cup title, while Lille were playing in the final of the competition for the first time.

"It's very hard, we are very disappointed," said Lille winger Boufal. "We must congratulate Paris, even with ten, they proved they are a great team. We were beaten by the stronger side."

Blanc opted to play Lucas Moura alongside Zlatan Ibrahimovic and Di Maria up front, leaving Edinson Cavani on the bench, while the returning Marco Verratti was

named among the substitutes.

PSG should have taken the lead just 21 seconds in, but after being set up by Ibrahimovic, Di Maria drilled his shot from only 10 yards out straight at Enyeama, who made an excellent save.

Lille, who came into this match on a six-game winning streak, grew into the contest and PSG goalkeeper Salvatore Sirigu had to be alert to prevent Marquinhos from putting through his own net after Mounir Obbadi's pass caused panic in the defence.

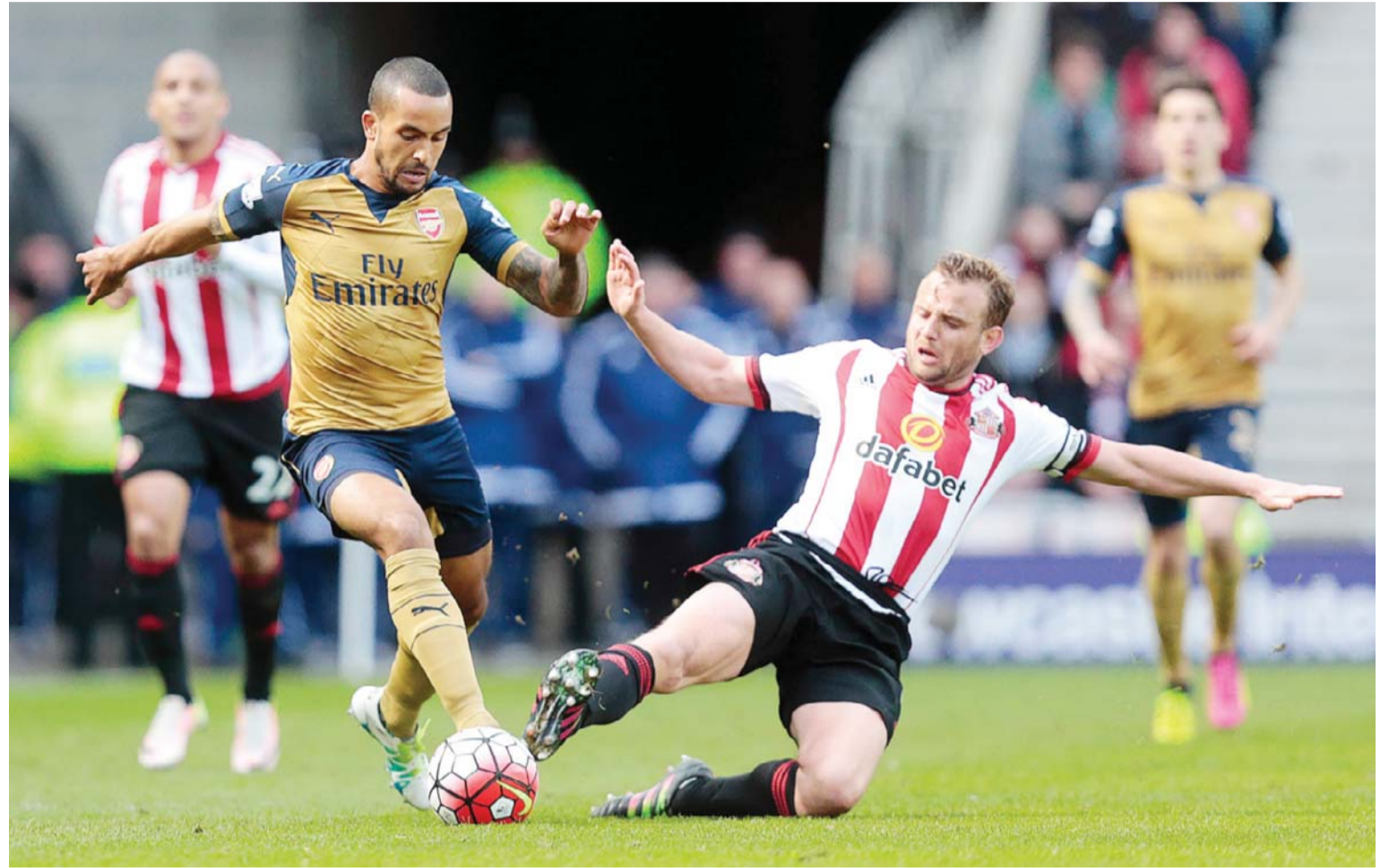
### MAD DAY FOR ENYEAMA

The holders though broke the deadlock when a corner was only cleared as far as Pastore. The Argentine's scuffed volley took a wicked deflection to beat Enyeama, whose furious appeals that Kurzawa was interfering with play from an offside position were waved away.

Enyeama had to be dragged away from the officials at the interval, but Lille channelled their frustrations perfectly by leveling in the 49th minute.

Sirigu, who has only been first-choice keeper in the cup competitions in his final campaign in France, was left apoplectic at his defenders after full-back Sidibe grabbed his sixth goal of the season with a low free-kick that split the wall in two.

Things went from bad to worse for PSG when they were reduced to ten men after Rabiot hacked down the marauding Boufal. The deciding goal was one of the most bizarre of the season, and Nigerian keeper Enyeama was at fault. A long clearance from Sirigu was nodded through for Di Maria by Lille's Adama Soumaoro, but despite having defenders covering, Enyeama raced 30 yards out of his goal to give the PSG forward the simple task of knocking the ball past him and into a gaping net. Frederic Antonetti's Lille had chances to equalise, with Soumaoro heading wide from a free-kick and Obbadi seeing his volley bounce agonisingly past the post, but PSG held on. — AFP



**SUNDERLAND:** Arsenal's English midfielder Theo Walcott (2nd L) is challenged by Sunderland's English midfielder Lee Cattermole (2nd R) during the English Premier League football match between Sunderland and Arsenal at the Stadium of Light in Sunderland, northeast England yesterday. — AFP

## WILSHERE BACK, ARSENAL HELD AT SUNDERLAND



**SUNDERLAND:** Arsenal remain on course for a 20th consecutive top-four Premier League finish, but Arsene Wenger's men had to settle for a 0-0 draw at relegation-threatened Sunderland yesterday. The Gunners' hopes of catching second-place north London rivals Tottenham Hotspur diminished after they were unable to find a way past their former goalkeeper Vito Mannone at the Stadium of Light. The point took them level with third-place Manchester City, five points clear of Manchester United, who have a game in hand, but was of more use to Sunderland, who climbed out of the relegation zone on goal difference. Arsenal still look a decent bet to finish in the top four and reach the Champions League for an 18th straight campaign under Wenger, but the Frenchman's detractors were hardly silenced by a largely listless display. Along with moving level with City, the other main highlight for Wenger was the return from injury of Jack Wilshere, as the England midfielder made his first domestic appearance since last season's FA

Cup final after coming on as a late substitute following a lengthy injury absence.

Arsenal had the better of the first half in front of another 45,000-plus Stadium of Light crowd as Mannone excelled against his old club. But they were decidedly second-best after the interval, and would have returned to the capital with nothing to show for their efforts had Sunderland shown a little more composure in front of goal.

In front of their billionaire US-based owner Ellis Short, the hosts came closest to breaking the deadlock before the interval despite being outplayed for long spells.

Former Chelsea defender Patrick van Aanholt saw his curling left-foot free-kick from 20 yards come back off the angle of post and crossbar after a foul on Jermain Defoe in a rare moment of first-half danger for the visitors. For the most part, Wenger's side were on the front foot, but were unable to produce anything good enough to beat Mannone, who moved to Wearside in a £1.5 million (\$2.2 million, 1.9 million euros) deal in 2013 after eight years with the Gunners.

### HANDBALL SHOUTS

The Sunderland goalkeeper produced a string of fine saves, the stand-out of which was a full-stretch stop low to his right to keep out a long-range free-kick from Alexis Sanchez.

The Italian also showed his reflexes as he got down well to smother Mesut Ozil's deflected effort from 18 yards as Arsenal pressed for an

opening goal. They had strong penalty claims turned down shortly before half-time when DeAndre Yedlin charged down an Alex Iwobi shot with his arm, but referee Mike Dean was unmoved. He had also allowed play to continue earlier in the half when a snapshot from Defoe struck Per Mertesacker on the hand from point-blank range inside the area.

Petr Cech had been largely a spectator in the opening 45 minutes, but found himself thrust into the spotlight as Sunderland enjoyed their best spell of the match immediately after the restart. The Arsenal goalkeeper saved well from Defoe's angled drive, before blocking the follow-up from Yann M'Vila.

He then had to dive full-length to his right to deny Wahbi Khazri as the Wearsiders gathered an attacking momentum. Defoe sent a looping effort narrowly wide with Cech struggling to cover after an excellent through ball from Lee Cattermole, and Sunderland ought to have taken the lead inside the final 20 minutes.

Laurent Koscielny inexplicably ducked under Khazri's corner to allow the ball to run inside Arsenal's six-yard box, but Lamine Kone failed to anticipate what would have been a free shot from virtually under the crossbar.

At the other end, Mannone pulled off another fine save late on from Sanchez, but it was a rare moment of concern for the hosts as the attacking threat posed by Wenger's side diminished with each passing minute. — AFP



**SAINT-DENIS:** Paris Saint-Germain's Uruguayan forward Edinson Cavani (L) holds the trophy next to Paris Saint-Germain's French midfielder Blaise Matuidi at the end of the French League Cup final football match Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) vs Lille (LSC) on Saturday at the Stade de France stadium in Saint-Denis, north of Paris. — AFP

## SUAREZ HITS FOUR MORE FOR BARCELONA

**BARCELONA:** Luis Suarez became the first La Liga player to score four goals for the second game in a row as Barcelona, helped by three penalties in the second half, stayed top by hammering Sporting Gijon 6-0 on Saturday.

Suarez moved ahead of Ronaldo as the league's top scorer on 34 goals after netting four times, twice with penalties, in the space of 25 second-half minutes. Sporting had defender Ognjen Vranjes sent off in the 85th minute after picking up a second booking for fouling Neymar who scored the subsequent spot kick. The league leaders and Atletico have 82 points, with Barca top because of a superior head-to-head record. Real are third on 81 points with three games remaining.

Lionel Messi's stooping header put Barca ahead on 12 minutes but Gijon, who are third from bottom, missed two chances to equalise before halftime.

Suarez eased Barca nerves by tapping home Andres Iniesta's low cross in the 63rd minute before converting twice from the spot. The prolific Uruguayan, who also scored four times and provided three assists in Wednesday's 8-0 thrashing of Deportivo La Coruna, grabbed another goal in the 88th minute, drilling in a pass from Messi.

Barca have now scored 14 goals in their last two league games after picking up just one point from their previous four matches.

"It was vital we won and doing it by scoring lots of goals helps lift our confidence,"

said coach Luis Enrique. "We have turned round a very negative run that nobody expected." Ronaldo missed his first league game of the season due to a muscle strain and Real suffered another blow ahead of their Champions League semi-final against Manchester City in midweek when Karim Benzema was injured against Rayo. — Reuters

Live Matches on TV (Local Timings)		
<b>ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE</b>		
Tottenham v West Bromwich	22:00	beIN SPORTS 2 HD
<b>SPANISH LEAGUE</b>		
Celta de Vigo v Granada CF	21:30	beIN SPORTS 3 HD
<b>ITALIAN CALCIO LEAGUE</b>		
AS Roma v SSC Napoli	16:00	beIN SPORTS 4 HD
Hellas Verona v AC Milan	18:00	beIN SPORTS 1 HD
Carpi v Empoli	20:00	beIN SPORTS 4 HD

## CRISIS-HIT MARSEILLE FALTER AGAIN AT HOME

**PARIS:** Struggling French giants Marseille saw their winless home run in Ligue 1 extended to 15 matches yesterday after the 10-man hosts were held to a 1-1 draw by Nantes. Nicolas Nkoulou gifted Nantes a first-half lead when he headed a cross into his own net under little pressure, but Florian Thauvin, whose goal in midweek sent Marseille through to the French Cup final, grabbed an equaliser just after the break.

However, Marseille's hopes of snapping a 10-match winless streak in the top flight suffered a damaging blow when Alaixys Romao was sent off on 55 minutes for kicking out at Yacine Bammou. And there was worse to come for OM as Abou Diaby, starting his second straight game after 18 months out through injury, hobbled off midway through the second half.

"There was a lack of rhythm in the first half and we started the game poorly. Then there was the goal which was a bit unlucky and that knocked down my players' confidence to a level even lower than it was at the start of the game against Sochaux," said OM interim coach Franck Passi. "Since the start of the season quite a few things have gone against us, but the players never give up. Faced with adversity, to get back level and earn a point is important," he added, with OM six points above the relegation zone with three games left to play.

Wednesday's 1-0 victory at Sochaux in the last four of the French Cup, which set up a showdown with bitter rivals Paris Saint-Germain next month, was one of the few positives for Marseille in a season which has lurched from bad to worse.

Yesterday's game at the Velodrome was played in front of fewer than 20,000 fans as Marseille served a partial stadium ban following crowd trouble during their 0-0 draw against Bordeaux a

fortnight ago. Michy Batshuayi went close to scoring the opening goal on 29 minutes, but the Belgian striker's effort was tipped onto the post by Nantes goalkeeper Maxime Dupe. — AFP



**MARSEILLE:** Marseille's Cameroonian midfielder Andre-Frank Zambo Anguissa (R) vies with Nantes' Belgian midfielder Guillaume Gillet during the French L1 football match between Marseille (OM) and Nantes (FCN) yesterday at the Velodrome stadium in Marseille. — AFP

# Sports

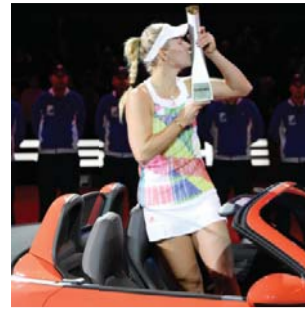
Poels claims first Monument for Sky

15



Kerber defends Stuttgart title

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PSG BEAT LILLE TO RETAIN FRENCH CUP

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LEICESTER: Leicester City's Algerian midfielder Riyad Mahrez (R) collides with Swansea City's Polish goalkeeper Lukasz Fabianski (L) during the English Premier League football match between Leicester City and Swansea City at King Power Stadium in Leicester, central England yesterday. — AFP

## ULLOA DOUBLE SENDS LEICESTER CLOSER TO TITLE



**LEICESTER:** Leicester City were in touching distance of a fairytale first Premier League title after Leonardo Ulloa's double helped them outclass Swansea City 4-0 at a delirious King Power Stadium yesterday. The Foxes' dream of completing their surreal journey from 5,000-1 non-hoppers to English champions felt more tantalisingly real after 10 minutes when Ashley Williams's careless clearance gifted Riyad Mahrez his 17th goal of the season. Ulloa, filling in for Leicester's suspended top scorer Jamie Vardy, then took centre stage. He headed home the second and tapped in a third on the hour as the Foxes cruised while their fans merrily sang: "Are you watching, Tottenham?" The Spurs faithful who were watching could only sigh as substitute Marc Albrighton smashed in a fourth in the dying minutes to confirm Leicester's eight-point lead over the second-placed Londoners.

Should Tottenham lose their game in hand at home to West Bromwich Albion today, the Foxes, who need five points from their last

three games to take the title, could even be crowned champions next Sunday with victory at Manchester United. "I told them we have a dream and now we have to fight to make a dream reality," Leicester manager Claudio Ranieri said. On such a nerve-racking afternoon for his side, playing for the first time in 45 matches without talisman Vardy in their starting lineup, an early settler was required yet few imagined Swansea captain Williams would be the one to provide it. Under no pressure on the edge of his own box, he picked out a surprised Mahrez with a lazy clearance and, though there was a suspicion of handball from the Algerian, he finished brilliantly, shaping to curl a left-footer into the far corner but instead beating Lukasz Fabianski at his near post.

### DAZZLING SEASON

It signalled a return to his best from Mahrez after a recent slight drop from the peaks of his dazzling season which makes him the favourite to lift the Professional Footballers' Association player of the year award later yesterday. Ulloa, Leicester's then record 8 million-pound (\$11.5 million) signing when he joined in 2014, had not started a game since January but with Vardy serving at least a one-match ban following his sending-off against West Ham United, the Argentine was in the mood to

remind everyone again of his threat. When Danny Drinkwater delivered a fine free kick from wide on the left, Ulloa beat the unfortunate Williams to head into the corner and, after a persistent run and cross by Jeffrey Schlupp on the hour, he slid in the third from close range. Ulloa received a rapturous ovation after he came off with a back injury but the King Power, by now in full party mode, could celebrate one final goal after Albrighton followed up fine work from substitute Demarai Gray to hammer in from close range five minutes from time.

As the pressure has increased on them, Leicester have just kept delivering, whether it be through unsung squad players like Schlupp and Ulloa or stars like Mahrez, who, according to Ranieri, was the Foxes' "light".

"Yes, I felt it a little bit," conceded Mahrez, when asked if he felt pressure to deliver in Vardy's absence. "But in this team, we don't just need one player. It's about the team spirit." It is a spirit and organisation which has now seen them remain unbeaten in their last 14 home matches and keep 12 clean sheets in their last 17 league games. "We needed this win because it's closer now," said Mahrez before flying off with his team mates by helicopter to the PFA Awards celebrations in London. "Eight points clear, three to play, we have everything in our hands." — Reuters

## WICKHAM SENDS PALACE TO FINAL SHOWDOWN WITH UNITED

**LONDON:** Crystal Palace will face Manchester United in their first FA Cup final for 26 years after Connor Wickham sealed a 2-1 win over Watford at Wembley yesterday. Alan Pardew's side swept into an early lead in the semi-final through Congo forward Yannick Bolasie before Watford's Troy Deeney equalised soon after the interval.

Palace were the better team for long periods and Wickham settled it midway through the second half to give his club a chance to avenge their 1990 FA Cup final loss against United, who are looking to win the competition for the first time since 2004 after beating Everton on Saturday. It was an especially sweet moment for Palace boss Pardew, who was a member of the Eagles team beaten by Alex Ferguson's United in 1990 when Lee Martin scored the replay winner after the first match ended in a 3-3 draw. Pardew has proved something of a good luck charm for Palace in the FA Cup and he celebrated taking the club to only their second final in the competition 26 years after scoring the winner against Liverpool the last time the south Londoners won a semi-final.

"With an early goal, sometimes you can sit on it, but we continued our threat throughout the game," Pardew said. "Watford had 10 minutes when they bossed the game and scored, but we bossed it for 80 minutes and that is a testament to our players' mentality." Watford's failure to reach their first FA Cup final for 32 years will increase speculation about the future of manager Quique Sanchez Flores after reports the Hornets' poor form in 2016 could lead to his sacking after one season in charge.

"It was hard to concede the first goal. It took some time to recover, but in the second half we matched Palace," Flores said. "I felt we had the chance to win but we still have a lot of reasons to be happy this season." Despite only one win from their last 18 league games,

Pardew's men were enjoying their best Cup run for over two decades and they took just six minutes to seize the initiative. Yohan Cabaye whipped a corner towards the near post where Damien Delaney flicked a back header towards the far post for the unmarked Bolasie to head home from virtually on the line.

Bolasie's sixth goal of the season was an emotional moment for the forward, who hadn't forgotten the frustration he felt in 2013 when he was an unused substitute during Palace's Championship play-off final win over Watford at Wembley.

### LETHARGIC

Costel Pantilimon had to make an alert save when Cabaye aimed for the far corner and not long after that the France midfielder, at the heart of all Palace's best moments with his smooth passing, tested Watford's goalkeeper with a dipping free-kick. Little had been seen from Deeney in the first half, so it was an encouraging sign for Flores when the striker threatened with a header soon after the interval. Bolasie remained a man possessed and he tore down the left flank before drilling a low shot that Pantilimon saved with his legs. But Watford were more dangerous now and in the 55th minute they won the corner that brought their equaliser.

Deeney's desire and muscular aerial power got him to the ball before Scott Dann and he angled a fine glancing header past Wayne Hennessey for his 11th goal of the season. Yet Watford's joy was short-lived as Palace regained the lead only six minutes later.

What should have been a situation that posed no danger proved fatal for the Hornets as they went to sleep from a Palace throw, allowing Pape Souare time for a high cross that Nathan Ake was slow to react to as Wickham towered above him to head past Pantilimon. — AFP

## NADAL EQUALS VILAS RECORD WITH NINTH BARCELONA TITLE

**BARCELONA:** Rafael Nadal equalled Argentine legend Guillermo Vilas's record of 49 clay-court titles with his ninth Barcelona Open after overcoming defending champion Kei Nishikori 6-4, 7-5 yesterday.

Fresh from winning the Monte Carlo Masters last week, Nadal has now won his opening 10 matches of the European clay-court season ahead of his quest to land a record 10th French Open in June.

Nishikori was left to rue a series of missed break-point opportunities as the Japanese's 14-match winning streak in Barcelona came to an end.

"I think I served well which was very important. The fact I had a good percentage of first serves allowed me to play better," said Nadal.

"In the second set I let a lot of opportunities go, but I am very happy to have resisted mentally and happy to win." Nishikori had made the most of shock Nadal defeats to claim the title in the past two years, but despite some stiff resistance in just over two hours on court he slipped to a ninth defeat in 10 matches against the 14-time Grand Slam champion.

"It's been a great three years, even though I lost today," said Nishikori.

"I feel very comfortable here, every year I feel very excited, so I hope I can come back next year." Neither of the top two seeds had even dropped a set on their route to the final. Nishikori started brightly, but produced an error-strewn game to hand Nadal the early break for 3-1 in the first set.

The World number six battled back with a number of searing forehands to level at 3-3, but Nadal crucially dug himself out a huge hole at 0-40 to move ahead 4-3 in his next service game.

And another wayward game from Nishikori handed Nadal the break he needed to seal the set 6-4. Nishikori did manage to break at the first opportunity in the second set, but this time Nadal responded with his best tennis of the match to surge to within two games of victory at 4-1.

Yet, a topsy-turvy final had another twist as an inspired Nishikori's range of depth and well-timed drop shots saw him break back to level at 4-4.

Nadal missed out on his first match point at 5-4, but didn't have to wait long as Nishikori offered up two more in his next service game and sealed his own fate when a forehand found the net. — AFP



BARCELONA: Spain's Rafael Nadal poses for a photo with the trophy after winning the Barcelona Open tennis tournament in Barcelona, Spain, yesterday. Spain's Rafael Nadal defeated Japan's Kei Nishikori 6-4 and 7-5, in the final. — AP



**Zain Group revenues KD 277 million in Q1 2016**

## DRAGHI ADVOCATES PATIENCE AMID BREXIT FEARS

# VIVA Q1 2016 REVENUE REACHES KD 70.4 MILLION REVENUE GROWS BY 6%

**KUWAIT:** VIVA, Kuwait's fastest-growing telecom operator, announced the financial results for the first quarter of 2016.

VIVA's revenue grew by 6 percent during the first quarter of 2016 to reach KD 70.4 million as compared to the same period in 2015. These results have been achieved due to the high quality services and the diversity of promotions and packages offered by the company that meet the customers' needs and their expectations by covering all customers' segments, as well as the confidence of our esteemed customers which always motivate us to provide them with the best services in line with the highest quality. VIVA's customers' base reached 2.4 million by end of March 2016.

Despite the high competition witnessed in the Kuwaiti Telecom Market, VIVA managed through its operational and financial strategy to achieve a net profit of KD 9.8 million (earning per share 20 fils) during the Q1-2016 as compared to KD 10.3 (earning per share 21 fils) recorded during the same period last year. On the other hand, VIVA's shareholders equity base increased by 70 percent to reach KD 102.7 million at the end of Q1-2016 as compared to KD 60.3 million at the end of Q1-2015.

As a continuing strategy, VIVA always seeks to provide high quality of products and services to its customers, also to improve the operational efficiency in order to generate better return to its shareholders. In addition to its contribution to the development of the Telecommunications sector in the state of Kuwait through the strengthening of its presence by providing an



**VIVA Chairman  
Dr Mahmoud Ahmad Abdulrahman**

advanced technology & services and the best offers to its individual and corporate customers.

Commenting on the financial results, Dr Mahmoud Ahmad Abdulrahman, VIVA's Chairman, said: "I am pleased to announce that VIVA continued to deliver solid performance at the beginning of the year, as a result of the company's strategy plans; enabling us to provide innovative range of services, products and offers that are in line with technological development and customers' needs. These results reflect the hard work and the dedication of the management and employees reaffirming our commitment to achieving excellent outcomes." He added: "The company was able to deliver outstanding results in revenues and profitability, and maintained our excellence in guaranteeing positive returns for our shareholders, driven by our commitment to improving the quality of customer service and our operational efficiency."



**VIVA's CEO Eng  
Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al-Badran**

Eng Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al-Badran, VIVA's Chief Executive Officer said: "We are pleased to begin this year with these financial results despite the high competition we are witnessing in the Kuwaiti Telecom Market, in addition we are proud that VIVA is from the most advanced telecom companies in Kuwait and the region. We are looking forward to playing a central role in providing smart telecom solutions in order to provide our customers with the best and most advanced services. Adding: "with the high competition, VIVA's strong performance of revenues contributed to maintain the company's profitability as a result of company's financial & operating capacity and efficiency. VIVA recorded a revenue of KD 70.4 million in Q1 2016 representing an increase of 6 percent when compared to same period last year and this has resulted in a net profit of KD 9.8 million or earnings per share of 20 fils as, while

the operating profit reached KD 10.4 million during Q1-2016.

Abdulaziz Abdullah Al-Qatie, Chief Financial Officer at VIVA said: "VIVA continued the steady and strong operational performance which was reflected in the company's main financial indicators. The company managed to decrease leverage ratio from 1.4x at end of March 2015 to reach a low of 0.7x at end of March 2016. The strong operating performance has positively affected free cash flow to achieve growth of 18 percent in Q1 2016 compared to the same period in 2015." He added: "We will continue our hard work in implementing our strategy to increase our competitive edge and achieve further growth and success in the next period."

VIVA is the fastest-growing telecom operator in Kuwait. Launched in December 2008, VIVA makes things possible for its customers by transforming communication, information and entertainment experiences. The company has rapidly established an unrivalled position in the market through its customer centric approach. VIVA's quest is to be the mobile brand of choice in Kuwait by being transparent, engaging, energetic and fulfilling. VIVA continues to take a considerable share of the market by offering an innovative range of best value products, services and content propositions; a state of the art, nationwide network and world-class service. VIVA offers internet speeds of more than 100 Mbps, due to the implementation of the most advanced fourth generation (4G LTE) network in Kuwait resulting in superior coverage, performance and reliability.



# 70.4

KD million

## Total Revenues

First  
Quarter

# 2016

The board of directors of Kuwait Telecommunications Company (VIVA) is pleased to announce to all the shareholders that the company has achieved a net profit of KD 9.8 million for the first quarter of the Financial Year 2016.

**Operating Profit**

# 10.4

KD million

**Net Profit**

# 9.8

KD million

**EPS**

# 20

Kuwaiti fils

**Subscribers**

# 2.4

Million subscriber

[www.viva.com.kw](http://www.viva.com.kw)

**VIVA**





## ETIHAD AIRWAYS DISPLAYS NEW GENERATION BUSINESS STUDIO AT AVENUES, KUWAIT

**KUWAIT:** Etihad Airways, the national airline of the United Arab Emirates, is delighted to bring to Kuwait the highly-anticipated Business Studio which was displayed at Avenues.

Ahmed Al-Kaabi, Military Attache, and Aaref Altenajji, First Secretary, from the

UAE embassy in Kuwait and Nabil Matarweh, General manager - Kuwait, Etihad Airways was amongst the distinguished guests at the event.

For the benefit of travellers from Kuwait, Etihad Airways has thoughtfully scheduled 5 daily flights from Kuwait to

Abu Dhabi. Connecting through Abu Dhabi International Airport, the Business Studio presents a fantastic opportunity for business travelers from Kuwait to embark and enjoy unforgettable journeys to the most popular destinations.

With this breakthrough innovation, the Business Studios are exclusively available on the state-of-the-art A380 and B787 Dreamliner aircraft offering more space for businessmen to work, rest and play. Customised to suit every stage of your journey, the Business Studios are the embodiment of style, simplicity and functionality - each offering direct aisle access, convenient storage spaces and a fully flat bed of up to 80.5 inches in length.

Etihad Airways' revolutionary new B787 interiors feature eight First Suites, 28 Business Studios and 199 Economy Smart Seats, offering superior levels of comfort, entertainment and in-flight connectivity. On-board décor and lighting is inspired by contemporary modern Arabian design, complementing the 'Facets of Abu Dhabi' design identity introduced by the airline in late 2014.

The airline's signature A380 totally redefines commercial aviation standards

by offering a new travel experience which Etihad Airways is proud to bring to its guests. Located on the Upper Deck of the A380 between First and Business Class is The Lobby which seats up to six guests and is fitted with seatbelts, power supply and connectivity ports. Inspired by intimate spaces found in boutique hotels, The Lobby offers the perfect place for our A380 Upper Deck guests to relax or socialise. There's even meeting rooms for those who want to catch up on business.

Over the years Etihad Airways has been honoured for a string of extraordinary achievements. On recently, Etihad Airways has been named Business Airline of the Year at the 2016 Business Travel Awards. The coveted award was presented to Etihad Airways for its superior inflight services, which include the revolutionary new cabins and products recently introduced on the airline's flagship fleet of Airbus A380s and Boeing 787 Dreamliners. The awards, organised by Buying Business Travel Magazine in the United Kingdom, were voted for by an independent panel of travel experts. This is in addition to including the 'Innovation in Travel Award' at the Globe Travel Awards, held in London earlier this year.



### News

in brief

#### US dollar up against Kuwait dinar to KD 0.302

**KUWAIT:** The US dollar was up against the Kuwaiti dinar yesterday exchanging at 0.302 but the euro went down to KD 0.339 in contrast to Thursday's rates, the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) said. The Sterling pound also rose to KD 0.435, the Swiss franc went down to KD 0.308. However the Japanese yen firmed at KD 0.002.

#### Dubai's Mashreq Q1 net profit falls 18.3%

**DUBAI:** Mashreq, Dubai's third-biggest lender by assets, yesterday posted a 18.3 percent fall in first-quarter net profit as it failed to recoup as many bad debts as it did in the corresponding period of last year. The lender made a net profit of 532 million dirhams (\$144.9 million) for the three months to Mar. 31, it said in a statement, a decrease on the 651 million dirhams recorded for the corresponding period of 2015. Mashreq said its profit growth would have been flat on an annual basis if it wasn't for the impact of recoveries in the first quarter of 2015. Recoveries in the banking industry usually refer to the collection of a loan amount from a borrower in default, for which the bank had previously made a provision.

#### Qalaa Holding reports net loss of 1.115bn pounds

**CAIRO:** Egypt's Qalaa Holdings reported a net loss of 1.115 billion Egyptian pounds (\$125.56 million) in 2015 following a loss of 879.6 million a year earlier, the investment firm said in a statement on its website yesterday.

#### UAE pledges \$4bn to boost Egypt economy

**CAIRO:** The United Arab Emirates' official news agency says the country's ruler has pledged four billion dollars to boost Egypt's economy. WAM reported on Friday that Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al-Nahyan has ordered two billion dollars of investment in Egypt, and will deposit two billion dollars in the Egyptian central bank to increase its foreign reserves. The announcement comes a day after Abu Dhabi's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan visited Egypt. The UAE has been one of the main backers of Egyptian President Abdel-Fatah Al-Sisi after he led the overthrow of the country's Islamist president in 2013. Egypt's economy is suffering following a slump in its vital tourism sector and a devaluation of its currency, and the government faces growing international criticism over its poor human rights record.

### AL TIJARI ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF AL-NAJMA ACCOUNT

**KUWAIT:** Commercial Bank of Kuwait held the Al-Najma Account daily draw on 24th April, 2016.

The draw was held under the supervision of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry represented by Mr. Abdulaziz Al-Ashkanani.

#### The winners of the Al-Najma daily draw are:-

- Kholoud Nabeel Hasan — KD 7000,
- Mariam Sultan Al-Marzouk — KD 7000,
- Khaled Mnahi Al- Azmi — KD 7000,
- Shabbir Saifuddin Arthunwala — KD 7000,
- Hatem Shaber Pahai Rafat — KD 7000.

Al-Najma awards are now brighter and bigger than ever. With the revamped Al-Najma account, all your dreams will be turned to reality. On top of offering the highest daily prize in Kuwait for KD 7,000, now our Mega prize draws got bigger to reach KD 250,000.

The new prizes scheme for Al-

Najma account. Daily draw to win KD 7000

Quarterly draws to win great prizes that would start from KD 100,000 to KD 250,000

- 1ST Quarter KD 100 000
- 2ND quarter KD 150 000
- 3RD quarter KD 200 000
- 4TH quarter KD 250 000.

With Al-Najma you have more chances to win greater prizes

- Each KD 25 kept in your account gives you one chance to win

- Each KD 25 kept in your account for one week will give you a chance to enter the daily draw.

- Each KD 25 kept in your account for 3 months will give you chance to enter the quarterly draw.

#### Additional features

- ATM card
- Issue a credit card against your account
- Obtain all CBK banking services

You deserve to win! Open an account now with just KD 500 and you will enter all draws.

### NBK PARTNERS WITH VIVA, OFFERS AL-SHABAB VISA CARDHOLDERS AN EXCLUSIVE 15% DISCOUNT

**KUWAIT:** National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) signs an exclusive partnership agreement with Kuwait Telecom Company (VIVA) to reward NBK Al-Shabab Visa Prepaid Cardholders with exclusive offers and discounts at VIVA.

NBK is the first bank in Kuwait to reward its Al-Shabab customers with this exclusive offer. NBK Al-Shabab customers will get a 15 percent discount when using their NBK Al-Shabab Visa Prepaid card to pay for their subscription. This exclusive offer also rewards NBK Al-Shabab Visa Prepaid cardholders with VIVA's loyalty program including getting double the loyalty points and 50 welcome points.

"NBK is always keen to reward its Al-Shabab customers with the best offers and exclusive promotions through its long-term relationship with leading partners as VIVA," said Hanadi Khazal, NBK's Head of Marketing. "NBK is the first bank in Kuwait to present this offer to our Al-Shabab customers from their favorite telecom company," Khazal added.

Anowd Muthaib, Marketing Director said, "This exclusive partnership agreement reflects the strong relationship with NBK. VIVA always

strive to meet youth expectations, and this strategic agreement with NBK comes to achieve this long-term goal. VIVA provides its customers with the latest communication technologies as well as offering innovative packages and added-value services with high quality," Muthaib Added

NBK continues to meet its customers' expectations by providing the most special offers and benefits. Al-Shabab customers enjoy a modern lifestyle and always expect the best. NBK provides its Al-Shabab customers with exclusive services and products including NBK Al-Shabab Visa Prepaid Card for purchasing safely and is accepted worldwide.

Al-Shabab Visa Prepaid Card offers Al-Shabab customers a wide range of benefits and discounts that include free travel insurance coverage up to \$100,000 and rewards with the award-winning NBK Rewards program. NBK Al-Shabab VISA Prepaid Card is accepted locally and worldwide, easy to use and re-loadable. For more information log onto nbk.com or contact NBK Call Center on 1801801, or follow NBK on Facebook official page, Twitter @NBKPage, and Instagram @NBKPage.

### 5 DAYS LEFT TO ENTER AL-DANAH SECOND QUARTERLY DRAW

**KUWAIT:** The countdown to the 2nd Quarterly Al-Danah draw for 2016 is winding down and there are five days remaining for customers to open an Al-Danah account or increase their deposits, as to enhance their chances of winning the KD250,000 cash prize.

Opening an Al-Danah account merely requires a minimum balance of KD 200 to be deposited as to allow active participation in the Al-Danah draws. Minors wishing to open an account require their parents or their legal guardian to open the account on their behalf. Customers are advised to maintain the minimum balance, allowing them to automatically enter the Al-Danah Draws. The Al-Danah account offers the daily draw, 3 quarterly draws as well as an annual draw. The daily draw has two winners drawn for every working day and accordingly up to 10 winners announced the following week with each receiving KD1000. The 3 quarterly draws take place every 3 months; their cash prizes range from KD200,000 - KD500,000. Finally, the annual draw, offers the biggest single prize in the Middle East, that being the KD million cash prize. The more customers save, and the longer the duration, the more

chances they have to be one of the lucky winners of Al Danah's draws.

#### Five reasons why the Al-Danah account is the best:

- 1) Kuwait's single biggest yearly cash prize of KD 1 million
- 2) Kuwait's biggest quarterly cash prizes, up to KD500,000
- 3) Two winners of KD1,000 every working day
- 4) The most chances to win
- 5) Only bank that transfers your chances to win from year to year

Open an account and Deposit now to win big, live big, with Al-Danah 2016.

Gulf Bank would like to remind its customers that opening an Al-Danah Account is quick and simple through its 56 branches strategically located throughout Kuwait. Customers are encouraged to go to their nearest Gulf Bank branch or call the Customer Contact Center on 1805 805 and the Customer Care Center representatives will be delighted to assist with any further information or questions on Al Danah or on any of the Bank's products and services. Customers can also log on to Gulf Bank's bilingual website www.e-gulfbank.com/aldanah for further information.

## EXCHANGE RATES

#### AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

##### ASIAN COUNTRIES

Japanese Yen	2.710
Indian Rupees	4.571
Pakistani Rupees	2.890
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.080
Nepali Rupees	2.850
Singapore Dollar	224.700
Hongkong Dollar	39.046
Bangladesh Taka	3.862
Philippine Peso	6.510
Thai Baht	8.661

##### GCC COUNTRIES

Saudi Riyal	80.816
Qatari Riyal	83.249
Omani Riyal	787.162
Bahraini Dinar	804.840
UAE Dirham	82.512

##### ARAB COUNTRIES

Egyptian Pound - Cash	33.950
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	34.501
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.217
Tunisian Dinar	151.680
Jordanian Dinar	426.860
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.019
Syrian Lira	2.160
Morocco Dirham	31.884

##### EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer	302.900
Euro	343.190
Sterling Pound	438.450

Canadian dollar	240.300
Turkish lira	107.030
Swiss Franc	311.630
Australian Dollar	235.350
US Dollar Buying	301.700

##### GOLD

20 Gram	249.640
10 Gram	127.740
5 Gram	64.710

#### DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	302.800
Canadian Dollar	239.220
Sterling Pound	436.895
Euro	340.921
Swiss Frank	297.350
Bahrain Dinar	801.065
UAE Dirhams	82.680
Qatari Riyals	83.895
Saudi Riyals	81.425
Jordanian Dinar	426.550
Egyptian Pound	34.002
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.076
Indian Rupees	4.543
Pakistani Rupees	2.884
Bangladesh Taka	3.851
Philippines Peso	6.497
Cyprus pound	576.735
Japanese Yen	3.700
Syrian Pound	2.375
Nepalese Rupees	3.850

Malaysian Ringgit	78.585
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	47.075
Thai Bhat	9.585
Turkish Lira	107.525

#### BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
<b>Europe</b>		
British Pound	0.430830	0.439830
Czech Korune	0.004660	0.016660
Danish Krone	0.041930	0.046930
Euro	0.0335428	0.0343428
Norwegian Krone	0.032989	0.038189
Romanian Leu	0.086889	0.086889
Slovakia	0.009030	0.019030
Slovenia Krona	0.033377	0.038377
Swiss Franc	0.303631	0.313831
Turkish Lira	0.100984	0.111284
<b>Australasia</b>		
Australian Dollar	0.225752	0.237252
New Zealand Dollar	0.201914	0.211414
<b>America</b>		
Canadian Dollar	0.234177	0.242677
US Dollars	0.298800	0.303300
US Dollars Mint	0.299300	0.303300
<b>Asia</b>		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003444	0.004018
Chinese Yuan	0.045208	0.048708
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036981	0.039731

Indian Rupee	0.004346	0.004736
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002686	0.002866
Kenyan Shilling	0.003115	0.003115
Korean Won	0.000255	0.000270
Malaysian Ringgit	0.073887	0.079887
Nepalese Rupee	0.002886	0.003056
Pakistan Rupee	0.002671	0.002951
Philippine Peso	0.006464	0.006744
Sierra Leone	0.000067	0.000073
Singapore Dollar	0.221484	0.227484
South African Rand	0.015208	0.023708
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001698	0.002278
Taiwan	0.009256	0.009436
Thai Baht	0.008303	0.008533

##### Arab

Bahraini Dinar	0.796879	0.804879
Egyptian Pound	0.030721	0.035839
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000192	0.000252
Jordanian Dinar	0.423217	0.430717
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000152	0.000252
Moroccan Dirhams	0.020848	0.048488
Nigerian Naira	0.001249	0.001884
Omani Riyal	0.780333	0.786013
Qatar Riyal	0.082488	0.083701
Saudi Riyal	0.079887	0.080837
Syrian Pound	0.001284	0.001504
Tunisian Dinar	0.147242	0.155242
Turkish Lira	0.100984	0.111284
UAE Dirhams	0.081487	0.082636
Yemeni Riyal	0.001369	0.001449

# ZAIN GROUP REVENUES KD 277 MILLION IN Q1 2016

LEADING TELECOM INNOVATOR RECORDS NET INCOME OF KD 37 MILLION FOR Q1 OF 2016

**KUWAIT:** Zain Group, a leading mobile telecom innovator in eight markets across the Middle East and Africa, announced its consolidated financial results for the first quarter ended 31 March, 2016. The company closed the period serving 45.5 million customers.

For the first quarter of 2016, Zain Group recorded consolidated revenues of KD 277 million (\$919 million), a similar level to the same period in the previous year (Y-o-Y) in KD terms. EBITDA for the quarter reached KD 123 million (\$ 407 million), up 5 percent Y-o-Y in KD terms, reflecting an EBITDA margin of 44 percent. Net income for the quarter reached KD 37 million (\$ 124 million), down 9 percent Y-o-Y in KD terms reflecting Earnings Per Share of 10 fils (\$ 0.03).

The Group incurred foreign currency losses amounting to \$ 35 million for the three-month period, a substantial \$28 million increase from a \$7 million impact for the same period in 2015, predominantly in Sudan and Iraq.

Key Operational Notes for the three months ended 31 March 2016:

1. Substantial investments in 3G and 4G LTE network expansion and upgrades continue to pay off as Group data revenues (excluding SMS and VAS) grew 8 percent Y-o-Y, representing 21 percent of the Group's consolidated revenues.

2. The continued social unrest in Iraq coupled with heightened levels of price competition and implementation of a new 20 percent sales tax on mobile services, as well as wide-ranging tax increases on other sectors in Iraq that hit spending on mobile services, all contributed to a negative effect on Zain Iraq's and consequently Zain Group's overall key financial metrics.

3. Zain's operations in Jordan and Saudi Arabia witness growth for the quarter across metrics, with Zain Kuwait's performance impacted by intense price competition.

Commenting on the results, the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Zain Group, Asaad Al-Banwan said, "The Board and executive management are content with our stable consolidated revenues and higher EBITDA results given the many challenging socio-economic circumstances we are dealing with in a number of our key markets of operation. We are managing the highly changeable environments we face particularly with regard to the social unrest and hefty tax increases in Iraq that has impacted mobile consumption, as well as the intense price competition



Zain Group Chairman Asaad Al-Banwan.



Zain Group CEO Scott Gegenheimer.

in our home market of Kuwait in a pragmatic manner, and we remain hopeful of the improving conditions across all our markets."

The Chairman continued, "We are pleased by the performance of our Jordan and Saudi Arabia operations having invested significantly in 3G/4G network expansion upgrades and spectrum licenses there and in other markets to improve our customers' mobile experience. Zain is committed to innovation, quality of service and maintaining our leadership position in the majority of the markets we operate in."

Zain Group CEO, Scott Gegenheimer said, "It is unfortunate that unavoidable currency fluctuations and unique market conditions have impacted our net income for the quarter considering the positive effects of the transformation process we are undertaking across all our markets. Our data monetization initiatives on multiple fronts are bearing fruit across all key markets and we draw confidence from the 8 percent growth in the uptake of data services, which now account for 21 percent of overall service revenues. The Group will continue to foster and develop this key area of the business."

Gegenheimer also noted, "Several strategic partnerships we have entered into recently are set to fast-track and enhance Zain's delivery of innovative digital services to customers and enterprises, as well as unlock many lucrative opportunities in the connected society revolution by delivering smart city services and solutions to governments and mega real estate projects across the region. We are committed to our strategy of implement-

ing operational efficiency and data monetization initiatives, as we look to develop new business areas and become a diversified and innovative digital lifestyle provider."

Operational review of key markets for the three months ended 31 March, 2016:

**Kuwait:** Maintaining its market leadership, the flagship operation of Zain Group saw its customer base serve 2.9 million in a very challenging quarter that saw intense price competition impact its financial performance for the period. Revenues reached KD 84 million (\$ 278 million), EBITDA amounted to KD 40 million (\$ 132 million) and net income came in at KD 22 million (\$ 73 million). Zain Kuwait's EBITDA margin stood at 47 percent at the end of the quarter with data revenues (excluding SMS & VAS) forming 35 percent of total revenues.

**Iraq:** The exceptional socio-economic circumstances facing the operation saw Zain Iraq's financial performance severely affected, with revenues for the quarter reaching \$ 270 million, a decrease of 11 percent Y-o-Y, and EBITDA reaching \$ 96 million, down 13 percent. Currency variance loss severely impacted net income which amounted to \$ 3 million. The operation's EBITDA margin stood at 35 percent, with data related revenues forming 8 percent of total revenues for the first quarter of 2016.

**Sudan:** In local currency (SDG) terms, the operator's revenues grew by 9 percent Y-o-Y to reach SDG 1.2 billion (\$ 187 million, up 6 percent in \$ terms) for the first quarter of 2016. EBITDA increased by 13 percent to reach SDG 486 million

( \$ 76 million, up 11 percent in \$ terms) while net income decreased 28 percent to reach SDG 195 million (\$ 30 million, down 30 percent in \$ terms). Data revenues (excluding SMS and VAS) formed 12 percent of total revenues, with an impressive annual growth of 49 percent (52 percent in dollar terms).

**Saudi Arabia:** The operation served 11.5 million customers at the end of the first quarter of 2016, posting improved financial results in all key financial indicators. Revenues grew 5 percent Y-o-Y to reach \$ 482 million while EBITDA grew 28 percent to reach \$ 119 million and net losses narrowed by 3 percent to reach \$ 67 million for the quarter. Zain Saudi Arabia's EBITDA margin rose to 25 percent, up from 20 percent. Impressively, the operator witnessed a 69 percent rise Y-o-Y in data revenues (excluding SMS & VAS), representing 31 percent of total revenues as the company invested heavily and expanded its modern 4G LTE network.

**Jordan:** Zain Jordan grew its customer base by 5 percent Y-o-Y, serving 4 million customers, maintaining its market leading position. Y-o-Y, revenues

increased 6 percent to reach \$ 117 million, with EBITDA up 20 percent to reach \$ 56 million, and net income increasing 12 percent to reach \$ 24 million. With the launch of 4G, data revenues (excluding SMS & VAS) represented 32 percent of total revenues, growing by 26 percent Y-o-Y.

**Bahrain:** Zain Bahrain generated revenues of \$ 43 million for the quarter, down 9 percent Y-o-Y. EBITDA for the period reached \$ 16 million, down 11 percent, and reflecting an EBITDA margin of 38 percent. Net income amounted to \$ 2.4 million, reflecting a 10 percent decrease. Data revenues (excluding SMS & VAS) increased 6 percent Y-o-Y, representing 37 percent of overall revenues. END

Zain is a leading telecommunications operator across the Middle East and Africa providing mobile voice and data services to over 45.5 million active customers as of 31 March, 2016. With a commercial presence in 8 countries, Zain operates in: Kuwait, Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and South Sudan. In Lebanon, the Group manages 'touch' on behalf of the government. In Morocco, Zain has a 15.5 percent stake in 'INWI', through a joint venture.



## HEAVY TRADING IN SAUDI; GULF MARKETS MIXED

### MIDEAST STOCK MARKETS

**DUBAI:** Saudi Arabia's stock market rose strongly in heavy trade yesterday as firm oil prices boosted petrochemical shares, while other markets in the region were mixed. Riyadh's main index jumped 1.7 percent to 6,699 points, its highest finish since Jan. 5, in the largest trading volume since late August 2015. Petrochemical heavyweight Saudi Basic Industries jumped 3.8 percent after oil prices rose on Friday, notching their third straight week of gains. Brent futures ended Friday up 1.3 percent on the day at \$45.11 per barrel.

Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman is to announce today afternoon his "Saudi Vision 2030", a plan to liberate the kingdom from its reliance on oil through steps such as a government efficiency campaign, a bigger role for the private sector, and more aggressive management of the kingdom's foreign assets to increase returns. Fund managers said some local investors might have been buying stocks because of the positive publicity campaign surrounding the announcement, but institutions were more cautious.

"This is a medium-term program so we don't expect any immediate impact on the market," said one. Dar Al Arkan, one of Saudi Arabia's largest property developers, jumped 9.4 percent despite reporting a 60.7 percent fall in first-quarter net profit to 57.85 million riyals (\$15.4 million), missing the 82.1 million riyals which analysts at NCB Capital had predicted.

Another big gainer was Al Tayyar Travel, which surged 8.7 percent in its heaviest trade for a month. But extending last week's disappointing set of results from Saudi retailers, United Electronics Co (Extra) reported its first loss on record, of 44.8 million riyals for the first quarter of 2016. Its shares slumped 5.5 percent to 26.00 riyals. Analysts at NCB Capital, which had forecast the company would make a net profit of 13.1 million riyals, said in a note the loss appeared to be due mainly to reduced sales because of lower discretionary spending, while gross margins were squeezed by discounting.

"Although results were weak, we believe margins will revive ... and we maintain an overweight rating on the stock with a price target of 46.40 riyals," they wrote in a note.

Saudi Investment Bank dropped 0.4 percent after reporting a 43 percent decline in quarterly net profit, hurt by higher expenses. Generally, however, banks in the kingdom and across the region have fared better than expected in the first quarter. On Thursday, Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank reported a 6.9 percent rise in quarterly net profit, aided by higher revenue and an increased customer base.

The emirate's largest sharia-compliant bank made a net profit of 482 million dirhams, beating the 446 million dirhams which analysts at EFG Hermes had forecast. Its shares gained 3.2 percent on Sunday, although Abu Dhabi's index fell 0.3 percent.

In Dubai, the stock index ended almost flat. Telecommunications operator du added 2.1 percent but Emaar Properties, the largest listed developer, fell 1.0 percent. Both companies have not yet reported quarterly earnings. Courier company Aramex rose 1.8 percent after reporting a 12 percent rise in first-quarter earnings, in line with analysts' expectations. Aramex attributed the increase to growth in all regions.

#### QATAR, EGYPT

Doha's benchmark fell 1.3 percent with most blue chips dropping more than 1.0 percent. Ezzan Holding, a real estate investment company, retreated 3.7 percent. The company is due to announce earnings in the coming week. Qatar Navigation (Milaha) dropped 1.0 percent after the shipper reported a 3.6 percent fall in first-quarter net profit to 352 million riyals (\$96.7 million). Egypt's main index fell 0.5 percent in the lowest volume recorded since the Egyptian pound was devalued in mid-March. Qalaa Holdings fell 3.2 percent after it reported a wider net loss for 2015. The investment company made a net loss of 1.12 billion Egyptian pounds (\$125.56 million) versus a loss of 879.6 million pounds in the previous year. — Reuters

## US HOME RENTS UP IN MARCH, BUT POINTS TO EASING TREND

**WASHINGTON:** Americans paid more to rent homes last month, but broader measures suggest that the surging increases of prior years have moderated in much of the country.

Real estate data firm Zillow said Friday that the median US monthly rent rose a seasonally adjusted 2.6 percent in March from a year ago to \$1,389. That was slightly more than the year-over-year increase of 2.5 percent in February. Prices ticked up slightly last month in the Los Angeles, Boston, Phoenix and Portland, Oregon, metro areas. Rents fell in Cleveland, Memphis and Oklahoma City.

After sharp increases in 2014 and much of last year, rents cooled between August and February as stepped-up construction put more apartments on the market. For all of 2015, finished construction of multifamily buildings soared 21 percent, according to the Commerce Department.

Until recently, rents had been steadily rising at more than double the pace of wages.

But rental increases are now almost identical to the 2.3 percent yearly increase in average hourly earnings tracked by the Labor Department. But as price growth has slowed, there are signs that builders are pulling back on apartment construction. During the first three months of 2016, permits for new apartment buildings tumbled 5 percent from the same period a year ago, the Commerce Department said this week.

Demand for rentals may continue to be strong because relatively few millennial renters have enough savings to buy a home, according to a survey released this week by Apartment List, which helps renters search for housing. Most millennial renters under age 35 say they still expect to buy a home, but 37 percent of them have saved nothing for a down payment. Of those who have saved, the average down payment on hand was under \$6,000. That means they need to delay a purchase, move to another city or take out mortgages with higher debt burdens. — AP



## First Quarter 2016 Results for Mobile Telecommunications Company - Zain

The Board of Directors of Mobile Telecommunications Company K.S.C.P. would like to announce to its shareholders that the company achieved a Net Profit of **KD 37 million (USD 124 million)** in Q1-2016.

The Board would like to express its gratitude to its customers and stakeholders for their confidence and assures them of the company's commitment to excellence and profitable growth.

### Board of Directors

<b>45.5</b> Million	<b>919</b> USD Million	<b>407</b> USD Million	<b>124</b> USD Million	<b>3</b> Cents
<b>Customers</b>	<b>277</b> KD Million	<b>123</b> KD Million	<b>37</b> KD Million	<b>10</b> Fils
<b>Revenues</b>	<b>EBITDA</b>	<b>Net Income</b>	<b>EPS</b>	



# HOPING FOR A HINT AS FOCUS MOVES TO FED

## GLOBAL ECONOMY WEEK AHEAD

**DUBLIN:** The US Federal Reserve is set to join the ECB in holding policy steady when it meets in the coming week against a calmer market backdrop, while big economies report on how they fared in what was a volatile first quarter. But the push for yet more stimulus could resume in Tokyo, where sources suggest the Bank of Japan may loosen already ultra-loose monetary conditions.

The Fed, which lifted its benchmark overnight interest rate in December for the first time in nearly a decade, meets on

Wednesday, the day before Washington publishes its first estimate of first-quarter economic growth.

With the US economy constrained by a strong dollar, weak global demand and lower-albeit slightly recovering-oil prices, gross domestic product growth estimates for January to March are as low as a 0.2 percent annualised rate. That context has framed policymaker forecasts for only two more rate hikes this year and labor market strength-in the form of a 43-year low in unemployment benefits-is unlikely to move

the Fed away from a path of gradual raising.

The key question is whether Wednesday's statement will give any indications that a June hike is being seriously considered. In a Reuters poll published on Friday, economists held firm to expectations for a rise then and another by the end of this year.

"Will the Fed deliver the hoped-for hint? One should not expect a signal that is as clear as that given before the lift-off meeting in December," Commerzbank economists wrote in a note.

"At most, we expect it to 'tighten' the

statement somewhat, to prevent the markets writing off any further rate move." With a first readout of euro zone GDP on Friday also expected to show no better than modest growth, European Central Bank president Mario Draghi issued his own version of steady-as-she-goes on Thursday.

That was diluted somewhat, however, as he was forced to robustly defend its cheap money policy against sharp criticism from Germany's top politicians.

But his message after the bank's governing council held key rates was clear: the medicine was working, the economic recovery was continuing and stubbornly low inflation would pick up eventually. That theory will be also tested today by Germany's influential Ifo business sentiment index.

### EASING IN JAPAN?

The BoJ also reviews policy and sources told Reuters there is a possibility it may ease further, with gloomy data and another severe earthquake threatening policymakers' view that a moderate economic recovery will accelerate inflation.

If it does act, increased asset purchases may be more likely than a second interest rate cut in four months, moving the world's third-largest econo-

my towards firing both monetary and fiscal barrels. "Whilst the risk of a Fed move next week is very low, the same cannot be said for the BoJ decision Thursday," said Investec economist Ryan Djasaputra.

"Our current expectation is that the BoJ will ease policy again later this year, but the risk is it could move earlier than expected." Other central banks due to consider rate changes in coming days include Brazil, Russia, Hungary and New Zealand. Only in Hungary is a small easing the consensus expectation.

The Bank of England has made it clear it will keep rates on hold until well after the referendum on European Union membership, and it too will get an update on the health of the economy when the United Kingdom becomes the first G7 member this year to report GDP figures on Thursday.

The bank has said the economy is suffering from uncertainty about the outcome of the June 23 vote, as well as headwinds from struggles in many emerging markets. Signs of weakness have appeared among consumers, who, buoyed by record employment, near-zero inflation and rising wages, have driven the economy over the past three years, but spent 1.3 percent less on the high street in March than a month earlier. — Reuters

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report						
Sunday 24 April 2016						
Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing	High	Low	
Price Index	▲ 25.43	5,372.38	5,346.95	5,372.38	5,343.35	
Weighted Index	▲ 1.75	365.43	363.68	365.60	363.38	
KSX 15	▲ 5.58	860.94	855.36	862.04	854.68	

Volume	Value (KWD)	Number of Trades
161,089,953	12,667,916	3,400

Trades						
Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Change
MARIN	106	106	600	64	1	106 ▼ -2.0
IKARIUS	47.0	46.0	491,500	22,824	22	46.5 ▲ 0.5
IPG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	305 — 0.0
NAPESCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	670 — 0.0
ENERGYH	44.0	41.0	21,000	864	6	44.0 ▲ 1.0
GPI	42.5	42.0	3,233,985	136,324	68	42.5 ▲ 0.5
ABAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	104 — 0.0
<b>Oil &amp; Gas</b>			<b>3,747,085</b>	<b>160,075</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>760.40 ▲ 0.56</b>
KFOUC	192	188	104,600	19,716	12	192 — 0.0
BPC	530	510	214,025	111,510	16	520 ▼ -10.0
ALKOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	610 — 0.0
ALQURAIN	208	204	295,855	61,423	11	208 ▲ 2.0
<b>Basic Materials</b>			<b>614,480</b>	<b>192,649</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>980.72 ▼ -2.93</b>
KCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	375 — 0.0
REFRI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	305 — 0.0
CABLE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	350 — 0.0
SHIP	144	144	5,000	720	1	144 — 0.0
PCEM	1,040	1,020	2,423	2,473	2	1,040 ▲ 20.0
PAPER	300	285	11,250	3,281	2	300 ▼ -10.0
MRC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	64 — 0.0
ACICO	285	280	53,000	14,850	11	280 ▼ -5.0
GGMC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	450 — 0.0
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	134 — 0.0
KBMMC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	250 — 0.0
NICBM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	255 — 0.0
EQUIPMENT	58	56	1,370,340	76,820	50	57 — 0.0
NCCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	99 — 0.0
GYPSUM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	102 — 0.0
SALBOOKH	84	83	231,900	19,283	23	83 — 0.0
AGLTY	495	485	1,362,311	667,204	27	490 ▲ 5.0
EDU	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	194 — 0.0
CLEANING	41.0	40.0	684,900	27,926	16	40.5 — 0.0
CITYGROUP	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	530 — 0.0
KGL	47.5	46.5	92,762	4,339	11	47.0 ▲ 1.0
KPC	218	208	27,776	5,779	8	214 ▼ -2.0
HUMANSOFT	780	680	36,580	28,362	10	780 ▲ 50.0
NAFAIS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	154 — 0.0
SAFWAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	280 — 0.0
GFC	33.5	33.5	500	17	1	33.5 ▲ 1.5
MAYADEEN	25.5	24.5	11,473,087	285,528	139	24.5 — 0.0
CGC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	790 — 0.0
MTCC	8.0	7.8	148,500	11,688	6	8.0 ▲ 1.0
UPAC	720	710	2,134	1,535	2	720 ▲ 10.0
ALAFCO	208	208	70,886	14,744	3	208 — 0.0
MUBARRAD	65	65	732,000	47,580	13	65 — 0.0
LOGISTICS	78	76	3,194,610	246,741	61	78 ▲ 1.0
SCEM	83	83	250	21	1	83 — 0.0
GCEM	81	80	157,506	12,708	6	81 ▲ 3.0
QCEM	68	68	13,131	893	1	68 — 0.0
FCEM	74	72	567,000	41,234	20	73 ▲ 1.0
RKWC	99	99	15,200	1,505	4	99 ▲ 3.0
SPCC	72	72	80,500	5,796	6	72 ▼ -5.0
<b>Industrials</b>			<b>20,333,546</b>	<b>1,521,027</b>	<b>424</b>	<b>1001.84 ▲ 8.70</b>
KSH	166	166	6,000	996	1	166 — 0.0
NSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	64 — 0.0
PAPCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	110 — 0.0
CATL	134	134	10,000	1,340	1	134 — 0.0
DANAH	72	71	237,425	16,857	9	72 ▲ 2.0
POULT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	176 — 0.0
FOOD	2,540	2,500	143,374	358,632	20	2,540 ▼ -20.0
<b>Consumer Goods</b>			<b>396,799</b>	<b>377,825</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1079.82 ▲ 0.88</b>
MHC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	210 — 0.0
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	920 — 0.0
YIACO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	220 — 0.0
<b>Health Care</b>			<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>994.00 — 0.00</b>
KCIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	990 — 0.0
KHOT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	210 — 0.0
SULTAN	65	63	12,500	791	6	63 ▼ -2
CABLETV	30.0	29.0	2,346	70	2	30.0 ▲ 1
EYAS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	385 — 0.0
IFAHR	186	186	400	74	1	186 — 0.0
OULAFUEL	112	108	98,719	10,940	16	112 ▲ 2
MUNTAZAHAT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	81 — 0.0
JAZEERA	890	880	77,880	69,284	4	880 — 0.0
SOOR	112	110	44,888	4,994	8	110 ▼ -2
FUTUREKID	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	100 — 0.0
ALNAWADI	75	75	3,588	269	1	75 — 0.0
ALRAI	138	138	18,911	2,610	5	138 — 0.0
ZIMAH	45.0	44.5	1,751,738	78,164	44	45.0 — 0.0
UFIG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	130 — 0.0
Mezzan	1,160	1,120	303,625	351,378	6	1,160 — 0.0
<b>Consumer Services</b>			<b>2,314,595</b>	<b>518,575</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>920.14 ▼ -0.22</b>
ZAIN	355	350	2,199,501	769,829	84	355 ▲ 5
OOREDOO	1,060	1,060	2,773	2,939	4	1,060 — 0.0
HITSTELEC	37.0	35.0	7,054,871	253,827	83	37.0 ▲ 3
VIVA	1,020	1,000	123,051	124,423	52	1,000 ▼ -20
<b>Telecommunications</b>			<b>9,380,196</b>	<b>1,151,017</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>619.90 ▲ 0.75</b>
NBK	670	660	1,295,865	860,341	30	670 ▲ 10
GBK	242	242	257,753	62,376	6	242 — 0.0
CBK	435	425	6,200	2,688	3	435 ▲ 5
ABK	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	335 — 0.0
ALMUTAHED	430	425	140,342	59,997	4	425 ▼ -5
KIB	200	198	145,000	28,830	5	198 ▼ -2
BURG	340	335	25,254	8,486	3	335 ▼ -5
KFIN	490	480	2,299,428	1,115,048	68	485 ▲ 5
BOUBAYAN	410	405	206,489	83,986	24	410 ▲ 5
AUB	186	184	210,100	38,659	7	186 — 0.0
ITHMR	42.5	40.5	11,473,275	474,340	148	41.0 ▼ -1
WARBANK	174	174	375,984	65,421	61	174 — 0.0
<b>Banks</b>			<b>16,435,690</b>	<b>2,800,172</b>	<b>359</b>	<b>832.63 ▼ -0.14</b>
KINS	285	285	4,775	1,361	1	285 ▼ -15
GINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	670 — 0.0
AINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	455 — 0.0
WINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	104 — 0.0
KUWAITRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	200 — 0.0
FTI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	50 — 0.0
WETHAQ	39.5	37.5	14,752	571	7	39.5 ▼ -0.5
BKIKWT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	355 — 0.0
<b>Insurance</b>			<b>19,527</b>	<b>1,932</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1043.98 ▼ -12.06</b>

Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change
SOKOUK	40.0	39.0	4019773	157,837	84	39.5 — 0.0	
KRE	49.0	49.0	150,000	7,350	4	49.0 — 0.0	
URC	84	83	8,500	711	3	83 ▼ -1.0	
NRE	89	88	1,415,769	125,970	25	89 ▲ 1.0	
SRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	360 — 0.0	
TAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	550 — 0.0	
AREC	138	138	1,500	207	1	138 ▲ 2.0	
MASSALEH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	43.5 — 0.0	
ARABREC	36.0	34.5	2,771,701	97,308	62	35.5 ▲ 1.0	
ERESCO	56	55	64,869	3,577	8	55 ▼ -1.0	
MABANEE	860	850	590,030	503,641	19	860 ▲ 10.0	
INJAZZAT	75	73	91,010	6,736	7	75 — 0.0	
INVESTORS	23.5	22.5	10,259,088	235,875	78	23.5 ▲ 1.0	
IRC	30.5	28.0	1,819,000	54,363	56	29.5 ▲ 1.0	
ALTJARIA	78	76	44,000	3,348	2	76 ▼ -1.0	
SANAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	37.0 — 0.0	
AAYANRE	69	68	92,500	6,293	4	68 ▲ 1.0	
AQAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	60 — 0.0	
ALAQARIA	20.5	19.5	120,000	2,415	9	20.0 ▲ 1.0	
MAZAYA	126	122	5,555,376	696,022	84	126 ▲ 6.0	
ADNC	16.0	15.0	3,394,200	51,656	50	15.5 — 0.0	
THEMAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90 — 0.0	



# DRAGHI ADVOCATES PATIENCE AMID BREXIT FEARS

## NBK MONEY MARKETS REPORT

**KUWAIT:** After the world realized in the beginning of 2016 the devastating effects of low oil prices on the global economy and the potential of another Lehman moment almost eight years later, commodities prices started to stabilize in search of a new equilibrium. Similarly to what we had witnessed in the aftermath of the financial crisis when banks started to merge, soon enough, global oil players are likely to start merging, which will eventually, cut back global production and potentially drive prices up in the long term.

After reaching the end of the first quarter of the year, confused investors have still zero clarity on whether the Fed would move on interest rates anytime soon. One of pillar of price stability remains the equity market. Thus, the higher US equity markets go the more reasons the Fed will have to change their own rhetoric if they want to regain any lost credibility and move interest rates higher.

In Europe, the ECB's package delivered last month removed risks from the banking sector stress we have seen in the beginning of 2016. Financial conditions rebounded as a result, erasing the sharp deterioration witnessed in February. Markets however remain skeptical that these policies will be sufficient to achieve the ECB's inflation target. Indeed, inflation expectations are near record lows and inflation is likely to remain lower than the ECB would like it to be for the moment.

During the ECB meeting this week, Draghi expressed cautious optimism about the economic outlook, at the same time he showed his satisfaction with the impact of the March easing steps on financing conditions. He emphasized that the ECB is willing to use all tools if needed to achieve the inflation objective including further rate cuts.

Currencies markets remain in a range trading mode for now. After opening at 94.64, the dollar index closed the week almost at the same level at 95.12.

The Euro opened the week at 1.1284 and rallied to a high of 1.1398 on expectations that the ECB wouldn't be able to generate any surprise during the press conference. As Draghi emphasized the use of all tools to achieve their inflation target, investors started dumping the currency in support of the dollar. The currency closed for the week at 1.1220.

In parallel, the Sterling Pound remains weak despite the statement of BoE governor Mark Carney over the potential negative effect of a Brexit on the city of London. After opening the week at 1.4220, the currency moved slightly higher to a high of 1.4440 to finish the week at 1.4403 against the Dollar.

The Japanese Yen strength took a break this week, with the US dollar testing the highs of 110.75 after comment from BoJ officials over

the potential implementation of negative interest rates loans to Banks in Japan. After opening at 107.77 on Monday, investors pushed the pair up to close the week at 111.80

The main topic this year continues to be oil prices which continue to be the main driver of asset prices. Since the end of the Doha global oil producers meeting; oil is over 13.5 percent higher from Monday lows. Whether on the back of the Kuwait strike news or the report from the Energy Information Administration showing oil production in the US has moderated and oil inventory came below expectations. Brent ended the week at \$45.11 a barrel while Crude closed at \$43.73 a barrel.

### US data predict a strong payroll number

New York Fed's Dudley spoke on the economic outlook for the US and Europe. Dudley said that he thought that economic news in the US was "mostly favorable" and that the economic outlook in Europe had started to improve. Boston Fed's Rosengren also said that he envisioned a "much healthier US economy" than that implied by financial markets.

On the data side, this week's initial jobless claims data showed claims fell another 6k last week to 247k against 265k expected, and marking a new fresh low since 1973. With this kind of numbers, it is likely that April payrolls will be positively affected. The Philly Fed manufacturing survey on the other side was disappointing after falling 14 points to -1.6 against expectations of +9.0. The index is back to January and February levels. Last but not least, the Conference Board's leading indicator rose slightly less than expected last month at +0.2 percent on a monthly basis, against expectations of +0.4 percent.

### Housing prices remain Firm

The latest housing market indicators were softer than expected. Housing starts were recorded as falling -8.8 percent on a monthly basis last month against expectations of -1.1 percent, while building permits dropped by 7.7 percent on a monthly basis against expectations of +2.0 percent.

In contrast to the falling housing starts, the Federal Housing Finance Agency's house price index rose 0.4 percent for February, in line with expectations. Compared to the same month last year, house prices were up 5.6 percent. The index exceeded the prior peak level from March 2007. The number for January was revised down to 0.4 percent from 0.5 percent. Tight inventories with strong demand are helping to drive prices higher.

### Draghi clarifies ECB plans

At this week's European Central Bank press conference, Draghi defended negative rates

policy, but asked for time to allow the ECB policies to take effect. He mentioned that financing conditions have improved since the ECB lowered key policy rates in March, though global uncertainties continue.

The message was cautious as last month's action from the Bank removed the impact of market volatility earlier this year, and easing since 2014 would ensure that growth was somewhat stronger in 2016 to 2018 than would have been the case without policy action. Over the persistent low inflation environment, Draghi stated it will likely get worse before it gets better. He also took the opportunity to criticise governments for not doing more to address structural problems.



Details of the corporate bond-buying scheme were also revealed showing a broad scope for the program. The Bank will be active in both the primary and secondary market; minimum rating of BBB-; maturity between 6 months and 30 years; issue share limit size of 70 percent. It was also confirmed that the purchases will not be conducted by a third party and rather by six national central banks and are due to commence in June.

Draghi also highlighted that it is "essential to preserve an appropriate degree of monetary accommodation", while with regards to interest rates, emphasized that "we continue to expect them to remain at present or lower levels for an extended period of time".

There was no hint that further easing is imminent, but the ECB will clearly act if financial conditions were to deteriorate again.

### Persistent but slow eurozone recovery

The ECB released its Q1 bank lending sur-

vey. The report was supportive of an improvement in the Euro area lending conditions. Credit standards for loans to enterprises eased further, increased competition between banks and an improved perception of the macro economic outlook. Net loan demand from enterprises continued to increase in Q1 at +17 percent although slower than the previous quarter. According to the report, banks expect these trends to continue into the next quarter, with a Q2 outlook of continued easing of lending standards for enterprises.

On a different front, April ZEW survey out of Germany was fairly mixed this week. While the current situations index declined unexpectedly by 3 points to 47.7 against expectations

against expectations of -0.1 percent.

The unemployment rate was also reported this week holding steady at 5.1 percent in February as expected, while the change in employment growth of 20k in the three months to the end of Feb was less than expected. Average weekly earnings including bonuses printed at +1.8 percent on a yearly basis, well below expectations of 2.3 percent.

### Chinese stimulus delivering results

Chinese economic growth only slowed a little in the first quarter compared to the last quarter of 2015. The recent data for March actually signaled an upturn in activity thanks to recent stimulus measures. In details, Q1 GDP came at 6.7 percent in line with consensus and only slightly lower than the 6.8 percent achieved in Q4 2015. Industrial production, fixed asset investment and retail sales for March both rose by more than expected, indicating that fiscal and monetary policy measures taken so far to support growth are having an impact. Additionally, the MNI business indicator for this month was reported as rising 0.6 points to 50.5, the first reading above 50 since January 2016.

### BoJ: The case for further easing

Japan flash manufacturing PMI for April was reported as declining a disappointing 1.1 points to 48.0 against expectations for 49.5, from 49.1 in March. This month's reading is the lowest since January 2013. In details, the Output Index declined to 47.9 from 49.8 in March, the lowest level in the last two years. The new orders index declined significantly, to 44.6, from 48.0 in March. New export orders also showed its sharpest fall since December 2012 coming at 44. The decreasing demand suggests that output in the future is likely to fall. On Friday, news again broke out from Bank of Japan officials saying they may consider negative rates on loans to banks. According to the news, this could happen in conjunction with any decision to make a further cut to the negative current rate on reserves. The BoJ seems to take the same road to the ECB by offering subsidized loans to banks, hence easing some of the pain of negative rates. It would also be a way to appease strong resistance to negative rates in Japan and could hence be a way to counter some of the heavy criticism. The next policy meeting will be on the 28 of April.

### Kuwait

Kuwaiti dinar at 0.30205  
The USDKD opened at 0.30200 yesterday morning.

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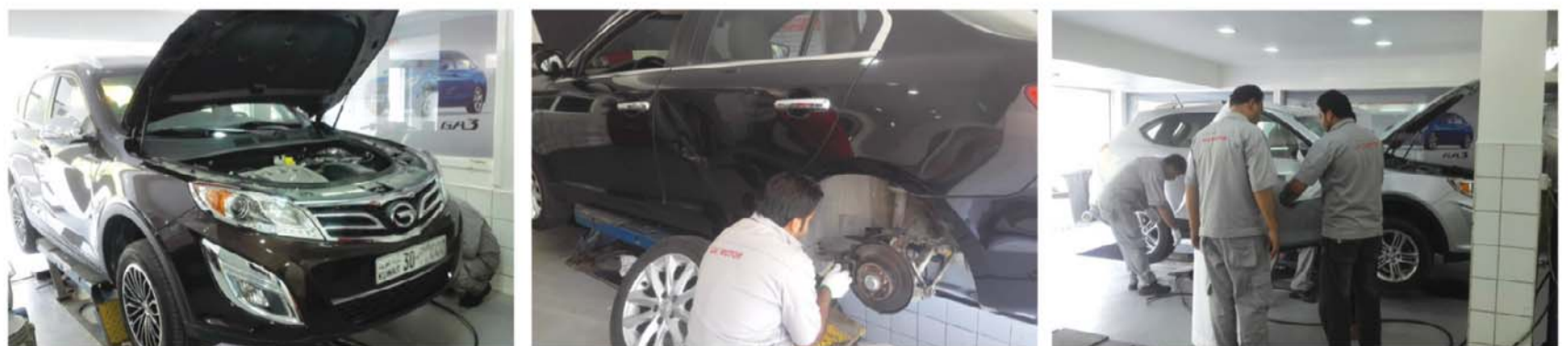


GAC MOTOR

As all customers seek the best quality of service to ensure their car stays with them in the long run, MAC strives to offer the best to its customers to ensure a strong relationship with them and maintain reciprocated trust.

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## NEW KIA SPORTAGE AND OPTIMA WIN RED DOT DESIGN AWARDS

**KUWAIT:** National Agencies Group, a subsidiary of Abdulaziz Al-Ali Al-Mutawa Group of Companies and the Authorized Distributor for KIA Motors in Kuwait, has announced that KIA Motors has received two prizes at the 2016 'Red Dot Awards' for Product Design, one of the most prestigious international product design competitions.

The new KIA Sportage compact SUV and Optima sedan - the carmaker's two latest models - both received 'Red Dots', reinforcing KIA's reputation for its high design standards. The independent judging panel even honoured the KIA Optima with a 'Best of the Best' award, the competition's highest distinction, for which only the most ground-breaking designs in a category are eligible.

"The latest Red Dot Design Awards are an incredible source of pride for KIA Motors and its distributors. Now with a total of 15 Red Dot Awards, KIA has a Red Dot award for every model in our current product range" explained Omar Gabr, Brand Manager at KIA Motors Kuwait.

The two award-winners are important models for the KIA brand. The Sportage is the European KIA best-seller while the Optima, also one of the strongest selling KIA models worldwide, was the flagship model for KIA's design-led transformation in 2010 onwards. Both the new Sportage and the new Optima stand out very strongly from their rivals in their respective categories on account of the clarity, distinction and sporty elegance of their exterior design.

### Dynamic design and a bold on-road presence

The new KIA Optima was developed by the international KIA design teams in Namyang (Korea),



Irvine (California, USA), and Frankfurt (Germany), under the creative direction of Peter Schreyer.

The new design of the Sportage was developed under the leadership of the European KIA Design Center in Frankfurt with the support of KIA's Design Centers in Namyang and Irvine. The most striking change to the exterior design is the distinctive new 'face' of the compact SUV. The headlights, which used to form a visual unit with KIA's signature 'tiger-nose' grille are now noticeably separate from the grille, making the front view broader and more stable.

### Red Dot Award

The 'Red Dot Design Award', one of the world's most prestigious design competitions, is divided into the three disciplines: Product Design, Communication Design and Design Concept. For the 2016 Red Dot Awards, companies from 57 countries registered 5,214 products and innovations. The competition, which has been held since 1955 by the Design Centre of North Rhine-Westphalia, attaches great importance to the impartiality of its high-calibre jury.

To avoid any bias, none of the jury members may

be an employee of the manufacturing industry. This year the 'Red Dot' jury was larger than ever: The 41 experts from all over the world - freelance designers, design professors and trade journalists - included Chris Bangle, Jimmy Choo, Professor Lutz F. gener, Hideshi Hamaguchi, Kristina Lassus, Raj Nandan, and Ken Okuyama. All members of the jury travelled to Essen, Germany and judged the products according to criteria such as degree of innovation, formal quality, functionality and ecological compatibility. The official presentation of the Red Dot Awards will take place on 4 July 2016 in Essen at the Aalto Theatre.



DOHA: Doha Bank CEO Dr R Seetharaman speaks at the seminar.

## ALGHANIM AUTOMOTIVE SIGNS MAJOR DEAL WITH AUTOMAK AUTOMOTIVE

UP TO 240 CHEVROLET TAHOES AVAILABLE FOR RENT

**KUWAIT:** Yusuf A Alghanim & Sons Automotive, the exclusive distributor of Chevrolet vehicles in Kuwait, has recently signed a major partnership deal with Automak Automotive Company by supplying its rental services with 240 Chevrolet Tahoes of the LS, 4X4, 2016MY trims. These vehicles will be available for rental with contracts up to 2 years.

This deal reflects the trust that the leading rental and leasing automotive companies have in Alghanim Automotive, which is based on shared commitment to meeting customers' needs. The large quantity of Tahoes offered by Alghanim Automotive also highlights the massive appeal the brand enjoys in Kuwait and around the world. Youths and families renting the all-new Tahoe through Automak Automotive Company's leasing service will particularly enjoy the SUV's state-of-the-art technology and latest safety standards, all offered at an unsurpassable value and flexible rental terms.

Automak Automotive Company is considered today as one of the few major players in the vehicles rental and leasing business with an 11 percent market share. The company operates more than 4500 vehicles flexible rental and leasing contracts, backed up by a wide spectrum of services, maintenance and warranties that create the highest levels of Customer Satisfaction. Automak's efficiency and record of business led the Company to achieve grade (A) Qualification from the Central Tenders Committee. This excellence positioned the company to seal mega contracts with major local companies and enterprises in Kuwait.

Available in three trim levels that include LS, 4X4 and 2016MY, the all-new Tahoe has been completely redesigned. Featuring premium materials that contribute to the func-

tional, sophisticated design as well as available 8-inch diagonal color touch-screen with 3D navigation, in addition to up to six USB ports to connect smartphones, Blue Ray DVD rear entertainment system and fold-flat third-row seat that provides incredible spaciousness for the whole family. In addition to keyless access, the Tahoe also features a host of available driver assistance technologies, such as Standard Front and Rear Park Assist helps when maneuvering Tahoe in tight parking situations and Side Blind Zone Alert with Lane Change Alert use radar sensors in the rear quarter panels to detect fast approaching vehicles.

The model also offers the segment's only front-seat center air bag, in bucket-seat models. This is the latest accolade for the 2015 Tahoe, including being named Best Buy of the Year among full-size SUVs according to Kelley Blue Book's KBB.com, one of the 15 Best Family Cars by Kelley Blue Book and a 2015 Most Popular on Edmunds.com (Large Traditional SUV).

### Chevrolet Care

All customers who purchase a Chevrolet from Alghanim will receive the benefits of the Chevrolet Care, which entails new levels of post-sale support and trust. The Chevrolet Care is an exceptional customer service that is based on four main pillars: competitive and transparent service costs (especially for four-wheel drive vehicles), scheduled service appointment booking with same day delivery, quality service by certified technicians and 3yr/100,000km warranty with 24/7 roadside assistance. Customers who want to purchase a new vehicle or upgrade their existing vehicle can visit our showrooms in Safat Alghanim Al-Rai, Sharq, Fahaaheel, Al-Ahmedi, and Shuwaikh and obtain the car of their dreams.

## KUWAIT GIVING IMPETUS TO INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

### DOHA BANK HOSTS KNOWLEDGE SHARING SESSION

**DOHA:** Doha Bank hosted a knowledge sharing session on "Changing dynamics and market opportunities" on 19th April 2016 at JW Marriot Hotel, Kuwait. The key speakers at the event include Dr Hamad Al-Hasawi, General Secretary of Kuwait Banking Association, Aninda Banerji, Chief Financial Officer at City Group Co, Faris Al-Anizi, Relationship Manager & Chief of Operations, Oil and Gas, KCC and Lokesh Malhotra, Owner of Al-Zahem Malhotra Co. The event was also attended by well-known Kuwait Businessmen, Senior Kuwaiti Bankers and Leaders from key Corporates in Kuwait.

Dr R. Seetharaman, CEO of Doha Bank gave insight on global economy. He said "The recent IMF outlook had given forecast for global growth at 3.2 percent in 2016. Growth in advanced economies is projected to remain modest, in line with 2015 outcomes at 1.9 percent this year. The United States saw its 2016 growth forecast cut to 2.4 percent. Emerging and developing economies are expected to grow at 4.1 percent this year. The global economy was increasingly vulnerable to downside risks including further market turmoil in the wake of this year's China-led downturn."

Dr R Seetharaman highlighted on Kuwait economy. He said, "the fall in oil prices had impacted the growth on GCC economies and the recent IMF forecast reflects the same. Kuwait economy is expected to grow by 2.4 percent this year. Kuwait has more than 70 months coverage of current account payments and about 375 percent coverage of the monetary base. The government has introduced a limited number of measures to mitigate the impact of low oil prices on its economy such as a partial fuel subsidy reform in early 2015. Kuwait is looking to introduce VAT in 2018 in co-ordination with other Gulf States."

Dr R Seetharaman gave an insight on Qatar - Kuwait bilateral relationships and opportunities in Kuwait. He said "Joint investments between Qatar and Kuwait amounted to more than \$7 billion across the different sectors. Trade exchange in 2015 amounted to around \$250 million between Qatar and Kuwait. Qatar and Kuwait signed agreements in 2016 in various fields such as air transport, media and education. Kuwait has announced plans to develop 30 major infrastructure projects worth \$11.3bn. The Second Kuwait Development Plan gives impetus to infrastructure development. Kuwait could remain focused on boosting public-private partnerships. Building a vibrant ecosystem for SME development is seen as critical to promoting long-term economic diversification in Kuwait."

Aninda Banerji, Chief Financial Officer at City Group Co gave insight on reforms proposed by Kuwait Government such as introduction of taxes and subsidy rationalization and the impact of such reforms on corporates and consumers of Kuwait economy. He highlighted that Kuwait is considering several transformative reforms such as improving ease of doing business and would encourage companies to expand their scope of operations and geographies. He also provided insight on benefits offered by Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority.

Lokesh Malhotra, owner of Al-Zahem Malhotra Co gave insight on changing dynamics such as low oil prices, growing population, scarcity of resources like water and increase in pollution, tougher regulations and shift of family business to next generation. The growing population will result in demand for infrastructure projects, demand for electricity, parking solutions and childcare. There could be tighter credit conditions and opportunities for Mergers and Acquisitions. There may also be opportunities for succession planning in family run business.

## FLYDUBAI CARGO WINS AT THE SCATA AWARDS

**KUWAIT:** flydubai's Cargo division has received the award for "Cargo Operator of the Year" at the tenth annual Supply Chain and Transport Awards (SCATA). The award recognised flydubai Cargo's growth in the last year as it continued to provide increased accessibility to previously underserved markets and its use of electronic air waybills (e-AWB) throughout its operations.

Commenting on the award, Hamad Obaidalla, Chief Commercial Officer at flydubai, said: "flydubai Cargo has become an integral part of our business and we are delighted that it has been recognised for its strong performance last year. Despite a challenging trading environment, flydubai Cargo was able to grow its operations and it's great to see this acknowledged in the industry."

flydubai Cargo in 2015 increased its tonnage carried by 28.4% from the previous year and provides cargo services to more than 85 destinations across its network. Interline agreements with other carriers provide access to more than 200 destinations around the world.

"Receiving this award is a great achievement and represents how far flydubai Cargo has come in such a short period of time." Added Obaidalla. "We look forward to continuing to pro-

vide effective cargo solutions for our customers, especially in previously underserved markets."

flydubai Cargo is one of the few cargo operators that only uses electronic airway bills and in Dubai a fully automated warehouse storage facility and retrieval system enhances operations and transit times. flydubai Cargo has been recognised by IATA as one of only five airlines in the world who process more than 75 percent of its air waybills electronically.

### About flydubai

Dubai-based flydubai strives to remove barriers to travel and enhance connectivity between different cultures across its ever-expanding network. Since launching its operations in 2009, flydubai has:

- Created a network of more than 85 destinations in 43 countries.
- Opened up 59 routes that did not previously have direct air links to Dubai or were not served by a UAE national carrier from Dubai.

In addition, flydubai's agility and flexibility as a young airline has enhanced Dubai's economic development, in line with the Government of Dubai's vision, by creating trade and tourism flows in previously underserved markets.



## FIVE WAYS PRINCE SLAMMED HIGH TECH IN MUSIC

**LOS ANGELES:** His Royal Badness didn't think much of the Internet - or iPhones, for that matter. And his once iconoclastic attitude toward the modern music industry helped inspire other artists to resist technological innovators such as Spotify. Prince was adamant about protecting his copyrights. He owned the song publishing rights to his music and vigorously pursued online outlets that used it without permission. That's why it's been tough to find many of his songs on outlets like YouTube following his death on Thursday.

Today, many artists are pursuing a similar path, determined to control where their music goes and insisting on getting paid when it's online. That's why artists like Taylor Swift and Adele put

some songs on Spotify, but not their recent albums or back catalogs, which they reserve for paying customers on other services. "You've had everything from The Beatles not wanting to be on iTunes to the most recent spate of exclusives on Apple and Tidal," says Russ Crupnick, managing partner of research firm MusicWatch. "If you're a top tier artist ... you can afford to be a lot more particular."

For his latest album, "HITNRUN," Prince joined many artists in releasing exclusively on Tidal, at least for a brief time window. Others include Kanye West, Rihanna and Beyonce. Here's a quick recap of five things Prince said over the years that describe his view of the role of artists in an era of high technology:

### 'The Internet's Completely Over'

In a July 2010 interview with Daily Mirror reporter Peter Willis, Prince says he's releasing his album "20TEN" to Daily Mirror readers as a CD for free. In the interview, he complains that outlets like iTunes don't pay advances for music and compares the Internet to a passing fad like MTV.

### Ringtone? Uh Uh

If you use a Prince song as a ringtone, you should know his Royal Badness did not approve. In a June 2011 interview with The Guardian's Dorian Lynskey, Prince says he can't stand digital music, nor the cacophony of ringtones it enables. "Have you ever been in a room where there's 17 ringtones going off at once?"

### Does He Have an iPhone? 'Hell, No'

Prince not only disdains the Internet, he forgoes the tools to access it. Asked in a July 2013 story by V Magazine's Vanessa Grigoriadis if he owns an iPhone, Prince responds: "Are you serious? Hell, no." He then mimics a high-voiced woman who has lost hers. He also touts the pleasures of listening to Joni Mitchell on vinyl.

### The Internet: 'We Were Saying It Was Dead to Us - Dead Energy'

Prince explains his Internet comment to AP's Nekeša Mumbi Moody in an exclusive interview at his Paisley Park compound in Sept 2014, even as he queues up songs on YouTube from artists such as James Brown and FKA Twigs. At the time, his music is on both

iTunes and Spotify. Today, major artists from Taylor Swift to Adele to Kanye West are picking and choosing where their music is released, just as Prince did.

### 'Spotify Wasn't Paying, So You Gotta Shut it Down'

In an interview with Ebony's Miles Marshall Lewis published in December, Prince explains why he's removing his music from most streaming services and putting it all on Tidal. But the magazine removed the interview at Prince's request, according to Billboard; all that remains on Ebony's website now is Prince's insistence that artist ownership of the means of distribution is important. "Where we finally get into a position to run things - we all should help." — AP



**GAINESVILLE, Florida:** In this April 15, 2016 photo, University of Florida PhD student Islam Badreldin, 31, practices driving a brain-controlled vehicle that he modified to work wirelessly. — AP

## BRAIN-CONTROLLED DRONE RACE PUSHES FUTURE TECH

**GAINESVILLE, Florida:** Wearing black headsets with tentacle-like sensors stretched over their foreheads, the competitors stare at cubes floating on computer screens as their small white drones prepare for takeoff. "Three, two, one ... GO!" the announcer hollers, and as the racers fix their thoughts on pushing the cubes, the drones suddenly whir, rise and buzz through the air. Some struggle to move even a few feet, while others zip confidently across the finish line.

The competition - billed as the world's first drone race involving a brain-controlled interface - involved 16

pilots using willpower to drive drones through a 10-yard dash over an indoor basketball court at the University of Florida this past weekend. The AP was there to record the event, which organizers hope to make an annual inter-collegiate spectacle, involving ever-more dynamic moves and challenges and a trophy that puts the brain on a pedestal.

"With events like this, we're popularizing the use of BCI instead of it being stuck in the research lab," said Chris Crawford, a PhD student in human-centered computing. "BCI is a technology that was geared specifi-

cally for medical purposes, and in order to expand this to the general public, we actually have to embrace these consumer brand devices and push them to the limit."

Scientists have been able to detect brainwaves for more than a century, and mind-controlled technology already is helping paralyzed people move limbs or robotic prosthetics. But now the technology is becoming widely accessible. Emotiv and NeuroSky are among startups offering electroencephalogram headsets for purchase online for several hundred dollars. The models Florida racers used cost about \$500 each.

Here's how the technology delivers an abstract thought through the digital realm and into the real world: Each EEG headset is calibrated to identify the electrical activity associated with particular thoughts in each wearer's brain - recording, for example, where neurons fire when the wearer imagines pushing a chair across the floor. Programmers write code to translate these "imaginary motion" signals into commands that computers send to the drones.

### Internet of Things

Professor Juan Gilbert, whose computer science students organized the race, is inviting other universities to assemble brain-drone racing teams for 2017, pushing interest in a technology with a potential that seems limited only by the human imagination. As our lives become increasingly reliant on Internet-enabled devices, a concept known as the Internet of things, Gilbert and his team want to know how mind-controlled devices can expand and change the way we play, work and live.

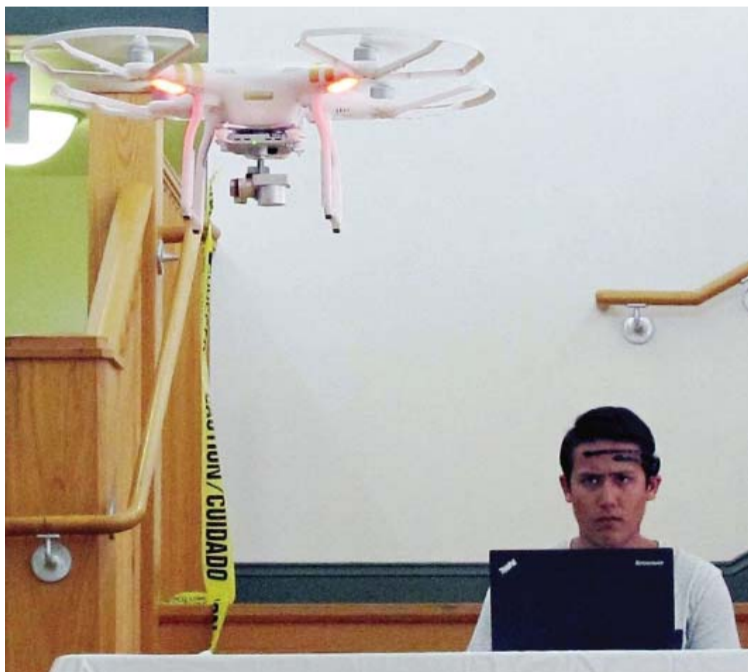
You might use your mind to unlock

your car, or explore a virtual world, hands-free. It could be applied for real-time monitoring of our moods and states of consciousness. Researchers are studying whether they can use a big-rig driver's mind to trigger a device that will tell him when he's too tired to drive. "One day you could wear a brain-controlled interface device like you wear a watch, to interact with things around you," Gilbert said.

So far, BCI research has largely been about helping disabled people regain freedom of movement. Recently, an Ohio man using only his thoughts was able to move his paralyzed hand thanks to a chip implanted in his brain. In Miami, doctors using BCI are helping a 19-year-old man stand on his own after losing the use of his legs in a motorcycle accident.

The idea of collegiate brain-drone races pleases Dr Bin He, a biomedical engineer at the University of Minnesota who first demonstrated a mind-controlled drone in public in 2013. "The progress of the BCI field has been faster than I had thought ten years ago," He said. "We are getting closer and closer to broad application."

But as the technology moves toward wider adoption, ethical, legal and privacy questions remain unresolved. The US Defense Department - which uses drones to kill suspected terrorists in the Middle East from vast distances - is looking for military brain-control applications. A 2014 Defense grant supports the Unmanned Systems Laboratory at the University of Texas, San Antonio, where researchers have developed a system enabling a single person with no prior training to fly multiple drones simultaneously through mind control. — AP



**In this photo taken April 16, 2016, University of Florida sophomore Michael Lakin, 19, uses a brain-controlled interface headset to fly a drone during a mind-controlled drone race.**

## TRUMP'S TWEETS PROVOKE HUGE FOLLOWING, TROUBLE

**WASHINGTON:** Donald Trump says there's genius in his tweets, but his wife wishes he would stop. Melania Trump was asked Thursday on NBC's "Today" show what habit she wishes he would give up. "Let's see," she said, pausing. "The tweeting." Trump's approach to Twitter has been as unorthodox as his presidential campaign: Unpredictable and unfiltered, sometimes brilliant and occasionally typographically challenged. He has celebrated the support of scores of accounts on the social media service that appear almost solely dedicated to him.

But Trump's habit has also come with collateral damage - mostly because of the billionaire's penchant for elevating the comments of his fans to his 7.7 million followers, oftentimes without apparent concern for the source. He has twice cited an account called WhiteGenocideTM, and just a week ago, he quoted a message from an account with a user name that alluded to masturbation. Many of the accounts with which he interacts use hazy identities or images of models widely circulated on the internet.

Whoever these mysterious users are, they sometimes provide Trump with information that migrates into his social media assertions, campaign speeches and media interviews. A few cases in point:

\* After Donald Trump was attacked for low poll numbers among women, he retweeted a supporter noting that he is supported by 15,000 women's groups.

\* To demonstrate grass-roots opposition to the Republican delegate selection process, he cited a backer who described 1 million protest messages on postcards that had been sent to the Republican National Committee.

\* After a man rushed the stage at a Michigan

tweets as many as 23 self-generated Trump memes an hour. In the days afterward, Trump acknowledged that retweeting the photo was a mistake and conceded that his retweeting could get him in trouble. But as recently as Tuesday, he reposted comments from an account describing the user as a "neo-Boer," a reference to the white South Africans who ruled during racial apartheid. Other accounts Trump has elevated include ones claiming to be end-times believers, researchers of time travel and a man who says he was devoted to the mystical significance of the number 11.

### Bots

Some of the accounts have a substantial track record of tweets bearing the hallmarks of accounts that are programmed to post tweets automatically - commonly known as bots. Trump opponents and Twitter sleuths have noted commonalities among some of the most prolific accounts, such as years of dormancy, the absence of non-Trump material and account creation dates within minutes - or even seconds - of each other.

Patrick Ruffini, a Washington politics and media consultant opposing Trump, published an analysis of 465 followers of Trump on Twitter that had encouraged people to report unwanted Ted Cruz campaign phone messages to the Federal Communications Commission. Many of the accounts appeared to have a sideline promoting business-to-business social media software, or in some instances pornography.

Ruffini said a small group of Trump supporters was combining automated tweets with human-generated content to exaggerate Trump's support online. Accounts that Ruffini suspected of involvement began posting



**NORTH CHARLESTON, South Carolina:** In this Feb 18, 2016 file photo, Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump listens to his mobile phone during a lunch stop. — AP

Trump rally, Trump repeated on television a follower's assertion that the man had ties to the Islamic State group.

\* To dispel the suggestion that he didn't treat women as equals, he retransmitted a supporter's statement that the Trump Organization's executives are predominantly female.

There is no evidence bearing out any of these claims. A spokeswoman for Trump's campaign declined immediately to answer the AP's questions about Trump's Twitter activity. One common theme for a mention, quote or retweet appears to be praise for Trump or harsh words for his rivals. Texas Sen Ted Cruz is one of the most prominent current targets. One such infamous retweet was a meme mocking Heidi Cruz's appearance in comparison to a photo of glamorous Melania Trump. The tweet originated from a user named Don\_Vito\_08, who

mocking messages at him, which gave way to a harassing wave of pornography. "If you're trying to make the argument that you're genuine, it's not helpful that I'm getting these coordinated attacks," Ruffini told AP. But some prolific pro-Trump accounts that have been questioned are run by flesh-and-blood owners. Victoria Gray runs one. The AP reached Gray at her home in small-town North Carolina, where she has lived for many years. Gray uses Twitter for "eight hours a day, maybe longer," she told AP, posting sometimes hundreds of tweets promoting Trump and questioning his rivals. Currently, Cruz is chief among them. Gray said she believes Cruz, a naturalized US citizen at birth whose mother was American, is not a US citizen because he was born in Canada. "This has been the first time I can remember that I really needed to get involved heavily in something, and now that I'm retired, I can," she said. — AP

## SOLAR PLANE LANDS IN CALIF

**MOUNTAIN VIEW, California:** Solar Impulse 2, an experimental plane flying around the world without consuming a drop of fuel, has landed in California, one leg closer to completing its trailblazing trip. "The Pacific is done, my friend. I love it, but it's done," said clearly relieved Swiss adventurer Bertrand Piccard, who piloted the craft from Hawaii to California, just before landing late Saturday. "It's great to be in California, the land of pioneers," he said once on the ground, with Google co-founder and alternative energy enthusiast Sergey Brin on hand. "Innovation and pioneering must continue. The clean tech revolution has to keep moving forward."

Piccard, a 58-year-old doctor by training, said that enduring the 62-hour stretch between Hawaii and the Silicon Valley town of Mountain View was one of the "most amazing" experiences of his life. "I bet that in 10 years, electric airplanes will be transporting up to 50 people. This will happen," he added. "This is not science fiction. It is real," Piccard said.

The arrival at Moffett Airfield southeast of San Francisco, marked the completion of the ninth of 13 legs in a journey that began last year in the United

Arab Emirates. Piccard, who has been alternating the long solo flights with teammate Andre Borschberg, will now hand over to his teammate who will pilot Solar Impulse across the United States and to New York.

### Pacific Challenge

The mission aims to promote the use of renewable energy, with an aircraft powered by 17,000 solar cells. The plane's wingspan is wider than that of a jumbo jet but its weight is roughly the same as a car's. Solar Impulse 2 was grounded in July last year when its batteries suffered problems halfway through its 35,000-km circumnavigation. The crew took several months to repair the damage from high tropical temperatures during the first Pacific stage, a 4,000-mile flight between Japan and Hawaii.

The aircraft was flown on that leg by Borschberg, whose 118-hour journey smashed the previous record of 76 hours and 45 minutes set by US adventurer Steve Fossett in 2006. Born in Zurich, Borschberg is no stranger to adventure - 15 years ago he narrowly escaped an avalanche, and then in

2013 he was involved in a helicopter crash that left him with minor injuries.

The 63-year-old took catnaps of only 20 minutes at a time to maintain control of the pioneering plane during his arduous flight from Japan, in what his team described as "difficult" conditions. The Pacific crossing is the most dangerous due to a lack of landing sites in the event of an emergency. Traveling at altitudes of more than 9,000 m, Borschberg at times had to use oxygen tanks to breathe and experienced huge swings in temperature throughout.

Alone throughout and utterly self-reliant in the unpressurized cockpit, he was equipped with a parachute and life raft in case he needed to ditch in the Pacific. Piccard said Saturday that he could not sleep more than 20 minutes at a time "because after 20 minutes you have to wake up and control everything and if everything goes well then you can go back to sleep." The solar-powered plane, which stores energy in batteries for when the sun is not shining, will stop in New York before a transatlantic flight to Europe. From there the pilots plan to make their way back to the point of departure in Abu Dhabi. — AP



**SAN FRANCISCO:** "Solar Impulse 2", a solar-powered plane, flies over the Golden Gate Bridge on Saturday after a flight from Hawaii. — AP

## ALASKA AQUARIUM REPLACES FOSSIL FUEL WITH SEAWATER SYSTEM



**SEWARD:** Elin Lunoe, and Pilot, a Steller sea lion, check each other out at a tank at the Alaska SeaLife Center in Seward, Alaska. Since January 2016, the Alaska aquarium has replaced 98 percent of its fossil fuel heating requirements with a system that draws heat from seawater. — AP

**ANCHORAGE, Alaska:** Thousands of people visit the Alaska SeaLife Center in Seward for a look at Steller sea lions or harbor seals. What's in the basement is almost as interesting.

The SeaLife Center, which combines aquariums with research and wildlife rescue, announced Friday that 98 percent of its heating and cooling requirements are no longer filled by fossil fuel. The center is using alternative energy: heat extracted from ocean water in Resurrection Bay. The heat exchange system is saving money, cutting greenhouse gas emissions and fulfilling the center's mission of sharing scientific knowledge to promote stewardship of Alaska's marine resources, said Darryl Schaefermeyer, special projects coordinator. It demonstrates that seawater is a potential heating source for Alaska, which has more coastline than the rest of the nation put together.

"Simple payback is estimated to be 13 years at the estimated annual savings on electricity of \$48,000," he said. "Since starting the system, we have averaged just over \$4,000 savings on electrical energy cost per month." It's used with a seawater system the SeaLife Center installed in 2012.

The new system was designed by Andy

Baker of YourCleanEnergy, an Anchorage consulting firm. It uses equipment manufactured by a Japanese firm, Mayekawa, and relies on a complex system of pipes to heat some parts of the building and cool others.

"The trick is to getting all those loops to transfer heat at the correct rate," Baker said.

Resurrection Bay, at more than 900 feet deep, absorbs solar heat over summer months. The water warms through late October, and below the surface, retains enormous amounts of heat throughout winter.

Heat exchangers are devices that transfer heat from one loop of liquid to another without mixing the liquids.

The center's new system draws seawater at 42 degrees or higher from 300 feet deep and pumps it into a heat exchanger with non-corrosive titanium plates, where it heats a loop of water and 10 percent glycol, an antifreeze.

The warmed water and glycol loop is passed alongside a loop of liquid carbon dioxide, causing the liquid CO2 to boil into a vapor. A compressor squeezes the vapor, increasing its pressure up to 2,000 psi, which raises the vapor temperature dramatically from 100 to 194 degrees.

The heated CO2 vapor is exposed to yet another loop: the water that circulates

through the SeaLife Center's building. It can heat 100-degree water to 194 degrees. The system blends 194-degree water with cooler water to send 160-degree water circulating through conventional baseboard heaters in office and lab space.

The system has been operating since Jan. 21. On Seward's coldest nights, about 2 percent of the time, the center had to turn on an electrical boiler for more heat.

The first seawater system, which cost about \$1 million, came on line in December 2012. Instead of carbon dioxide, it uses a synthetic refrigerant that can be heated to about 130 degrees, Baker said. It's used to heat the center's air-handling units and outdoor pavement and to preheat hot water.

Grants helped pay for the new system, including a \$537,640 emerging energy technology grant from the Alaska Energy Authority. The Rasmuson Foundation kicked in \$50,000, and the center spent \$68,000 on in-house labor. Besides cutting its heating bill by more than half, the center estimates it has reduced its annual carbon emissions by 1.24 million pounds. Baker anticipates the technology will expand to other large energy users. The cost likely will come down as competitors emerge. — AP

## DISEASE EXPERTS TO COMPARE ZIKA NOTES AT PARIS MEETING

SPECIALISTS FROM 600 NATIONS ATTENDING

**PARIS:** Some 600 disease experts from 43 nations will gather in Paris today to pore over scant but increasingly worrisome data emerging about the Zika virus sweeping Latin America and threatening the world. Scientists and public health specialists will discuss the virus' links to microcephaly, a disorder that causes severe brain damage in babies, and to adult-onset neurological problems such as Guillain-Barre Syndrome, which can cause paralysis and death.

They will also review progress in the development of Zika diagnostics and vaccines, according to the Institut Pasteur, which will host the science meeting today and tomorrow.

"It is now clear that the Zika virus can cause serious complications, and the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the current outbreak a public health emergency of international concern," Institut Pasteur president Christian Brechot told AFP by email.

"It is therefore urgent to bring together key global players in research and health." Despite a flurry of research, very little is known about Zika-how long it may hide out in the human body, the degree of risk of sexual transmission, the full list of diseases it may cause, and which mosquito

species can transmit it.

Earlier this month, US health authorities confirmed the virus causes microcephaly, a long-suspected link. And they said the virus was "scarier" than previously thought.

"We continue to be learning (about the virus) pretty much every day. And most of what we're learning is not reassuring," said Anne Schuchat, principal deputy director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The Zika virus was first identified in 1947 in Uganda, but for most people the symptoms—a rash, joint pain or fever—are mild, if they notice them at all.

### Collaboration needed

An outbreak of the virus began in Brazil in early 2015, followed nine months later by a surge of infants born with microcephaly. There has also been an increase in Brazilian cases of Guillain-Barre.

Since last year, the virus has been detected for the first time in 42 countries, mainly in Latin America and the Caribbean. In eight nations, there have been reports of person-to-person transmission likely via sex.

The virus has been found to survive in the

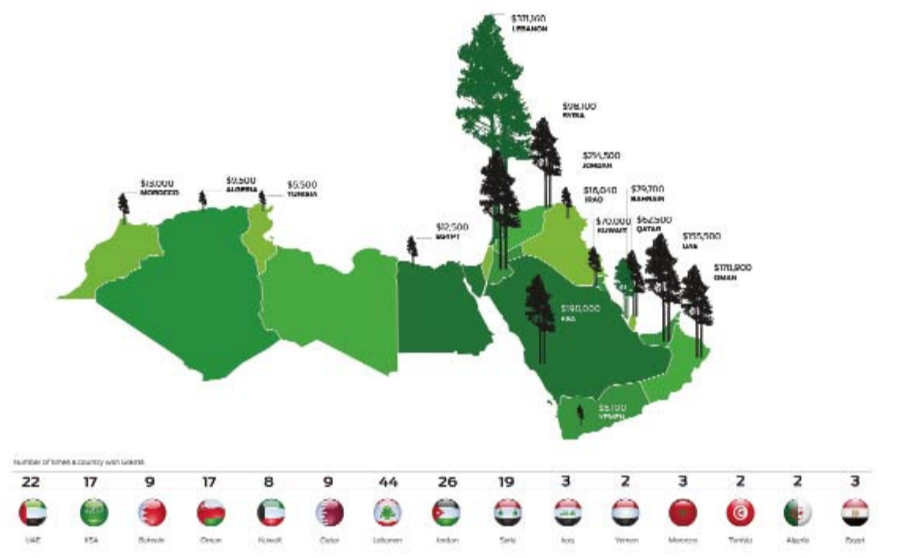
semen of infected men. There is no treatment or vaccine, and the best course of action is to protect oneself against mosquito bites.

Scientists are concerned the virus will spread to the southern United States and Europe as summer brings ideal mosquito-breeding conditions. A virus can be introduced to a new region when a local mosquito picks it up from an infected human-someone coming back from a holiday in South America, for example.

If it lives long enough, the mosquito can then infect people from whom it takes a blood meal, starting a vicious cycle. Next week's gathering is sponsored by the Institut Pasteur, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and Wellcome Trust, along with backing from the European Commission and WHO.

"The speed and extent of this outbreak, which the WHO declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern, requires open collaborations between researchers, the public health community and the public," states the conference website. Top research institutions, funders and publishers announced in February they would make all scientific findings on Zika available quickly and without cost. — AFP

### 15 YEARS OF FORD ENVIRONMENTAL GRANTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST



## FORD MOTOR GRANTS PROGRAM AWARDS A TOTAL OF \$100,000 TO 18 LOCAL BODIES MEA

**DUBAI:** The Ford Motor Company Conservation and Environmental Grants program yesterday announced 18 recipients who will share \$100,000 to support their ongoing projects aimed at protecting the environment utilizing various innovative methods.

The Grants program, which helps grass-roots level projects dedicated to environmental causes, announced winners from Saudi Arabia, Oman, Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco. For the first time in the initiative's history, the Ford Grants was extended to Egypt, Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco in 2015.

"For the past 15 years, the Ford Motor Company Conservation and Environmental Grants have actively supported various grass-roots level environmental projects in the region. It is our hope that through this program, we have helped make a difference in the communities where we serve our customers," said Jim Benintende, president, Ford Middle East & Africa. "We commend the selfless efforts of all Ford Grants recipients and their continued commitment in conserving their local environment," and are pleased to see that the majority of the 2015 winners have dedicated their work in awareness projects to educate their communities about the importance of conservation."

The recipients of the 2015 Ford Motor Company Conservation & Environmental Grants are:

### SAUDI ARABIA

Abdulaziz Alagaili, Zoology Department, King Saud University: Can you help me find a place to hide? Alternative roosting sites for insectivorous bats in Saudi Arabia is a project that helps find a suitable nesting area for bats in the Kingdom. With the degradation and disappearance of clay houses, the bats have no place to live and propagate. Abdulaziz Alagaili, the lead of this project intends to use the Grants received to fund costs for volunteer work, materials and equipment rental. Award: US\$10,000.

Ghada Al-Bakr: Part 1: Ammar in the deep sea / Part 2: Wild Animals in KSA - Learn and Colour / Part 3: Play with the environment is a mobile application for children where they can play interactive games and learn about the importance and protection of the environment at a young age. With the Ford Grants available, the money will go towards the further development of the apps. Award: US\$5,000.

### OMAN

Biosphere Expeditions: Capacity building in civil society in marine conservation in the Sultanate of Oman is a repeat winner for Ford Grants. Biosphere has been conducting educational programmes and training activities for local Omanis to learn more about protecting reefs in Oman. The programme has also reached out to over 20,000 Omani school children about reefs, their importance and conservation. With the additional funding from Ford, Biosphere will train four local Omanis who are marine biology students,

divers from the Ministry of Environment and other committed adults as certified reef check eco-divers. Award: \$7,000.

### LEBANON

Green Hand Organization (GHO): Green Hand Botanical Garden (GHBG) - Iris Sofarana Conservation Garden is the first botanic garden in Lebanon involved in conserving floral diversity both in its natural habitat and species transplanted into another suitable environment to proliferate and propagate. In particular, the project aims to conserve endangered floral bulb species including Iris sofarana - an endemic plant found only in Lebanon. GHO intends to raise awareness through interactive workshops among students, environmental NGOs, private sector and municipalities. With the grants received, GHO will use the funds to cover costs of identification and collection of species, equipment and tools and training. Award: \$7,500

Development for People and Nature Association (DPNA): My Environment, My Home aims to educate the public on the importance of waste sorting at source. The project is being implemented at Ein Zaarour summer camp in Jezzine wherein waste bins, plastic shredders, waste compactor and compost bins will be provided. DPNA will use the Ford Grants to help purchase sorting waste bins, compost bins, hydraulic baler press, plastic shredder and protective umbrella. Award: US\$5,000.

### JORDAN

The Children's Museum Jordan: Development of a new biodiversity exhibition at the Children's Museum is a project that aims to upgrade the exhibition that has been in use since 2008. The growing demands of the need to educate more people about Jordan's biodiversity made the upgrade even more compelling. The project will utilise the expertise of the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) and together, both aim to deliver interactive, novel and creative techniques to educate children about Jordan's biodiversity, protected areas and conservation initiatives. With the help from Ford Grants, the project will have support to fund interactive designs and promotional materials. Award: \$10,000.

Hikaya Center for Civil Society Development: Radio Al Najah - Generation for the environment is a radio show project looking into developing content and training 30 young adults for environmental awareness and conservation. The participants will create 12 episodes hosting various environmental topics. The Ford Grants will help fund the training of the youth as well as in development of educational materials. Award: \$5,000.

Hanan Qundil: Payback - Rad Al-Jameel is designed to help in conserving the environment and to enable low-income women in the south of Jordan produce recycled household waste for sale. There are 100 direct beneficiaries and 350 indirect beneficiaries as a result of this project. The Ford Grants will help in funding various aspects of training and recycling. Award: \$10,000.



**SHANGHAI:** Visitors to the 16th China International Industry Fair (CIIF) look at a prototype of what a Chinese Mars rover would look like in Shanghai, China. — AP

## CHINA PLANS TO LAND ON MARS BY 2020

**BEIJING:** Work is proceeding quickly on China's planned mission to land a rover on Mars by 2020, the chief administrator of the country's ambitious space program said on

Friday. Formally announced in January, China's Mars voyage will attempt to recreate the success of the US Viking 1 mission that landed a rover on the planet four decades ago.

"What we would like to do is to orbit Mars, make a landing, and rove around for reconnaissance in one mission, which is quite a challenge," China National Space Administration head Xu Dazhe said at a rare news conference. "This is a project that has attracted much attention from both the science and space fields."

Xu said China will further explore civilian uses of space technology in areas such as navigation, remote sensing and communications, and will seek international collaborations.

Since conducting its first crewed mission on a Chinese-built Shenzhou spacecraft in 2003, China has launched an experimental space station called the Tiangong 1, staged a spacewalk and landed its Yutu rover on the moon.

This year, it plans to launch components for a larger, permanent Tiangong 2 space station sometime after the beginning of June, as well as the Shenzhou 11 spaceship with two astronauts on board who are scheduled to dock with the station and live in it for several days. Administrators suggest a manned landing on the Moon may also be in the program's future.

A source of enormous national pride, China's military-backed space program plans a total of 20 space missions this year at a time when the US and other countries' programs are seeking new roles. China is also developing the Long March 5 heavier-lift rocket needed to launch the Tiangong 2 and other massive payloads. — AP

## BABY DINOSAUR FOSSILS REVEAL MEGAGROWTH FROM TINY TO TITAN

**WASHINGTON:** Think your kids grow fast? Scientists say one dinosaur baby went from tiny to a true titan in the blink of a prehistoric eye. At birth, titanosaurs babies weighed about as much as average human babies, 6 to 8 pounds. But in just a few weeks, they were at least the size of golden retrievers, weighing 70 pounds. And by age 20 or so, they were bigger than school buses.

That jump from something that you could hold in your hands to one of the largest creatures to ever roam Earth beats anything scientists have seen before in terms of growth, said paleontologist Kristi Curry Rogers of Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota. She is lead author of a new study on the baby dino fossils published Thursday in the journal Science.

By comparison, modern giants like whales, elephants and hippos are born much bigger than titanosaurs (Tie-TAN-O-SORES). Jeff Wilson of the University of Michigan who wasn't part of the study said this is the paradox of this class of dinosaurs: They started out as

tiny eggs and ended up as the largest animals on the planet.

Titanosaurs, plant-eating dinosaurs which lived about 67 million years ago, grew to be 15 feet tall, not including their necks and heads. They could stretch out to be 50 feet long. Looking through old bones stored in a museum after a dig in Madagascar, Rogers found enough small bone fossils to reconstruct a soon-after-hatching rapetosaurus (Ruh-PAY-too-SORE-us), a type of titanosaur. The baby dinosaur died of starvation during a drought that killed many others in the region, she said.

### And yes, you could call it cute

"There is no doubt that these baby titanosaurs would have had some of the features we would normally associate with cuteness or baby-ness: Short snout, large eyes, big head for a body - like a puppy," said Luis Chiappe, director of the Dinosaur Institute at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles, who wasn't part of the research but praised it.

# 'I AM HERE:' SILENCED BY AUTISM, YOUNG MAN FINDS HIS VOICE

APRIL IS NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

**METAIRIE, La:** Though he cannot speak, Benjamin Alexander has much to say, one typed word at a time. Ben was diagnosed with nonverbal autism and epilepsy a few months before his third birthday. Now 22, he is a writer and a student at Tulane University in New Orleans with a GPA of 3.7. In his essays, he returns repeatedly to the "fiend" that tried to silence him, the condition he sarcastically calls his "gift."

"Who in the hell gave me this gift?" he wrote in one piece published in a local online journal. "Please, take it back." Ben wants to help educate people about autism and challenge stereotypes. That's not easy because he still needs some assistance using a computer to communicate, and that's caused some to doubt him over the years.

On a recent evening, Ben's father settles him at the keyboard and rests his hand under his son's arm. He lightly squeezes Ben's forearm, a subtle move that sets him into action. Ben begins to punch the keys with one finger.

"I . am . not . stupid . as . some . people . used . to . think," Ben types. He unwraps his arm from his dad's and hits the period by himself, causing the computer to read each word in a robotic voice that he doesn't really like, but needs.

Later he adds, "I want people to know I am here."

As the sun rises over the leafy streets of suburban New Orleans, Ellen Schneider enters her son's room, adorned to the ceiling with tributes to his beloved New Orleans Saints football team, and rouses him for his day on campus. "Come on, B-man." She leads him to the bathroom to use an electric toothbrush. "Oooh, you're gorgeous," she says, as she looks into his wide hazel eyes and wipes his bearded face with a towel.

### Self-soothing voices

This morning, Ben is calm, having taken his medication - pills for everything from epileptic seizures to anxiety. He eats sliced apples and bread for breakfast while laughing to himself or babbling: "Aw aw, mm mm, bip bip." The soft sounds seem involuntary in some moments, self-soothing in others.

This daily existence, with its many ups and downs, has tested the resolve of his success-minded parents, both age 55. His mother is an ophthalmologist, his father an obstetrician. They also have two daughters, Hillary, 25, and Lexi, 15.

"We cure things with our hands. We cut it out. If it's something that needs to be removed, we remove it," his dad, Sam Alexander, says. But with Ben's condition, "we couldn't do that."

When Ben was born, there was no indication



**Judy Nodurft, former head of special education in Ben Alexander's old school district, holds a cell phone as he types an answer to a question during an interview at his home in Metairie, La. Alexander cannot speak, but he is determined to be heard. He cannot type without a hand to support his own, and yet he writes and writes, his inner voice shouting out his thoughts. — AP**

that anything was wrong. Family videos show a smiley, chubby-cheeked boy with curly red hair just beginning to form words. "Hello," he seems to utter in one video, after picking up an old telephone receiver.

In the months that followed, however, Ben lost those first few words. He stopped looking people in the eye. His parents often would find him off in a corner spinning around and around.

Doctors initially told them to be patient, that it wasn't unusual for some kids to have delayed speech. But then, when Ben was about 2 1/2, came the diagnosis they feared: autism. Often called pervasive developmental disorder, it was accompanied by epileptic episodes, which worsened in adolescence.

"It felt like he died," dad says.

### Ben never spoke again

Though advised to keep their expectations low, his parents took him from specialist to specialist, to Miami, Boston and Chicago, and tried any number of recommended therapies.

Eventually, Ben saw Dr. Stanley Greenspan.

The Maryland child psychiatrist used a technique called "floortime," where Ben played problem-solving games on the floor with his therapists or parents.

In his writing, Ben recalls how the doctor in blue jeans and Birkenstocks encouraged him: "It does not matter how fast you get there, so long as you get there."

Early on in their battle with autism, Ben's parents heard that a nonverbal boy in India was writing poetry about his condition, and they wondered: What if Ben could communicate that way? So they tried facilitated communication, a controversial method where another person supports the typing hand of a nonverbal autistic person to help him "speak" using a computer.

One afternoon, dad asked 8-year-old Ben a question. "Who is the president of the United States?"

"G-e-o-r-g-e-w-b-u-s-h," Ben typed on a portable keyboard, according to his father, who supported his typing hand. These days, dad often only needs to hold Ben's forearm loosely when he types, or he places his flat hand atop

his son's wrist to steady him in moments of higher anxiety.

For some reason, his parents say, human touch and verbal prompting help bridge the connection between what Ben's brain wants to do, and the actual execution. When typing, he appears to be directing his own finger to particular keys. His eyes alternate from keys to screen. He often sees and fixes his mistakes, though his parents also point out errors.

Because Ben needed more physical support early on, some people didn't believe he was typing his own thoughts. His parents say they included the administrators at the private school he attended. So he switched to a public school, where special education teacher Judy Nodurft took on his case.

She, too, had doubts initially. She'd heard of cases where well-meaning parents directed their children's typing, an oft-repeated criticism of facilitated communication. Nodurft received training for supported typing at an institute at Syracuse University in New York and, after working with Ben, became a believer.

"You were hard," Ben typed recently when Nodurft visited his home. She chuckled. By the time Ben was 9, he wrote an essay - "My Adventure in Life" - that won a state writing honor. It was compiled from his answers to his mom's questions about what his autism felt like.

In simple words - and with mom telling him what didn't make sense or pointing out spelling and punctuation errors - Ben told readers how he needed to be by himself to think and how looking into her eyes was often difficult for him, even "painful."

Even so, he wrote, "I cannot wait to start living." Today, Ben is living the life of a college student. In his classes at Tulane, he sits with his dad at his side, often in a back corner with easy access to an exit. Sometimes, his father places his hand over Ben's mouth to quiet him, or nudges him to participate in a discussion. Ben clicks his laptop mouse so the computer voice announces "Speak!" when he has a question or comment, his way of raising his hand. During a screenwriting class this semester, he contributes to a discussion on the movie "The Social Network."

"I loved it because I found it ironic that a guy who was socially inept started a social network," Ben says through his laptop voice, as the instructor nods in agreement.

Dr Paul Lipkin, director of the Interactive Autism Network at the Kennedy Krieger Institute in Baltimore, says as few as 10 percent of people on the autism spectrum have no real language, and most of those tend to have low intellectual abilities. Though many experts point to studies debunking facilitated communication, Lipkin is less skeptical, even if Ben seems "really rare."

"As physicians," he says, "we never say never." Ben is the first person with nonverbal autism to attend Tulane, and administrators and professors say they've never had reason to doubt his abilities. The university's accessibility office arranged meetings to introduce Ben and his father to each new professor. But assistant director Shawna Foose, who's gotten to know Ben well, says that's about it.

"He doesn't want to be seen as a freak or a fraud," she says.

### Writing skill

Thomas Beller, an associate professor of creative writing who's had Ben in class, says he, too, quickly bypassed the "exoticism" of Ben's condition to judge him on the merits of his work.

"I don't want to grade him on a curve as the autistic guy," Beller says.

Writing takes Ben many hours. He uses predictive word processing software that allows him to choose from a list of words after typing a few letters. Sometimes he writes fiction, such as a short story set at the time of Hurricane Katrina, and he is talking about a novel. Essays are his favorite form, though.

This year, at his father's suggestion, Ben wrote about a remarkable meeting - and a transformative conversation. Using his voice simulator, he spoke to one of his heroes, Steve Gleason, a former Saints player who now has amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or ALS, and also speaks with the help of a computer.

The conversation turned serious when Ben shared his anger, asking: "Can you tell me how you stay so positive? How do you deal with frustration? How do you make your computer scream?"

Gleason replied that he'd found purpose by helping others with a foundation he and his wife formed. He also assured Ben that it was normal to question the meaning of his life. Ben was amazed.

"I have only dreamed about being normal," he wrote in the piece, published on Tulane's news site. Gleason also told Ben that he could be an example for other people with autism. Ben, in his interview, says he knows that's true.

"I am not the autism poster boy. But I hope that people will ... allow us to be heard." — AP

## RIVIERA BEACHES SPARED AS ITALY OIL SLICK DISSOLVES

**ROME:** Mini oil slicks spotted off the Italian Riviera have largely dissolved and no longer pose a threat to the region's beaches, the official overseeing the clean-up operation said yesterday.

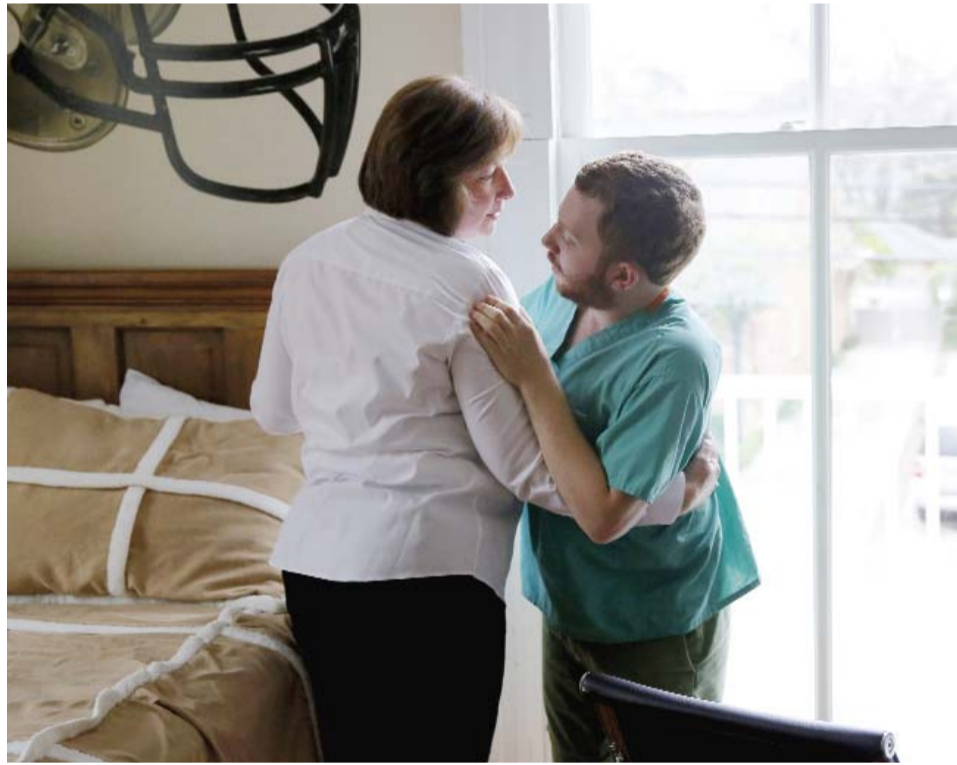
"The situation in the waters between Genoa and the French border has significantly improved," said Giovanni Pettorino, Genoa's Commander of Port. "Thanks to the weather conditions (heavy rain) the slicks that we were able to see from satellite photographs in recent days have largely dissolved or have been dispersed into smaller ones through treatment," Pettorino told Italy's Sky TG24 news channel.

"They will not reach France. The situation seems to be under control." Local authorities had declared a state of emergency on Saturday over the slicks, the biggest of which was two kilometres (1.25 miles) long and 500 metres (1600 feet) wide. The alert triggered fears among

tourist businesses in the region which attracts 75 million visitors yearly.

The oil slicks formed after an April 17 pipeline leak at an ageing refinery near Genoa which resulted in 680,000 litres of crude spilling into the Polcevera river, which flows into the Mediterranean at Genoa.

"It was not a disaster but this was a serious incident that should not have happened," environmental chemist Federico Valerio told Italy's La Repubblica newspaper. "The prevention systems in place failed. The biggest damage will be to the river where the leak happened. The toxic impact of the oil will have repercussions on its ecosystem for months if not several years. "And we will have to keep an eye on maritime micro-organisms because it is inevitable that a certain number of hydrocarbons will get into the food chain through mussels and fish." — AFP



Judy Nodurft talks to Ben at his house in Metairie, La. — AP

# CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times  
248 33 199



Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem  
وفهد علي المخيزيم



Consultant Pediatrician إستشاري أطفال  
M.B. Bch. FRCPC. FACP. PEM



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



## DASMAN INSTITUTE AWARDED CANADA PLATINUM ACCREDITATION

**D**asman Diabetes Institute (DDI), which was established by Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS), celebrated the recognition of Dasman Diabetes Institute's second award accredited by Accreditation Canada International: Platinum Level. The journey with Accreditation Canada International (ACI) has been a developing series since its initiation in 2010. With much hard work and commitment, DDI was able to achieve their first Gold Accreditation in 2013. Today, with much persistence and devotion, the Institute is now celebrating its well-deserved second achievement of receiving the Platinum Level.

On this occasion, DDI recently organized an event to

celebrate this achievement at the Institute. Ambassador of Canada to Kuwait Martine Moreau, Dr Hilal Al-Sayer, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, DDI, Dr Qais Al-Duwairi, Director-General, DDI, and Dr Dalia Badawi, Acting Chief Operating Officer and Director of the Accreditation Program at DDI attended amongst many other guests the event.

Receiving this accreditation will allow the Institute to continue moving forward in the right direction towards achieving a healthier environment for the country. DDI is focused on its holistic approach of integrating all the different aspects of promoting health awareness, offering educational programs, and providing training opportunities for both healthcare professionals and the public in

general. DDI is keen on spreading awareness throughout the country in order to decrease the prevalence of diabetes in Kuwait. Ensuring the health status of the people is an important task the Institute tackles. DDI aims to nurture future generations by educating and leading them towards a healthier lifestyle. This stems from the Institute's mission: "To prevent, control and mitigate the impact of diabetes and related conditions in Kuwait through effective programs of research, training, education, and health promotion and thereby improve quality of life in the population."

All of this has been done in order to try and educate the people to the best of their ability and to the maximum of their capacity. The Institute aims to exercise all

possible measures to try, preventing and tackling the rise in the diabetes epidemic in Kuwait.

In order to achieve this, we would like to continue to foster the international collaboration between Accreditation Canada International and Dasman Diabetes Institute to improve the health of the people of Kuwait, and ensure all the correct guidelines and criteria are met. This can be accomplished with the support and cooperation of reputable international organizations such as ACI that continue to take the Institute to even higher standards. DDI takes pride in achieving this award as it increases the Institute's credibility, making it a center of excellence that leads by example.



### Palestinian Cultural Exhibition

Under the auspices of HE  
**Eng. Ali Al Youha**

Secretary General of National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters

The Palestinian Culture Center in cooperation with the Embassy of the State of Palestine in Kuwait, invite you to its 44<sup>th</sup> exhibition, at the Kuwaiti women's Cultural and Social society in Khaldiyyeh, starting from Monday at 10:00am, April 25<sup>th</sup> to Thursday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

Classic designs intertwined with modern usage, motifs and color will be exhibited. Items on sale include: handmade cushions, scarves, shawls, traditional dresses, ceramics and other items. Books, music and movies will also be available.

A bake sale of traditional foods will take place on Thursday. Food products imported from Palestine are available every day. A dabkah folkdance will be performed on Thursday at 6:30 pm.

Venue  
**The Kuwaiti Women Cultural Society,**  
Khaldiya, Block 2, Al-Orouba Street

Dates  
Monday April 25<sup>th</sup> to Thursday April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Hours  
Mornings 10:00am to 1:30pm  
Evenings 4:30pm to 8:30pm

Tel.  
2484 3397 - 2484 3667 - 9937 6608



## PAMPER YOUR FAMILY AT THE MARINA HOTEL KUWAIT WITH A SPECIAL SUMMER PACKAGE



**M**arina Hotel Kuwait announced its much awaited summer package and special vacation getaway to experience summer fun at its best. Guests are offered absolute pampering and leisure with a resort-feel ambience through its facilities away from the city's busy routine.

The all-inclusive Marina Hotel package guarantees real joy under the sun with its secluded private beach and three pools: lap pool, kids' pool and family pool with the Marina Waves pool bar. Guests can relax in their rooms, all overlooking the beautiful Arabian Sea, at a rate

starting from KD 88 for a double Superior Room per night, buffet breakfast included. The package provides free access to the hotel's many facilities: the Coral Reef Health Club and Spa, the squash court, beach and pool area.

Well known for its delicious international cuisine, guest can go for first-rate dining at the hotel's two celebrated restaurants: The Six Palms and the Atlantis. For mouth-watering delicacies, indulge in international, Mediterranean and Middle Eastern dishes from a scrumptious array of menu choices in a tranquil setting. Additionally guests availing the summer pack-

age can take advantage of the 20% discount on buffet lunch and dinner at the Atlantis Restaurant.

With a walking distance to the Marina Mall and Marina Crescent, one can enjoy a complete holiday with easy access to their favorite shopping destinations.

Make sure you book your room at the award winning Marina Hotel Kuwait for a unique getaway experience and excellent standard of quality service.

For more information, please visit our website: [www.marinahotel.com](http://www.marinahotel.com).

## WARBA BANK OFFERS 25 PERCENT DISCOUNT IN JUMEIRAH HOTELS

**KUWAIT:** Warba bank, the fastest growing which provides a full spectrum of banking and investment services compatible with Islamic sharia according to International standards, launched a new promotion in collaboration with Visa International and Jumeirah Hotels in Dubai.

By the terms of this collaboration, Warba credit cards' holders will get 25 percent discount on their bills upon their stay at selected premises of Jumeirah hotels. The offer is valid on reservations being made prior to April 30 for a hotel accommodation from May 1st to September 30, 2016.

Warba's credit cards' customers will have the leisure of having a room with breakfast inclusive, free access to Wild Wady Aqua Park, free access to their children to kids' club, complementary Wi-Fi for the duration of their stay, that is in addition to providing them with an exquisite time to enjoy and relax at Jumeirah hotels beaches only in Dubai.

Commenting on the new offer, Warba bank said in a statement: "at Warba bank, we are keen to serve our customers in a new competitive and creative way. Therefore, it's our prime objective to distinguish our customers of credit cards' holders, by constantly providing them with topnotch promotions and offers which are designed to specifically matching their expectations. In order to fulfill this objective, we don't spare an effort to collaborate with international partners such as Jumeirah hotels and Visa international, to make sure we offer customers a high quality service with great value."

Warba bank, invites all customers of credit cards' holders to benefit of the promotion and enjoy the bundle of high-end services and products offered by hotels taking part at, by visiting: [www.jumeirah.com/en/offers/visaoffers](http://www.jumeirah.com/en/offers/visaoffers) and book their rooms by using their Visa cards.

It is worth to mention that Warba bank is determined to maintain its ongoing efforts to distinguish its credit cards' holders. Therefore, the bank constantly designs and launches unique and unparalleled offers, enabling them to win some or all of their purchases value by using their cards. These offers made the impact amongst customers since they perfectly cater to their needs to unprecedented banking services.



Under the auspices of Al-Jahra Educational Area and Al-Khansaa Primary School for Girls, a distinct model lesson was presented by educator Hala Samy. The lesson was attended by ELT Senior Supervisor Huda Al-Ammar, ELT Supervisor Abd El-Haleem Ghander, the school's principal Dalal Al-Ajmi, senior teacher Alanoud Alwasmy and number of the Senior teachers of the Intermediate and Secondary Schools in order to get familiar with the practical application of the New National Curriculum Competences of the 1st grade in the primary stage. The lesson was highly praised for its new ideas, varied activities and strategies that dealt with both logical and critical thinking in addition to the range of connection with other subjects and promoting Citizenship in an indirect way as well as the lovely positive atmosphere and good rapport between the teacher and her pupils.



Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Hind Al-Subaih (left), Sheikha Fadhiah Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah, founder of Ibtikar Al-Kuwait (center) and Dr Fatma Al-Hashim, Director General of the initiative inaugurate the ceremony. —Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Hind Al-Subaih and Sheikha Fadhiah Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah, founder of Ibtikar Al-Kuwait tour the exhibition.

## KUWAIT EARNs TOP HONORS IN SCIENCE COMPETITION

By Nawara Fattahova

The Ibtikar initiative gives girls an opportunity to express their skills through their inventions. The concluding ceremony of Ibtikar Al-Kuwait Initiative for Innovation's 'Sheikha Fadhiah Al-Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah Science Competition' was held on Saturday at the Salwa Al-Sabah Hall, during which the winners of the competition were announced and awarded. This year, Kuwait ranked first in the intermediate and secondary stages, the first time in the history of this competition.

Ibtikar Al Kuwait competition was launched in 1999 and only included participants from Kuwait, later expanding to include other GCC countries in 2011. In 2014, the competition transformed into a part of a great initiative seeking to develop the scientific abilities of female students through intensive training on operating educational programs depending on technology. The students are trained on various projects using scientific knowhow and practical experiences.

### Human development

Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and State Minister for Planning and Development Hind Al-Subaih said interest in such scientific competitions proves achieving human development is one of the main strategic goals of development as part of the development plan of the government. "This initiative invests in female human resources to build an aware female generation through encouraging scientific research and improving their skills and knowledge," she pointed out.

"This event is being held under the patronage of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah due to his interest in encouraging scientific research and supporting talented individuals. Also, one of the most important pillars of the development plan is caring for creative human capital, which includes numerous programs such as the childhood car-

ing program, empowering youth, education quality and others," added Subaih.

The Ibtikar Al-Kuwait Initiative aims to bring about a quantum leap in the education system. "Through this initiative, we aim to change the traditional model of education into active education depending on thinking, creativity and gaining skills and experiences to go with international development. This initiative aims to empower the women of tomorrow through investing in the girls of today, through discovering their creativity and developing it, which brings benefit for the whole community," she added.

She also praised the winning invention. "I liked this invention of the winner and I think it would be possible to transfer it to the ministry and see how this design can be executed to benefit from it," concluded Subaih.

### Creativity and innovations

"Tonight we are celebrating the creativity and innovations of participating girls from Kuwait and GCC countries," said Sheikha Fadhiah Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah, founder of Ibtikar Al-Kuwait, during the awarding ceremony. "We had the opportunity to see their inventions, which expresses the combination of education with thinking, skills with analyzing, and idea with application. So their inventions showed how an idea was transferred into reality. Their inventions serve the community and solve some problems of people. In addition it also highlights the ability of women and girls to positively develop the community."

"We are now preparing training programs for the academic staff through using a new curriculum to meet the challenges of modern technology," Sheikha Fadhiah stressed. "Women played an active role in building Islamic culture, but reality shows that women didn't get their full rights in most Islamic communities. This is mainly due to the wrong application of Islamic rules. We should take exceptional action to achieve equity between the two genders and increase women's

representation in the parliament"

### Useful activities

General Director of this Initiative Dr Fatma Al-Hashim said through this initiative, we can support youth and help them spend their free time in useful activities. "This initiative made the girls express their creativity and ideas through the inventions they presented. This competition encourages the girls to learn and invent. It also proves that inventing is not limited to men only. I hope that their ideas and inventions will be realized in projects from which the government will benefit," she stated.

New courses were added to the Initiative. "We just added career courses in STEM, which is a new methodology that connects sciences, technology, mathematics and engineering in cooperation with the American University of Beirut and sponsored by the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science. Ibtikar also spreads knowledge among the teachers in addition to adding the Minecraft program for designing that includes students and teachers," stated Hashim.

### The winners

The list of winners in this year's competition is as follows: In the intermediate level, 'Manaret Al-Khaleej' (Beacon of the Gulf) project by Hawally all female school won the first place, while the project of 'Nosob Tathkar Li-Jonodena Al-Bawasel' (monument of our valiant soldiers) by Fatimah bint Mubarak school from the UAE, came second. Meanwhile, the 'Qlaat Nizwa' (Nizwa Castle) project by Umm Al-Fadhel principal education school from Oman came third. In the secondary level, the 'Expressing Me' project by Lubna bint Al-Hareth School from Kuwait won the first place, while the 'setting the temperature inside a beehive project by Al-Ghalla Bint Nasser principal school from Oman came second. Meanwhile, the 'to control irrigation of farmland with a smart phone' project by Al-Muharraq high school from Bahrain came third.



An official tours the exhibition.



Two participants from Kuwait.



Participants from Bahrain.



Participants from Oman.



A participant from the United Arab Emirates.



AMC

- 00:30 Big Screen
00:45 Fatal Pulse
02:10 Behind Enemy Lines
03:40 Hamburger Hill
05:30 Les Miserables (1998)
07:40 The Magnificent Seven
09:45 Lords Of Dogtown
11:25 One More Kiss
13:05 Hercules
14:45 Empire Of The Ants
16:15 Solarbabies
17:50 George Washington
19:20 Billy Two Hats
21:00 Breaking Bad
22:00 Troll (Epic)

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
07:00 Swamp Brothers
07:25 My Cat From Hell
08:15 Australia Doesn't Just Want To Kill You
09:10 Treehouse Masters
10:05 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
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

BBC FIRST

- 00:15 Eastenders
00:50 New Tricks
01:45 New Tricks
02:40 Silent Witness
03:35 Waking The Dead
04:30 Eastenders
05:10 Doctor Who
06:00 Doctors
06:30 Doctors
07:00 Eastenders
07:30 Stella
08:15 The Paradise
09:10 Doctor Who
10:00 Doctors
10:30 Eastenders
11:00 Death In Paradise
11:55 Stella
12:40 The Paradise
13:35 Doctor Who
14:25 Doctors
14:55 Eastenders
15:25 Death In Paradise
16:20 Dickensian
17:10 Doctor Who
18:00 Doctors
18:30 Eastenders
19:05 Death In Paradise
20:00 Hobbit
21:00 Stag
21:55 Silent Witness
22:50 Waking The Dead
23:45 Doctors

Bloomberg TELEVISION

- 00:00 Charlie Rose
01:00 Bloomberg West
02:00 First Up With Angle Lau
03:00 First Up With Angle Lau
04:00 Trending Business

- 12:30 Culture Express
13:00 Africa Live
14:00 News Update
14:30 Dialogue
15:00 News Update
15:15 China 24
16:00 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

CNBC

- 00:00 CNBC Conversations: Travis Kalanick
00:30 Japan Remembers
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

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 I Killed My BFF
07:00 Gangs Of Britain...
08:00 Crime Stories
09:00 Frenemies
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 Gangs Of Britain...
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 Frenemies
23:30 The Jail: 60 Days In

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 Thrift Hunters
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 Thrift Hunters
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

- With Morgan Freeman
10:23 Invert It Rich
11:08 Moon Machines
11:53 Future Firepower
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 Engineering Thrills
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 Ecopolis
22:00 Secret Space Escapes
22:45 Moon Machines
23:35 Mythbusters

Disney Channel

- 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
06:50 Mouk
08:00 Lalrock
08:25 Sofia The First
08:50 Gravity Falls
07:15 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
07:40 Jessie
08:05 Shake It Up
08:30 Shake It Up
08:55 Hannah Montana
09:20 Hannah Montana
09:45 Girl Meets World
10:10 Girl Meets World
10:35 A.N.T. Farm
11:00 A.N.T. Farm
11:25 Jessie
11:50 Jessie
12:15 Whisker Haven Tales With The Palace Pets
12:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
12:45 Fish Hooks
13:10 Austin & Ally
13:35 Austin & Ally
14:00 Liv And Maddie
14:25 Cars Toons
14:30 Liv And Maddie
14:55 Dog With A Blog
15:20 Dog With A Blog
15:45 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
16:10 Violetta
17:00 The Next Step
17:25 Alex And Co
17:50 Dog With A Blog
18:15 Best Friends Whenever
18:40 Liv And Maddie
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
22:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
23:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
23:35 Hank Zipzer
23:55 Binny And The Ghost

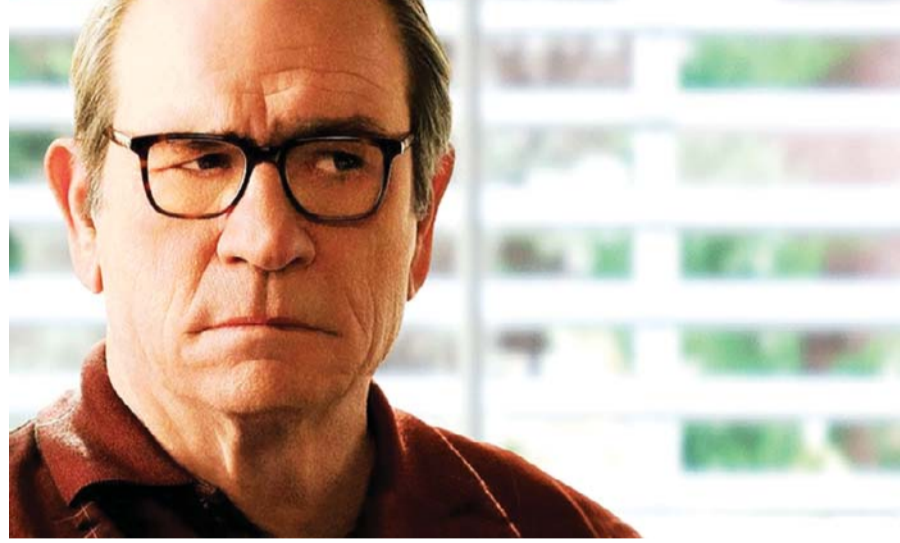
Disney JUNIOR

- 00:05 Art Attack
00:30 Henry Hugglemonster
00:45 Calimero
01:00 Zou
01:15 Loopidoo
01:30 Art Attack
01:55 Henry Hugglemonster

Meryl Streep Tommy Lee Jones Steve Carell



Hope Springs



HOPE SPRINGS ON OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

- 18:00 El News
19:00 House Of DVF
20:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
21:00 Dash Dolls
22:00 El News
23:00 WAGS
20:00 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
04:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
05:00 Iron Chef America
06:00 Chopped
07:00 Man Fire Food
07:30 Man Fire Food
08:00 Chopped
09:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
09:30 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
10:00 The Kitchen
11:00 Trisha's Southern Kitchen
11:30 Trisha's Southern Kitchen
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 Trisha's Southern Kitchen
18:30 Trisha's Southern Kitchen
19:00 Chopped
20:00 Guy's Grocery Games
21:00 Private Chef
21:30 Private Chef
22:00 Valerie's Home Cooking
22:30 Valerie's Home Cooking
23:00 Iron Chef America

XD

- 06:00 Boyster
06:10 Super Matrak
06:35 Super Matrak
07:00 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
07:25 K.C. Undercover
07:50 Supa Strikas
08:15 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 Disney Mickey Mouse
15:15 Rocket Monkeys
15:40 Guardians Of The Galaxy
16:05 Mighty Med
16:30 Kirby Buckets
16:55 Gamer's 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 Gamer's 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

HISTORY

- 00:20 Shipping Wars
00:45 Shipping Wars
01:10 Ice Road Truckers
02:00 Ice Road Truckers
02:50 Ax Men
03:40 American Restoration
04:05 American Restoration
04:30 Pawn Stars
05:00 Lost Worlds
06:00 Mountain Men
06:50 Swamp People
07:40 Ax Men
08:30 Shipping Wars
08:55 American Restoration
09:20 American Restoration
09:45 Banger Boys
10:35 Counting Cars
11:00 Counting Cars
11:25 Lost Worlds
12:15 American Pickers
13:05 Storage Wars
13:30 Storage Wars
13:55 Fifth Gear
14:45 Shipping Wars
15:10 Shipping Wars
15:35 Shipping Wars
16:00 Mountain Men
16:50 Swamp People
17:40 Ice Road Truckers
18:20 Lost Worlds
19:20 American Pickers
20:10 Pawn Stars
20:35 Pawn Stars
21:00 Duck Dynasty
21:25 Duck Dynasty
21:50 Pawn Stars
22:15 Pawn Stars Australia
22:40 Grave Trade
23:30 Duck Dynasty
23:55 Duck Dynasty

EHD

- 00:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
00:55 The Grace Helbig Show
01:25 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
02:20 El 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 El News
09:15 Giuliana & Bill
10:15 Giuliana & Bill
11:10 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
11:35 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
12:05 El News
13:05 WAGS
14:05 Bolched
15:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
16:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
06:55 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
07:50 Style Star
08:20 El News
09:15 Giuliana & Bill
10:15 Giuliana & Bill
11:10 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
11:35 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
12:05 El News
13:05 WAGS
14:05 Bolched
15:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
16:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
17:00 Fashion Bloggers
17:30 Fashion Bloggers

EGGHEADS

- 07:00 Eggheads
07:30 Murdoch Mysteries
08:25 Murdoch Mysteries
09:20 The Jonathan Ross Show
10:10 Get Your Act Together
11:05 Eggheads
11:35 Kate Middleton: Hair We Go Again!
12:30 Who's Doing The Dishes?
13:25 Emmerdale
13:50 Eggheads
14:20 Coronation Street
14:35 The Jonathan Ross Show
15:35 Cameraman To The Queen
16:30 Black Work
17:25 Autopsy: The Last Hours Of...
Emmerdale
18:45 Coach Trip
19:10 Coronation Street
19:35 Cameraman To The Queen
20:30 Black Work
21:25 Autopsy: The Last Hours Of...
Coronation Street
Emmerdale
23:15 Who's Doing The Dishes?

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL HD

- 00:10 Brain Games
01:00 Cesar To The Rescue
02:00 Super Megabuild
02:55 Wild India
03:50 Brain Games
04:45 24 Hours In A&E
05:40 Filthy Riches
06:35 Mega Factories
07:30 Cesar To The Rescue
08:25 Building Wild
09:20 24 Hours In A&E
10:15 Super Megabuild
11:10 The Yard
12:05 Dirty Rotten Survival
13:00 Building Wild
14:00 Showdown Of The Unbeatables
15:00 Mega Factories
16:00 Super Megabuild
17:00 The Yard
18:00 Dirty Rotten Survival
19:00 Mine Kings
20:00 Super 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 Spaces

itv HD CHOICE

- 00:10 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
01:05 Emmerdale
01:30 Eggheads
02:00 Coronation Street
02:30 The Jonathan Ross Show
03:25 Murdoch Mysteries
04:20 Murdoch Mysteries
05:15 Kate Middleton: Hair We Go Again!
06:10 Who's Doing The Dishes?

- 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 Maximum Foodie
05:10 East Bites West
05:35 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
10:10 Maximum Foodie
10:35 Maximum Foodie
11:00 East Bites West
11:25 Lee Chan's World Food Tour
11:50 Lee Chan's World Food Tour
12:15 Carnival Eats
12:40 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces

- 13:35 Top Tables, Top Cities
14:00 Sara's New Nordic Kitchen
14:30 Tom's Istanbul Delight
14:55 Glamour Puds
15:25 Glamour Puds
15:50 David Rocco's Dolce India
16:20 Maximum Foodie
16:45 Maximum Foodie
17:15 Food School
17:40 Rustic Adventures Italy
18:10 Rustic Adventures Italy
18:35 Carnival Eats
19:05 Glamour Puds
19:30 Glamour Puds
20:00 David Rocco's Dolce India
20:25 Maximum Foodie
20:50 Maximum Foodie
21:15 Food School
21:40 Rustic Adventures Italy
22:05 Rustic Adventures Italy
22:30 Carnival Eats
22:55 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
23:45 Top Tables, Top Cities

NAT GEO WILD HD

- 00:20 Deadly Instincts
01:10 Man And The Wild
02:00 Africa's Creative Killers
02:50 I, Predator
03:45 Caught In The Act
04:40 Man-Eater Of The Congo
05:35 Africa's Creative Killers
06:30 I, Predator
07:25 Caught In The Act
08:20 Man-Eater Of The Congo
09:15 Race Of Life
09:40 Race Of Life
10:10 America's National Parks
11:05 Animals Gone Wild
12:00 Monster Fish
12:55 Africa's Creative Killers
13:50 I, Predator
14:45 Caught In The Act
15:40 Outback Wrangler
16:35 Race Of Life
17:00 Race Of Life
17:30 Nordic Wild
18:25 Animals Gone Wild
19:20 Caught In The Act
20:10 Outback Wrangler
21:00 Race Of Life
21:25 Race Of Life
21:50 Nordic Wild
22:40 Animals Gone Wild
23:30 Monster Fish

OSN FIRST HD COMEDY

- 00:30 My Big Fat Greek Life
01:00 Breaking In
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 \$#!\* My Dad Says
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 \$#!\* My Dad Says
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 \$#!\* My Dad Says
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 My Big Fat Greek Life
16:00 Breaking In
16:30 The Bernie Mac Show
17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
18:00 Two And A Half Men
18:30 Living With Fran
19:00 2 Broke Girls
19:30 Playing House
20:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
21:00 My Big Fat Greek Life
21:30 Breaking In
22:00 It's Always Sunny In Philadelphia

OSN MOVIES HD FESTIVAL

- 02:00 Diana
04:00 At Any Price
06:00 Upside Down
08:00 Secret Window
10:00 Diana
12:00 Reds
15:15 Paradise
17:15 Secret Window
19:00 Calvary
21:00 Donnie Brasco
23:30 Rush

OSN MOVIES HD

- 01:00 Sugar Daddies
03:00 Bad Parents
05:00 Last Knights
07:00 A Madea Christmas
09:00 Interstellar
11:45 Last Knights
13:45 Parkland
15:30 A Promise
17:15 The Signal
19:00 Still Alice
21:00 Tommy Cooper: Not Like That, Like This
23:00 The Wedding Ring

OSN MOVIES HD KIDS

- 01:15 Blue Elephant 2
03:00 The Olsen Gang In Deep Trouble
04:30 Egon And Donci
06:00 Charlie And The Chocolate Factory
08:00 Columbus In The Last Journey
09:45 Kikoriki: Team Invincible
11:30 The Three Dogaters
13:00 The Olsen Gang In Deep Trouble
14:30 Daddy I'm A Zombie
16:00 Jungle Book: Mowgli's Adventure
18:00 Kikoriki: Team Invincible
20:00 Barney And The City Of Thieves
21:45 Daddy I'm A Zombie
23:30 Jungle Book: Mowgli's Adventure

OSN SPORTS 2 HD

- 00:00 The PGA Tour Champions Highlights
01:00 Top 14 Highlights
01:30 NFL Full Time
02:00 Live NHL
05:00 Inky Car Highlights
06:00 AFL Premiership Highlights
07:00 Gillette World Sport
07:30 Snooker World Championship



FLIGHTPLAN ON OSN MOVIES HD ACTION

- 05:00 Trending Business
06:00 Asia Edge
07:00 Bloomberg West
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?
12:15 Superhuman Science
12:40 Superhuman Science
13:05 Thrift Hunters
13:30 Storage Wars Canada
14:20 Outback Truckers
14:50 Wheeler Dealers
16:00 Fast N' Loud
16:50 How Do They Do It?
17:40 Salvage Hunters
18:30 Redwood Kings
19:20 Predators Up Close With Joel Lambert
20:10 Storage Wars Canada
20:35 Auction Hunters
21:00 Salvage Hunters
21:50 For The Love Of Cars
22:40 Ed Stafford: Into The Unknown
23:30 Wheeler Dealers

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
06:30 Dialogue
07:00 News Hour
08:00 Global Business
09:00 News Update
10:30 Sports Scene
11:00 Global Business
12:00 News Update

Discovery science

- 00:20 Through The Wormhole
01:08 Invert It Rich
01:55 Moon Machines
02:42 How The Earth Works
03:29 Invert It Rich
04:16 Invert It Rich
05:03 Moon Machines
05:50 Future Firepower
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 Future Firepower
09:38 Through The Wormhole



# CLASSIFIEDS



## KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (21/04/2016 TO 27/04/2016)

SHARQIA-1	MUHALAB-3	MARINA-1
THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR 12:30 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK 1:00 PM	THE ONES BELOW 12:30 PM
CRISTIANO RONALDO: WORLD AT HIS FEET 2:45 PM	SARRAINODU - Telugu 1:30 PM	FAN- Hindi 2:30 PM
THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR 4:15 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK 3:30 PM	CHOCOLAT 5:15 PM
THE ONES BELOW 6:30 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK 5:45 PM	THE ONES BELOW 7:45 PM
CRISTIANO RONALDO: WORLD AT HIS FEET 8:30 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK 8:00 PM	CHOCOLAT 9:30 PM
THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR 10:00 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK 10:15 PM	THE ONES BELOW 12:05 AM
THE ONES BELOW 12:15 AM	THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR 12:30 AM	
SHARQIA-2	FANAR-1	MARINA-2
THE JUNGLE BOOK 12:45 PM	THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR 12:30 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK 11:30 AM
SARRAINODU - Telugu 2:00 PM	THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR 2:45 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK 1:45 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK 3:00 PM	CRISTIANO RONALDO: WORLD AT HIS FEET 5:00 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK 4:00 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK 5:15 PM	THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR 6:45 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK 6:15 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK 7:30 PM	CRISTIANO RONALDO: WORLD AT HIS FEET 9:00 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK 8:30 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK 10:00 PM	THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR 10:30 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK 10:45 PM
THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR 12:15 AM	THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR 12:45 AM	THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR 1:00 AM
SHARQIA-3	FANAR-2	MARINA-3
CRISTIANO RONALDO: WORLD AT HIS FEET 12:00 PM	FAN- Hindi 12:30 PM	THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR 12:00 PM
CRISTIANO RONALDO: WORLD AT HIS FEET 1:30 PM	FAN- Hindi 3:30 PM	THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR 2:15 PM
CRIMINAL 3:00 PM	FAN- Hindi 6:30 PM	CRISTIANO RONALDO: WORLD AT HIS FEET 4:30 PM
CRISTIANO RONALDO: WORLD AT HIS FEET 5:15 PM	FAN- Hindi 9:30 PM	THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR 6:00 PM
FAN- Hindi 6:45 PM	SARRAINODU - Telugu 3:30 PM	CRISTIANO RONALDO: WORLD AT HIS FEET 8:15 PM
FAN- Hindi 9:45 PM	SARRAINODU - Telugu 6:30 PM	THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR 9:45 PM
SARRAINODU - Telugu 3:30 PM	SARRAINODU - Telugu 9:30 PM	THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR 12:05 AM
SARRAINODU - Telugu 6:45 PM	CRIMINAL 12:30 AM	
SARRAINODU - Telugu 9:45 PM		
CRIMINAL 12:45 AM		
MUHALAB-1	FANAR-3	AVENUES-1
THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR 12:30 PM	DEMOLITION 12:00 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK 1:15 PM
THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR 2:45 PM	THE ONES BELOW 2:15 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK 3:30 PM
THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR 5:00 PM	DEMOLITION 4:00 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK 5:45 PM
CRISTIANO RONALDO: WORLD AT HIS FEET 7:15 PM	THE ONES BELOW 6:15 PM	MA3 AL KHATAR (Kuwaiti Film) 8:00 PM
CRISTIANO RONALDO: WORLD AT HIS FEET 8:45 PM	DEMOLITION 8:00 PM	MA3 AL KHATAR (Kuwaiti Film) 10:15 PM
THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR 10:30 PM	THE ONES BELOW 10:15 PM	MA3 AL KHATAR (Kuwaiti Film) 12:30 AM
NO FRI+MON	DEMOLITION 12:15 AM	
SARRAINODU - Telugu 10:30 PM		
MUHALAB-2	FANAR-4	AVENUES-3
FAN- Hindi 12:30 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK 12:15 PM	DEMOLITION 11:45 AM
KUNG FU PANDA 3 1:30 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK 2:30 PM	CHOCOLAT 2:00 PM
FAN- Hindi 3:30 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK 4:45 PM	DEMOLITION 4:30 PM
FAN- Hindi 6:30 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK -3D 7:00 PM	CHOCOLAT 6:45 PM
FAN- Hindi 9:30 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK 9:15 PM	DEMOLITION 9:15 PM
SARRAINODU - Telugu 3:30 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK 11:30 PM	CHOCOLAT 11:30 PM
SARRAINODU - Telugu 6:30 PM		SARRAINODU - Telugu 2:00 PM
SARRAINODU - Telugu 9:30 PM		SARRAINODU - Telugu 5:00 PM
FAN- Hindi 12:30 AM		SARRAINODU - Telugu 8:00 PM
		SARRAINODU - Telugu 11:00 PM
MUHALAB-3	FANAR-5	AVENUES-4
THE JUNGLE BOOK 1:00 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK 1:30 PM	FAN- Hindi 12:30 PM
SARRAINODU - Telugu 1:30 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK 3:45 PM	FAN- Hindi 3:30 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK 3:30 PM	CRIMINAL 6:00 PM	FAN- Hindi 6:30 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK 5:45 PM	FAN- Hindi 8:15 PM	FAN- Hindi 6:30 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK 8:00 PM	FAN- Hindi 11:15 PM	
THE JUNGLE BOOK 10:15 PM		
THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR 12:30 AM		

### CHANGE OF NAME

**Kanagamani** Packirisamy son of Packirisamy and Saroja bearing an Indian Passport No. Z2443141 and having address A2K Vilavanapadugai, Kalam Pulivalam, Thiruvurur Dt, Tamil Nadu, India had embraced Islam and changed the name as Kamaludeen. (C 5167)

**I, Ali Akbar** Husaini Bangaliwala, holder of Indian Passport No. M3187871, address: Temba, Mohammediyapura, Sagwara, Durgapur 314025, Rajasthan, hereby change my name to Ali Akbar Husain Housami. (C 5165)

**I, Nilofer**, holder of Indian Passport No. N5195350, address: Temba, Mohammediyapura, Sagwara, Durgapur, Rajasthan, hereby change my name to Nilofer Husain Housami. (C 5165)

### ACCOMMODATION

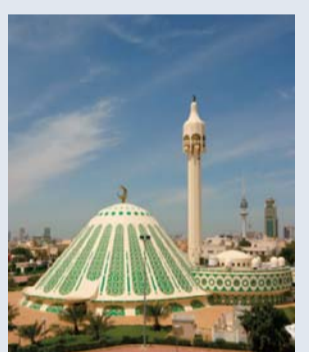
Room available in Salmiya, near City Centre, Indian or Pakistani bachelor, rent KD 100. Tel: 99959140. (C 5166) 23-4-2016

## EMERGENCY 112

Automated enquiry about the Civil ID card is **1889988**

### PRAYER TIMINGS

**Fajr:** 03:48  
**Shorook:** 05:11  
**Duhr:** 11:46  
**Asr:** 15:21  
**Maghrib:** 18:20  
**Isha:** 19:42



Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page ([www.kuwait-airport.com.kw](http://www.kuwait-airport.com.kw))

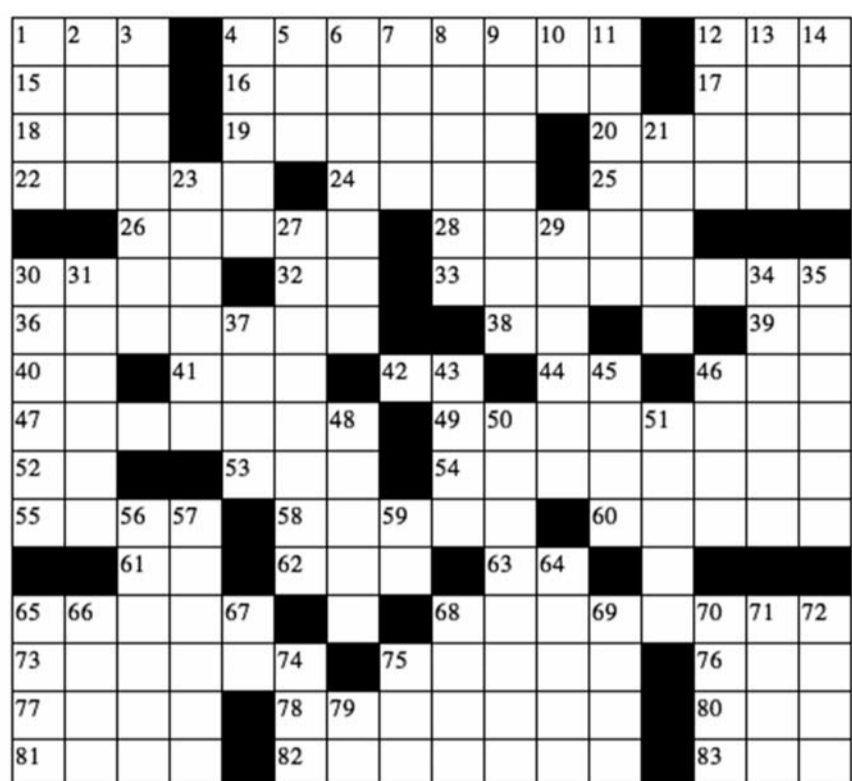
In case you are not travelling, your proper cancellation of bookings will help other passengers to use seats



Arrival Flights on Monday 25/4/2016				Departure Flights on Monday 25/4/2016				
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	FDB	076	Dubai	13:10	
MSC	415	Sohag	00:10	JZR	176	Dubai	13:10	
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	MSC	402	Alexandria	13:30	
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00	
KKK	6506	Istanbul	00:55	PAL	669	Dubai/Manila	14:45	
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	KNE	382	Taif	14:55	
QTR	1086	Doha	01:15	KAC	773	Riyadh	15:00	
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20	KAC	673	Dubai	15:05	
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:40	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:05	
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:45	FDB	058	Dubai	15:05	
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	KAC	617	Doha	15:15	
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	QTR	1079	Doha	15:15	
ETD	919	Abu Dhabi	02:20	SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45	
CEB	018	Manila	02:20	JZR	188	Dubai	15:50	
UAE	853	Dubai	02:25	KNE	530	Jeddah	15:55	
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	KAC	613	Bahrain	16:00	
FDB	067	Dubai	03:15	OMA	646	Muscat	16:10	
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15	
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:15	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20	
QTR	1076	Doha	03:25	04:05	RJA	641	Amman	16:55
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:30	04:05	FDB	052	Dubai	17:00
KAC	544	Cairo	03:40	04:10	JZR	266	Beirut	17:10
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	04:15	QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	04:20	UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
JZR	529	Asyut	06:00	04:30	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
PAL	668	Manila/Dubai	06:25	04:35	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	06:30	04:50	JZR	538	Cairo	18:30
BAW	157	London	06:40	05:00	JZR	238	Amman	18:45
FDB	5061	Dubai	07:15	06:25	SYR	342	Damascus	19:00
KAC	382	Delhi	07:30	06:30	QTR	1081	Doha	19:05
KAC	206	Islamabad	07:40	06:45	JZR	124	Bahrain	19:20
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50	06:50	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	07:05	FDB	064	Dubai	19:50
KAC	354	BLR	08:00	07:15	GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
KAC	156	Istanbul	08:00	07:55	ABY	124	Sharjah	19:55
KAC	362	Colombo	08:20	08:25	KAC	361	Colombo	19:55
KAC	352	Kochi	08:20	08:30	FDB	060	Dubai	20:30
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	08:50	KAC	283	Dhaka	20:30
KAC	284	Dhaka	09:00	09:15	JAI	571	Mumbai	20:35
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	09:30	UAE	876	Dubai	20:35
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:05	09:40	KAC	331	Trivandrum	20:45
IRA	667	Esfahan	09:15	09:45	DLH	634	Doha	20:50
QTR	1070	Doha	09:30	09:50	KAC	353	BLR	20:55
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	10:00	KAC	351	Kochi	21:00
UAE	873	Dubai	10:40	10:15	KAC	543	Cairo	21:00
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	10:40	KNE	232	Riyadh	21:10
AXB	890	Mangalore/Bahrain	10:55	10:45	MEA	403	Beirut	21:15
MEA	404	Beirut	11:00	11:00	OMA	648	Muscat	21:15
JZR	561	Sohag	11:25	11:00	MSR	619	Alexandria	21:30
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50	11:20	QTR	1089	Doha	21:45
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25	11:25	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
MSC	401	Alexandria	12:30	11:35	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	21:55
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	11:35	ALK	230	Colombo	22:20
KNE	231	Riyadh	14:00	11:55	FDB	5054	Dubai	22:25
KAC	672	Dubai	14:00	12:00	UAE	860	Dubai	22:25
QTR	1078	Doha	14:05	12:05	KAC	381	Delhi	22:25
FDB	057	Dubai	14:20	12:10	KAC	301	Mumbai	22:30
GFA	221	Bahrain	14:20	12:15	KAC	345	Ahmedabad	22:55
				12:15	GFA	220	Bahrain	23:00
				13:00	KAC	205	Islamabad	23:00

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

CROSSWORD 1237



ACROSS

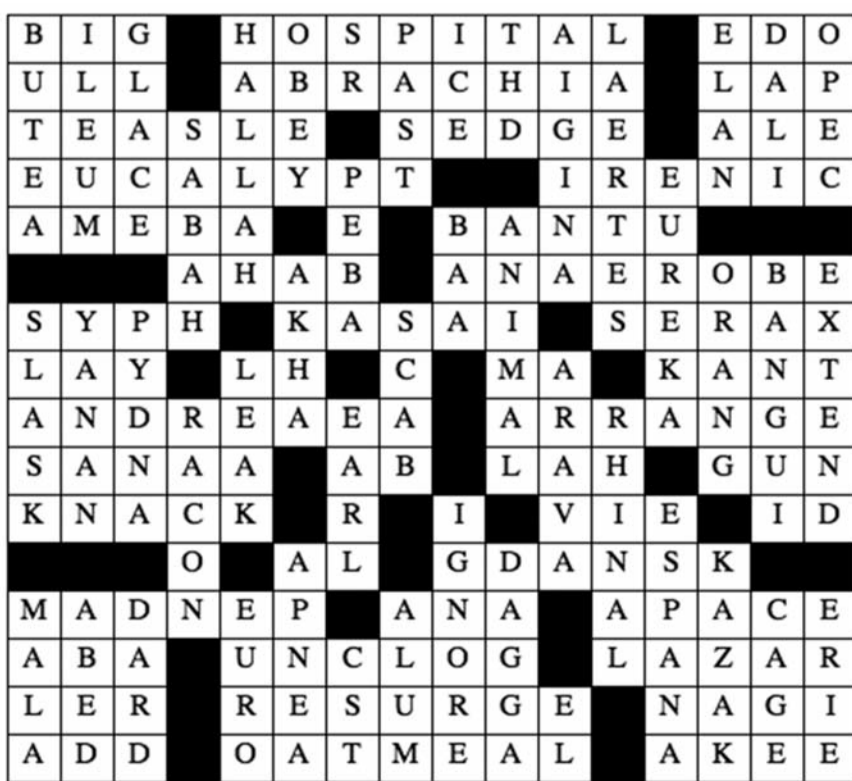
1. A change in the electrical properties of the skin in response to stress or anxiety.
4. (anatomy) Shaped like a boat.
12. The widely studied plant virus that causes tobacco mosaic.
15. Fiddler crabs.
16. A tart spiciness.
17. (used informally) Very small.
18. A broad flat muscle on either side of the back.
19. An upholstered seat for more than one person.
20. A lightweight cord.
22. (Jungian psychology) The inner self (not the external persona) that is in touch with the unconscious.
24. The eighth month of the civil year.
25. A member of a Turkic people of Chinese Turkestan and neighboring areas (formerly of Mongolia and eastern Turkestan).
26. Ornamental evergreen tree-like shrub of United States Pacific coast having large white flowers and red berrylike fruits.
28. (of meat) Cooked by dry heat in an oven.
30. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
32. An intensely radioactive metallic element that occurs in minute amounts in uranium ores.
33. French sociologist and first professor of sociology at the Sorbonne (1858-1917).
34. A genus of Carangidae.
36. A metallic element having four allotropic forms.
39. A silvery soft waxy metallic element of the alkali metal group.
40. Destruction of heart tissue resulting from obstruction of the blood supply to the heart muscle.
41. Slender bristlelike appendage found on the bracts of grasses.
42. A New England state.
44. A Russian river.
47. Be a signal for or a symptom of.
49. A tank or pool or bowl filled with water for keeping live fish and underwater animals.
52. An associate degree in nursing.
53. The compass point midway between east and southeast.
54. The acquisition of something for payment.
55. The elapsed time it takes for a signal to travel from Earth to a spacecraft (or other body) and back to the starting point.
58. Lower in esteem.
60. A blind god.
61. The branch of computer science that deal with writing computer programs that can solve problems creatively.
62. A workplace for the conduct of scientific research.
63. A unit of luminous flux equal to the amount of light given out through a solid angle of 1 steradian by a point source of 1 candela intensity radiating uniformly in all directions.
65. Flavorful relish or dressing or topping served as an accompaniment to food v. 1.
73. (obsolete) Cut short.
76. A boy or man.
77. A particular geographical region of indefinite boundary (usually serving some special purpose or distinguished by its people or culture or geography).
78. A state in which the level of carbon dioxide in the blood is lower than normal.
80. A benevolent aspect of Devi.
81. A fine grained mineral having a soft soapy feel and consisting of hydrated magnesium silicate.

82. Sour-tasting liquid produced usually by oxidation of the alcohol in wine or cider and used as a condiment or food preservative.
83. A member of a Mayan people of southwestern Guatemala.

DOWN

1. (Babylonian) Goddess of healing and consort of Ninurta.
2. The act of scanning.
3. Used in former classifications to include all ratite bird orders.
4. Turned outward in an ungainly manner.
5. A federation of North American industrial unions that merged with the American Federation of Labor in 1955.
6. Italian (Roman Catholic) theologian remembered for his attempt to reconcile faith and reason in a comprehensive theology (1225-1274).
7. Inferior in strength or significance.
8. British writer noted for romantic adventure novels (1856-1925).
9. Not easily borne.
10. Being nine more than ninety.
11. Remove the tusks of animals.
12. Small branch or division of a branch.
13. A list of dishes available at a restaurant.
14. Turn sharply.
21. Strong flexible twig.
23. Large high frilly cap with a full crown.
27. A speech sound produced with both the oral and nasal passages open (as French nasal vowels).
29. A framework that supports climbing plants.
31. A person who seeks the advice of a lawyer.
34. An inflow.
35. A person who mutilates or destroys or disfigures or cripples.
37. Affectively dainty or refined.
43. (military) Signal to turn the lights out.
45. German organist and contrapuntist (1685-1750).
46. A legally binding command or decision entered on the court record (as if issued by a court or judge).
48. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
50. Forceful prevention.
51. A parallelogram with four equal sides.
56. Any of various aromatic trees of the laurel family.
57. Steady recurrent ticking sound as made by a clock.
59. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
64. Genus of sticky herbs with yellow flowers open in morning or evening but closed in bright light.
66. A sensation (as of a cold breeze or bright light) that precedes the onset of certain disorders such as a migraine attack or epileptic seizure.
67. (Akkadian) God of wisdom.
68. A strip of land projecting into a body of water.
69. A flat-bottomed volcanic crater that was formed by an explosion.
70. A white crystalline double sulfate of aluminum.
71. God of love and erotic desire.
72. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls.
74. A room equipped with toilet facilities.
75. Imperial dynasty that ruled China (most of the time) from 206 BC to 221 and expanded its boundaries and developed its bureaucracy.
79. Being one more than one hundred.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

There is much mental busywork today. Perhaps you are writing a story, solving a puzzle, learning about new health remedies, etc. Today is indeed a day to soak up some good vibrations, whether you have to create them, or they come to you naturally. These are good ways in which to express your range of feelings. Dreams and illusions, forgiveness and understanding human frailties are the things that arouse deep feelings. Driving to the store this afternoon could take you on more of an adventure than you had in mind. A friendly, entertaining and gifted partner could gain your attention this afternoon. Perhaps his or her hobby is fascinating and you want to learn some new technique. This evening should be filled with relaxation and laughter.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

This is a day of restructuring and planning. You get little pieces of information that there are friends or family that will soon be ready to take you somewhere special or join you in your special day. There may be significant demands on your time today so going with the flow of time is a good choice. With this new year beginning for you, consider signing yourself up for a gym class or joining a group for an hour or so, three times a week, to exercise or swim, etc. You will be most pleased with the results of your efforts. A good book or some article may bring about an opportunity to just relax a little before any celebration can begin. Celebrations call for communications of all sorts as well as lots of food!



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

There is restlessness and perhaps a bit of worry over something you cannot change. Make an effort to move your attention in a more productive direction. You may find yourself busy with those little things around the house that need fixing. Inventive concepts may come easily. Perhaps some equipment does not work and you manipulate the item until you have everything working. You may help a friend put together a bicycle or crib for a child. You busy yourself with tools and parts-you may have a new tool or tool chest. There is some self-examination and transformation going on in your personal life now. If you are looking for a new love you may find someone just breezes into your life. If you have a significant other, this evening is healing.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Someone could challenge you on a very sensitive issue. Unfortunately, this could result in an argument or, at the least, a very intense discussion. A particular subject may touch upon some very emotional parts of you. Sometimes when the facts are clear, there is still a difference of opinion. Acceptance may be the key to a better relationship. Your taste in art and appreciation in general are heightened. Perhaps this is a good time to select furnishings, colors, and so on-the finer things of life. Your sense of value is very good. General good feelings and a sense of support makes this a happy time. Everyone may want to work together this evening to create something fun, perhaps a mailbox cover, a birdhouse, a stepstool or some such.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You love to move about and exercise your mental abilities as well as your physical abilities. You rarely study one subject intensely, but have a vast array of knowledge at your command and can communicate in many different levels of intellect. You could find yourself enjoying many different activities, particularly with young people. There is a strong tie to relatives now. You make every effort to keep in touch and in the know when it comes to your relatives. This may be a good day for a picnic in the park or planning a get-together in order to visit at a time other than weddings, baby showers or funerals. This is a vital day with much positive action. You may feel a bit radiant. This time is energizing and stimulating!



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Your thoughts today may be on improving or updating your spring wardrobe. At least you will be taking notes on the new clothes you may be purchasing soon. You may even decide to spend the afternoon shopping. Be careful that you do not indulge just now. There is a test of faith; purging the superficial things in your life may very well take hold of the very roots of your existence. This is a kind of spiritual or philosophical rebirth and it is not always gentle. Ultimate answers come from far away. There is a relationship now that is coming together quite nicely. Communication between the two of you is quite good. Romance is strong this evening. You and your lover may enjoy a drive to a nearby ice-cream store this evening.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

A friend may surprise you with negative thinking at this time. Your thoughts and ideas go against your friend's secretive, power-oriented manner and you are not afraid to say so. You can present an attitude of common sense, positive action and warmth to this person, enabling him or her to create a more positive manner. Be careful that you do not go on a spending spree this afternoon, for you may appreciate the beauty and value of everything you encounter. You could feel loving and warm to those around you and you are appreciative of your own life and self, in general. You are most successful at home today where you can be your real self. Water flowing in or near your home can aid in your relaxation, artistic nature and intuitive thoughts.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

There could be a line forming with people waiting for your attention today. You are good at working with hair, cutting and styling yours and that of your friends, spouse and children. Later today, you could be overly generous and careless with your money. Think about how much get-up-and-go it takes to work and pay for what you want and you may decide to purchase what you need without so many extras. You may wish you were far from crowds-alone with your beloved. Consider having a picnic or get some day-old bread and feed the ducks together. Quiet time alone with the people you love helps you to bond and build good memories. Now is not the time to criticize love, even if you feel that you would like to do so. Romance works this evening.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You have a special talent for appreciating and creating beauty-particularly beautiful things made from luxurious and rich materials. You might enjoy working with elegant fabrics, colorful yarns, fine leathers and richly grained woods. If you are not making furniture, you will probably be repairing furniture. If this is not a regular profession it can be a stress-relief activity. You would make a terrific gourmet cook, reveling in succulent sauces and delicate desserts. You can expand your enjoyment of life with more recreation, entertainment and creative pursuits. There are new opportunities for romance. Pleasant social activities are on the increase, especially those related to educational, religious or cultural interests. This is a good time to travel for pleasure.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You think about something in your life that you want to add or change and you may debate the best possible approach. This could include a bit of traveling or it could mean a return to school. Coincidentally, a friend who has been traveling makes plans to visit you. Unpredictable at times in your personal relationships, you often connect better to strangers than your own family. This can bring you great joy, but trouble as well. Your own family members might like to get to know you better. Emotions have a good balance this evening and a close friend benefits from your understanding advice. This is actually a great time to reflect and understand your own life. You might have fun with the study of astrology or some other area of metaphysics.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You will want to be responsible and sensitive to the feelings of others as usual. This may cause you to abandon your tendency to prove a point and become absorbed in a fun hobby. You may be sought after for advice regarding very personal and emotional issues but it would be best to encourage the other person to take some time to think through his or her own answers. You are very enterprising financially and can encourage or teach others along this line as well. You want to complete any home projects today and then you consider a date or some other activity with friends. If you are involved in a difficult relationship you will find improvements happen with little steps. If you are looking for a relationship, the thrill of the chase may be quite invigorating.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You could be extremely busy today. This may mean that outside your own personal chores and responsibilities, a friend is moving or needing repairs on his or her home or car. It would be an excellent idea to bring a focus into your day by finding out where your energies can be best applied. Also, make sure you are not the only one that can help. Work goes fastest when you can share a task with another person. There is plenty of time to be helpful to others. Spend some quiet time in your garden this evening. Plan or read about creating a little rock garden with some herbs for this year. Many herbs attract butterflies, bees, hummingbirds as well as good smells. Some members of your family may like to work their own sections of the garden.

WORD SEARCH

60's Songs

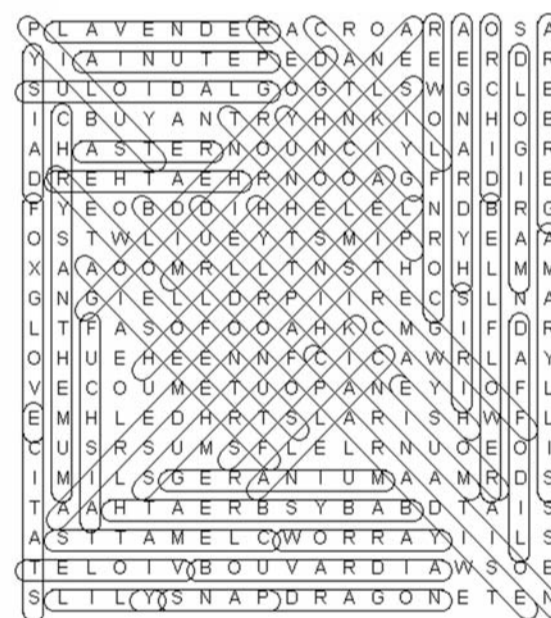
Find and circle all of the 1960's song titles that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell the title of an additional 1960's song.



- |             |               |            |              |
|-------------|---------------|------------|--------------|
| BABY LOVE   | ELENORE       | MEMPHIS    | TEEN ANGEL   |
| BLUE MOON   | FINGERTIPS    | MY GIRL    | THE BOXER    |
| BLUE VELVET | FIRE          | MY GUY     | THE TWIST    |
| BUS STOP    | GALVESTON     | PEOPLE     | THESE EYES   |
| CARA MIA    | GOOD LOVIN'   | PUPPY LOVE | VALLERI      |
| CHAIN GANG  | GROOVIN'      | RESPECT    | VOLARE       |
| CHERISH     | HAIR          | RUNAWAY    | WHITE RABBIT |
| CRAZY       | HEATWAVE      | SHERRY     | WILD THING   |
| CRYING      | HEY JUDE      | SOUL MAN   | WINDY        |
| DIZZY       | HOLIDAY       | SPOOKY     | WIPEOUT      |
| DOWNTOWN    | ITCHYCOO PARK | STAY       | WORDS        |
| EL PASO     | LAST KISS     | SURF CITY  | YESTERDAY    |

Yesterday Solution

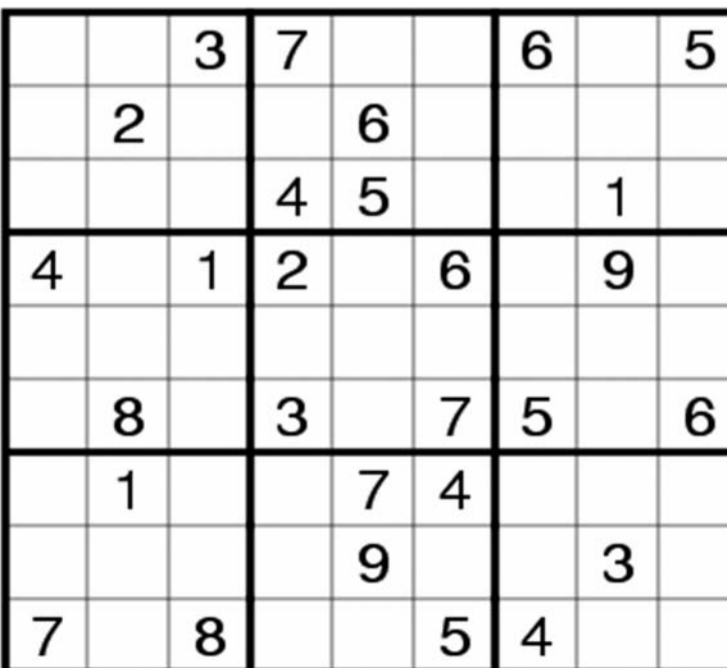
Flowers



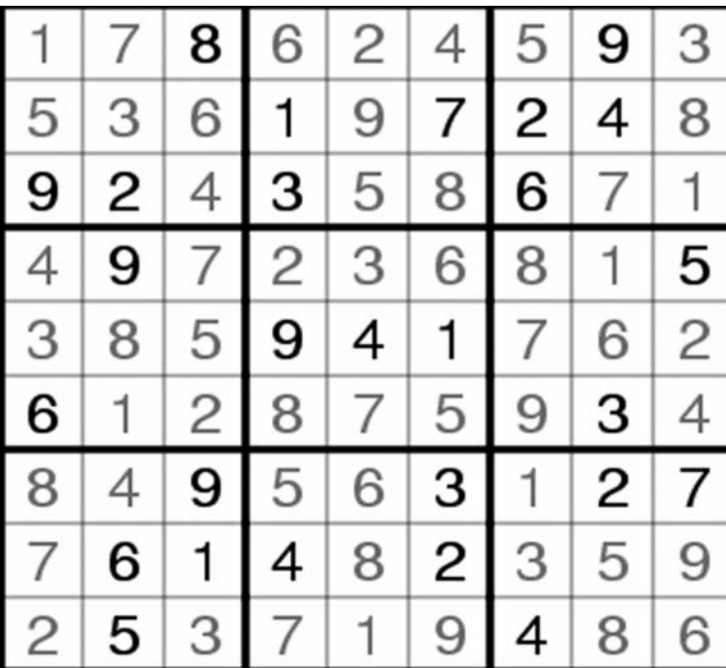
- |                  |               |            |            |
|------------------|---------------|------------|------------|
| ALSTROEMERIA     | CORNFLOWER    | GOLDEN ROO | PANSY      |
| AMARYLLIS        | DAFFODIL      | HEATHER    | PEONY      |
| ANTHURIUM        | DAISY         | HOLLYHOCKS | PETUNIA    |
| ASTER            | DELPHINIUM    | HYACINTH   | ROSE       |
| BABY'S BREATH    | FORGET-ME-NOT | HYDRANGEA  | SNAPDRAGON |
| BELL FLOWER      | FOXGLOVE      | IRIS       | STATICE    |
| BIRD OF PARADISE | FREESIA       | LAVENDER   | STOCK      |
| BOUARDIA         | FUCHSIA       | LILAC      | SUNFLOWER  |
| CALLA            | GERANIUM      | LILY       | TULIP      |
| CARNATION        | GERBERA       | LISIANTHUS | VIOLET     |
| CHRYSANTHEMUM    | GINGER        | MARGOLD    | YARROW     |
| CLEMATIS         | GLADIOLUS     | ORCHID     |            |

The hidden sentence is: A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME WOULD SMELL AS SWEET

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



For labor-related inquiries and complaints:  
Call MSAL hotline 128

Hospitals

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

Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khaldiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401
Jabriya	25316254
Maidan Hawally	25623444
Bayan	25388462
Mishref	25381200
W Hawally	22630786
Sabah	24810221
Jahra	24770319
New Jahra	24575755
West Jahra	24772608
South Jahra	24775066
North Jahra	24775992
North Jleeb	24311795
Ardhiya	24884079
Firdous	24892674
Omariya	24719048
N Khaitan	24710044
Fintas	23900322



PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

GOVERNORATE	PHARMACY	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ahmadi	Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan	Fahaeel Makka St Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd	23915883 23715414 23726558
Jahra	Modern Jahra Madina Munawara	Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1 Jahra-Block 92	24575518 24566622
Capital	Ahlam Khaldiya Coop	Fahad Al-Salem St Khaldiya Coop	22436184 24833967
Farwaniya	New Shifa Ferdous Coop Modern Safwan	Farwaniya Block 40 Ferdous Coop Old Kheitan Block 11	24734000 24881201 24726638
Hawally	Tariq Hana Ikhlas Hawally & Rawdha Ghadeer Kindy Ibn Al-Nafis Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Salmiya-Amman St Hawally-Beirut St Hawally & Rawdha Coop Jabriya-Block 1A Jabriya-Block 3B Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	25726265 25647075 22625999 22564549 25340559 25326554 25721264 25380581 25628241

INTERNATIONAL CALLS



Afghanistan	0093	Lithuania	00370
Albania	00355	Luxembourg	00352
Algeria	00213	Macau	00853
Andorra	00376	Macedonia	00389
Angola	00244	Madagascar	00261
Anguilla	001264	Majorca	0034
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		

STATE OF KUWAIT DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630  
Fax: (+965) 24348714  
www.met.gov.kw

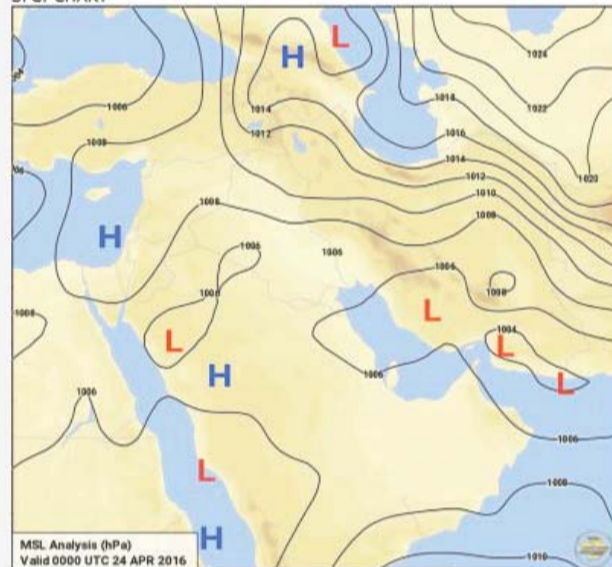
Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

Issued 24/04/2016-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

Max Temperature 39 °C

By Day : Relatively hot with light variable wind changing to light to moderate south easterly wind, with speed of 08 - 26 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear  
By Night : Fair with light to moderate southerly to south westerly wind, with speed of 10 - 30 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear

SFC. CHART



Four-Day Forecast

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Expected Weather	relatively hot	relatively hot + high clouds	partly cloudy + scattered light rain	partly cloudy + scattered rain
Min Temp °C	22	22	23	21
Max Temp °C	41	39	38	39
Wind Direction	westerly changing to south easterly later on	variable wind changing to light to moderate southerly later on	south easterly	south easterly
Wind Speed km/h	10 - 32	08 - 28	10 - 30	12 - 35

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

Warnings & Weather Watches

no warnings or weather watches

Kuwait Forecast

Station	MIN °C	REC	Max °C	EXP
KUWAIT CITY	28		38	
KUWAIT AIRPORT	21		39	
ABDALLY	25		41	
BUBYAN	23		38	
JAHRA	25		39	
FAILAKA ISLAND	23		35	
SALMIYAH	25		34	
AHMADI	28		36	
JAL ALIYAH	22		39	
QAROH ISLAND	24		32	
UMM AL-MARADEM	24		32	
NUWASIB	23		40	
WAFRA	20		39	
MANAGISH	23		40	
SALMY	22		41	
MUTRIBA	22		41	

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	38
Min Temp (°C)	18
Max Rel Hum (%)	57
Min Rel Hum (%)	08
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	25 S
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm

Sunrise	05:13
Sunset	18:20

Prayer Times

Fajr	03:49
Sunrise	05:13
Zuhr	11:46
Asr	15:22
Sunset	18:20
Isha	19:42



PRIVATE CLINICS

Ophthalmologists	
Dr. Abdallah Al-Mansoor	25622444
Dr. Samy Al-Rabeea	25752222
Dr. Masoma Habeeb	25321171
Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy	25739999
Dr. Mohsen Abel	25757700
Dr. Adnan Hasan Alwayl	25732223
Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly	25732223
Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT)	
Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner	24555050 Ext 510
Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali	25644660
Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel	25646478
Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah	25311996
Dr. Mohammad Al-Daory	25731988
Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary	22620166
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz	25651426
General Practitioners	
Dr. Mohammed Y Majidi	24555050 Ext 123
Dr. Yousef Al-Omar	24719312
Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhaezem	23926920
Dr. Kathem Maarafi	25730465
Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah	25655528
Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi	24577781
Dr. Dina Abdallah Al-Rafea	25333501
Urologists	
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

Plastic Surgeons	
Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalaf	22547272
Dr. Abdal-Redha Lari	22617700
Dr. Abdel Quttainah	25625030/60
Family Doctor	
Dr Divya Damodar	23729596/23729581
Psychiatrists	
Dr. Esam Al-Ansari	22635047
Dr Eisa M. Al-Balhan	22613623/0
Gynaecologists & Obstetricians	
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
General Surgeons	
Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer	22610044
Dr. Mohammad Yousef Basher	25327148
Internists, Chest & Heart	
Dr. Adnan Ebil	22639939
Dr. Mousa Khadada	22666300
Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisan	25728004
Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra	25355515
Dr. Mobarak Aldoub	24726446
Dr Nasser Behbehani	25654300/3

Paediatricians	
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
Dermatology	
Dr. Mohammed Salam Bern University	23845955
Dentists	
Dr Anil Thomas	3729596/3729581
Dr. Shamah Al-Matar	22641071/2
Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed	22562226
Dr. Abdallah Al-Amer	22561444
Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan	22619557
Dr. Abdalateef Al-Katrash	22525888
Dr. Abdallah Al-Duweisan	25653755
Dr. Bader Al-Ansari	25620111
Neurologists	
Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri	25633324
Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan	25345875
Gastrologists	
Dr. Sami Aman	22636464
Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly	25322030
Dr. Foad Abdallah Al-Ali	22633135

Endocrinologist	
Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman	25339330
Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari	25658888
Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr	25329924
Physiotherapists & VD	
Dr. Deyaa Shehab	25722291
Dr. Mused Faraj Khamees	22666288
Rheumatologists:	
Dr. Adel Al-Awadi	25330060
Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah	25722290
Internist, Chest & Heart	
DR.Mohammes Akkad	24555050 Ext 210
Dr. Mohammad Zubaid MB, ChB, FRCP, PACC Assistant Professor Of Medicine Head, Division of Cardiology Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital	25339667
Consultant Cardiologist	
Dr. Farida Al-Habib MD, PH.D, FACC	2611555-2622555
Inaya German Medical Center	Te: 2575077 Fax: 25723123



A still frame taken from Ivory Coast national television RTI 1 yesterday shows Congolese music star Papa Wemba collapsing on stage during the FEMUA music festival in Abidjan. — AP/AFP photos



In this file photo dated Congolese pop star Papa Wemba is hoisted by supporters as he leaves the courthouse in Bobigny near Paris Tuesday, Nov 17, 2004.

## 'King of Congolese rumba' Papa Wemba dies

**P**apa Wemba, one of Africa's greatest music stars, died yesterday after collapsing on stage during a festival in the Ivory Coast, the event organizers said. Papa Wemba, renowned as the "king of Congolese rumba" for the fusion of Cuban and electronic rock that he pioneered in the 1970s, was 66. The flamboyant world music singer died after collapsing during a set in the early hours of yesterday at the Urban Musical Festival Anoumabo (FEMUA) in Abidjan.

Video footage broadcast live on television showed the dramatic moment that Papa Wemba—wearing a bold black and white patterned tunic and oversized bowler hat, slumped to the floor behind a group of dancers, before performers rushed to his aid. The FEMUA management expressed its "deep sorrow" at the death of a man who has been at the forefront of African music for more than four decades. The festival was the first major cultural event in Ivory Coast since the Islamist attack on the beach resort of Grand-Bassam last month that left 19 people dead.

Papa Wemba won international acclaim when the fashion for African and world music took hold in Europe and the United States in the 1980s, and recorded with British rock star Peter Dinklage. The father of six was also known as the driving spirit behind a cult movement known as "Sapeurs" whose members—young men—spend huge amounts of money on designer clothes. However, he was



This file photo taken shows Congolese singer Papa Wemba performing during a concert at the New Morning in Paris.

convicted in France in 2004 for smuggling illegal immigrants into the country.

Papa Wemba was born Jules Shungu Wembadio Pene Kikumba in June 1949 in what was then Belgian Congo, now the Democratic Republic of Congo. He began his singing career in religious choirs in which he developed his trademark high range voice, making his debut in the capital Kinshasa at the end of the 1960s. He inherited his love of song from his mother, who was a professional "wailing woman" at funerals.

### Western influence

Like many of his generation he was strongly influenced by American and British pop culture and initially took the stage name Jules Presley. In 1969 he helped found Zaiko Langa Langa, a Zaire-based pop group that was to achieve cult status in the 1970s with its revival of Latin American rumba. The group revitalized the style that had been popular in the 1940s, using a combination of Afro-Cuban rhythm and Congolese song while introducing rock rhythms and electronic sounds. Papa Wemba settled in France in 1986 as his fame began to reach as far afield as Japan, dazzled by the African dandy who was dressed by the world's leading designers.

He went on to reach a much wider public thanks to a world music album produced by France's Martin Meissonnier in 1988, which blended African and Western sounds. Papa Wemba parted ways in 1999 with the Real World record label founded by Gabriel, the former Genesis singer. But he remained immensely popular in Africa, taking part in major music events including a concert in London for Nelson Mandela's 90th birthday. He was convicted by a Paris court in 2004 of smuggling illegal immigrants into France by disguising them as members of his band but walked free as he had already served four months behind bars. — AFP

## Nina Simone defied genre, new films may inspire exploration

**C**oming so closely on the heels of the Oscar-nominated documentary "What Happened, Miss Simone?" the controversial new Nina Simone biopic is bringing the artist's life and struggles back into public consciousness. "Nina," available in theaters and on-demand Friday, has been dogged by problems almost since its inception. Simone fans railed when Zoe Saldana was cast as the singer, saying the actress' slight frame and lighter skin made her a poor choice to play a woman who celebrated her dark complexion and African features. "Nina" writer-director Cynthia Mort ultimately sued the producers over creative differences, and the film's release was postponed several times.

Reviews for "Nina" have been dismal, with one critic calling it "a cinematic insult to the icon and her fans." But Simone experts encourage the discussion the films have inspired. "Regardless of what the response to the movie is, it's gotten a debate about Nina and about representation of black women and about a lot of things she dealt with and struggled with back into newspapers," said Alan Light, author of the 2016 biography, "What Happened, Miss Simone?" which was inspired by the documentary. "In the end, it certainly will contribute to more visibility and conversation around Nina."

### Passionate songwriting

As the film touches on and the documentary deeply explores, Simone faced dis-

crimination from her earliest days as a classical music prodigy and throughout her career. This fueled passionate songwriting and performances and ultimately her commitment to the civil rights movement. Light, who has yet to see "Nina," said the controversy over Saldana's casting highlights Simone's struggle: "That debate is around actual issues that were actually relevant to Nina and her life." "Nina" does little to illuminate the singer's artistry and activism, focusing instead on her personal problems with alcohol and depression. The film begins when Simone has already exiled herself to Europe out of frustration with racial politics in the music industry and American society.

She's being held in a psychiatric ward after pulling a gun on a record executive when she meets a kindly nurse, Clifton Henderson (David Oyelowo), whom she hires as her personal assistant. Simone verbally abuses Henderson as he tries to rein in her health problems and move her toward a musical comeback. Simone received 15 Grammy nominations and was wildly popular in the 1960s, but unlike contemporaries Miles Davis and John Coltrane, she wasn't as well-known in popular culture. Though that seems to be changing. —AP



This image released by RLJ Entertainment shows Zoe Saldana as Nina Simone in a scene from, 'Nina'. — AP

## Mohamed Naser Al-Sayer holds B2B conference for NEXA AUTOCOLOR

**M**ohamed Naser Al-Sayer & Sons (MNSS) one of the Al-Sayer Group Holding Companies held a B2B conference for NEXA AUTOCOLOR, to highlight latest developments of products and services in the Auto refinish markets in the Middle East as well as globally. The event which was organized at The Crowne Plaza Hotel was attended by distinguished guests from a large spectrum of popular automotive OEM companies in Kuwait.

The event proved to be a great platform for the attendees to learn how quality is at the center of NEXA AUTOCOLOR business operations. Alberto Gonzalez Business Solutions Manager EMEA said "Color experts at NEXA work actively with car manufacturers and pigment suppliers worldwide, to match the thousands of new colors produced annually to ensure comprehensive, up-to-date color offerings. In addition to this NEXA brand has a range of innovative color tools focused on delivering fast and reliable color excellence and color accuracy for "right first time" results."

Krishna Kumar General Manager MNSS Tires, Oil and Paint Division (TOP) welcomed delegation from NEXA AUTOCOLOR represented by Bulend Alpay, Market Director Middle East & Turkey, Juan Navarro Business Solutions & Branding Director EMEA, Alberto Gonzalez Business Solutions Manager EMEA, Serdar Gurses Business Solutions & Technical Manager Middle East & Turkey, Praveen Kalia Market Manager Middle East Refinish, and Dayanand Shetty Business Development Manager Refinish.

Mubarak Naser Al-Sayer CEO Al-Sayer Group Holding said "We are bringing to you NEXA AUTOCOLOR brands long history of incorporating color Excellence into paint technology. Over the years our partnership as a specialist distributor has grown stronger and our best in the business work approach has also enabled us to achieve leading market position. I thank our part-

ners for the valuable support as well as our distinctive sales efforts enabling us to achieve top results."

NEXA Auto color is a brand owned by PPG Industries headquartered in Pittsburgh, USA. The hallmark of the company founded in 1883 is Innovation, Sustainability & Color. PPG's global operations stretches across 70 countries and employs 46000 people. PPG's product portfolio includes, Aerospace products, Architectural paints, Automotive paints, Fiber glass, Industrial coatings, Packaging coatings, Marine coatings, other specialty coatings. The world's leading supplier of automotive coatings is PPG and two out of three cars in the world use their paints.

Acknowledging the valuable partnership between MNSS and NEXA Krishna Kumar General Manager MNSS Tires, Oil and Paint Division (TOP) said "MNSS will continue to offer quality services through best facilities to complement the top quality products from NEXA. Through such important events we aim to strengthen the ties with our partners to further reinforce the market leading position of the brand."

The mission statement of NEXA Autocolor is to deliver Productive and Innovative products, easy to use colour tools, and provide value added services to optimize performance in automotive body shops globally. The mission statement is best captured in their tag line "We provide tailored solutions". As part of this process, Nexa Auto Color has introduced the "MVP" program spear headed by Mr. Juan Navarro - Business solutions & Branding Director, Europe, ME & Africa, to help body shop Manager's with management tools to improve their operations and reduce cost and improve their efficiency.



Before



After



Before



After



## Home Centre's 4th 'Room Makeover' contest infuses color and energy into lives of 15 winners

**L**iving in an aesthetically appealing and energizing space can certainly enhance one's happiness and sense of well-being. Over the years Home Centre, the largest home retailer in the Middle East, has transformed the personal living spaces of several deserving customers with its popular Room Makeover competition. In its fourth edition in 2016, the Room Makeover competition successfully refurbished the homes of 15 people across the region and infused new energy into their lives.

Winners were identified from six countries in the region - the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman and Lebanon - based on their unique stories of why they believed their rooms needed a makeover. Home Centre received an overwhelming response of close to 60,000 entries and worked to shortlist a final 14 while carefully factoring in the personality traits of the contestants. The 15 winners were picked via an online voting system created on Home Centre's Facebook page.

Mederic Payne, CEO of Home Centre, said: "The unprecedented response to this year's Room Makeover Contest is a testament to the close relationship we share with our customers. The contest reiterates our keenness to give back to the community through this all-inclusive initiative. At Home Centre, we welcome the chance to touch the lives of our valued customers and help them achieve their dream homes with the help of our expert team of visual merchandisers and designers."

An aggregate amount of KD 1200 was used to reinvent the living space of the two winners each in Kuwait, Qatar, and Oman while AED 15,000 was used for the four winners each in the UAE and one winner in Lebanon. Home Centre's expert stylists ensured that every winner's room was transformed as per

their personal preferences and needs to reflect their distinctive personalities. Each of the makeovers was completed within a single day and accomplished using Home Centre's vibrant new collection.

Speaking of the room makeovers, Nancy Ajram, celebrated Arabic singer, diva and Home Centre's brand ambassador in the region, said: "This is a great exercise that Home Centre conducts annually that makes a real difference to the lives of customers. Looking at the final outcomes of this year's room makeovers, I commend Home Centre's stylists for their exceptional efforts in improving the aesthetic appeal of so many living spaces. This competition is truly one-of-a-kind and I am confident it will continue to garner positive reactions year-on-year."

In Kuwait, one of the winning stories was of a family that had lost most of its furniture in a gas explosion - following which the mother was keen to make sure her sons had their ideal Star Wars-themed room. The second winning story belonged to a lady who was unhappy with her living room and after several attempts was unsuccessful in making it look any better.

The third cycle of Home Centre's Room Makeover contest attracted over 37,000 entries and the winners' journeys received more than 200,000 views across the brand's social media platforms. The popularity of Home Centre's Room Makeover contest has grown exponentially in the region since inception, both for the novelty of the concept and for the opportunity it provides to winners to 'refresh' their lives.

Home Centre stores are located across Kuwait at Al-Rai, Shuwaikh, Awqaf, Fahaheel, The Avenues -The Mall and opening soon at Al-Sama Mall.

# Beyoncé celebrates black women in intricate album-film

Pop superstar Beyoncé on Saturday released a musically diverse new album in the form of a film as she paid a bold tribute to the perseverance of African American women. "Lemonade" was advertised only as a special on cable network HBO but, in a move anticipated by her passionate fan base, she dropped an album by the same name in the middle of the broadcast.

The "visual-album" marks the second straight work in which the 34-year-old pop queen has experimented with merging formats-which could also include social media, where "Lemonade" quickly became a top trending topic. The film, crafted through the album's songs and verse from the Somali-British poet Warsan Shire against a Southern Gothic backdrop, follows Beyoncé's emotional journey as she tackles infidelity but also the larger experience of African American women.

Beyoncé's sixth studio album brings in a range of musical all-stars, with "Don't Hurt Yourself" co-written by members of Led Zeppelin and the most anthem-like track, "Freedom," featuring acclaimed rapper Kendrick Lamar. The movie opens with accusations of betrayal as Beyoncé struts across New Orleans, smashing up cars as she rages against the sexual transgressions of her partner. "You ain't married to no average bitch, boy," she proclaims on "Don't Hurt Yourself," performed with garage rocker Jack White. "This is your final warning / You know I give you life," Beyoncé sings, warning that if her husband's infidelity does not end, "you're gonna lose your wife."

### Making most with 'lemons'

The subject matter immediately triggered a fury of speculation on social media that "Lemonade" was an artistic announcement of separation from her real-life husband, rap mogul Jay-Z. But toward the end of the film, Beyoncé heads into a chapter entitled "Forgiveness" as she is seen embracing a sullen Jay-Z, whose best-known songs before his 2008 marriage included "Big Pimpin'." In further evidence that they are still together, Beyoncé released the album of "Lemonade" exclusively on the Tidal streaming service led by Jay-Z.

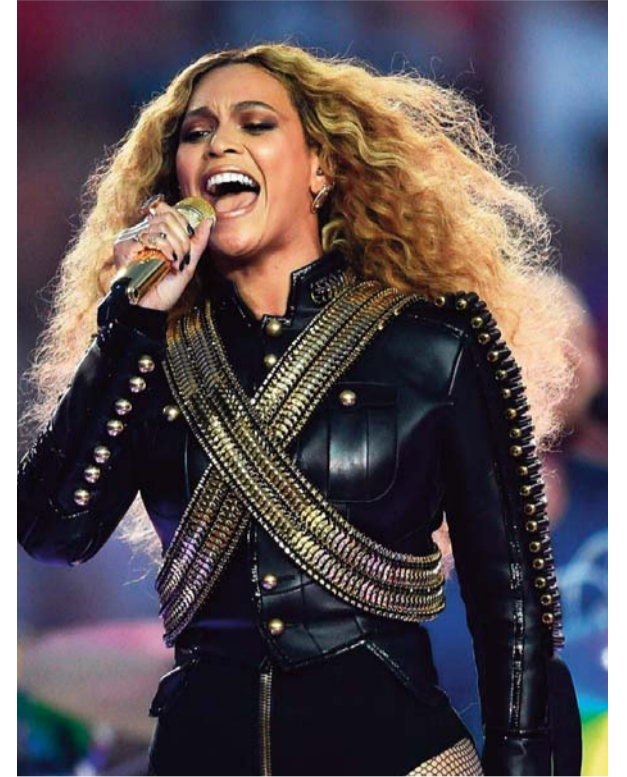
Beyoncé, who appears alongside African American women throughout the film, draws the theme of "Lemonade" early on with a snippet from late civil rights leader Malcolm X, who says: "The most disrespected person in America is the black woman." But their pain, in "Lemonade," is not just about infidelity. In one of its film's most powerful moments, the camera turns without comment to the mothers of three young African American men-Michael Brown, Eric Garner and Trayvon Martin-whose deaths have triggered nationwide outrage, as the women lovingly clutch their son's pictures. Beyoncé reinforces the maternal theme with a snippet from her own late grandmother, Agnez Dereon, who says: "I had my ups and downs but I always find the inner strength to pull myself up." "I was served lemons, but I made lemonade," she says.

### Branching out musically

Beyoncé-who became a superstar on innocuous songs such as "Single Ladies (Put a Ring on It)"-startled many listeners in February when she put out the first "Lemonade" single,

"Formation," whose video takes the mantle of the Black Lives Matter movement. "Formation"-which appears only in the closing credits of the "Lemonade" film-shows Beyoncé's increasingly diverse musical instincts with the song driven by New Orleans-style bounce hip-hop. Beyoncé wrote two songs on "Lemonade" with Diplo, the Los Angeles electronic producer who has crafted Justin Bieber's new sound, and even fuses in touches of country, as well as New Orleans jazz, on "Daddy Lessons."

The pop star also tapped The Weeknd and Father John Misty, sensations in R&B and indie rock respectively, and adapts a chorus from punk revivalists the Yeah Yeah Yeahs. Yet she also returns to the big-hearted ballads for which she is renowned on "Sandcastles," written with the Chicago poet Malik Yusef. "Lemonade" is Beyoncé's first full-length album since her self-titled release in late 2013. The "Beyoncé" album also incorporated a strong visual component, with short films to accompany the music. But the theme of the 2013 album was far different, as it dealt with passion and monogamy, with the song "Drunk In Love" an ode to marital bliss sung in duet with Jay-Z. — AFP



This file photo shows Beyoncé performing during Super Bowl 50 between the Carolina Panthers and the Denver Broncos at Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara, California. — AFP



A message left by a fan to music legend Prince is seen at the First Avenue club where he started his music career in Minneapolis, Minnesota.



'Goodnight Sweet Prince' read the display screens in Target Field in Minneapolis, Minn following the announcement of Prince's death.



Minneapolis area mourns the death of musician Prince. Fans of Prince pose for photos amid a sea of purple balloons prior to a memorial service at the Paisley Park compound of the music legend. — AP/AFP photos



Artist Rock Martinez continues work on a mural he is painting of musician Prince in Minneapolis, Saturday.

## Prince cremated, with resting place secret

Loved ones cremated pop icon Prince on Saturday with his final resting place to remain a secret, two days after his sudden death stunned the music world. The 57-year-old "Purple Rain" creator, one of the most acclaimed and unique artists of his generation, will eventually be honored with a concert, his spokeswoman said. The spokeswoman, Anna Meacham, said that Prince was cremated on Saturday and that his ashes "final storage will remain private."

"Prince was celebrated by a small group of his most beloved: family, friends and his musicians, in a private, beautiful ceremony to say a loving goodbye," she said in a statement, with a faint echo of the opening lines to "Let's Go Crazy." "An announcement will be made at a future date for a musical celebration."

The pop legend, renowned for his stamina and prolific musical output, died suddenly Thursday at his Paisley Park estate near his birthplace of Minneapolis. While the place of the cremation was unclear, the private service appeared to take place at Paisley Park which was full of commotion on Saturday, with an AFP photographer counting around a dozen cars parked inside its gates in the suburb of Chanhassen. Two staff members came out with a large vase of flowers in Prince's signature purple, some of which they pulled out to give to fans who applauded in gratitude. Maurice Phillips, Prince's brother-in-law who is married to his sister Tyka, also took the time to come out to chat and take pictures with the fans.

### Cause of death mysterious

The cause of Prince's death remains a mystery. The spokeswoman, in line with statements from authorities, said that at least four weeks would be needed for results of the autopsy conducted before the cremation. Prince had been hospitalized a week earlier complaining of flu-like symptoms after his plane made an emergency landing on his way back from Atlanta where he performed what would be his final full-fledged concert. Authorities plan in the coming days to search Paisley Park-Prince's sprawling headquarters that was home to a state-of-the-art studio and vaults of vast unreleased work.

But Carver County Sheriff Jim Olson told reporters Friday that the move was routine, with no indication of suicide or foul play. The celebrity news site TMZ has reported that Prince's earlier hospitalization may have been triggered by an overdose of an opioid-based painkiller. Prince was legendary for his marathon performances, which would often last until dawn, but had hip surgery several years ago and suffered epilepsy as a child.

### Tributes pour in

Prince, despite his personal eccentricities, was widely hailed as one of the greatest musicians of his generation, creating a unique brand of danceable funk and mastering the guitar so extensively that he could play it behind his back or blindfolded. Tributes have come from throughout the music

world and beyond. Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton on Friday came out to "Let's Go Crazy" on a campaign stop in Pennsylvania, calling Prince "extraordinary" and an "American original."

US President Barack Obama, who invited Prince to play at the White House last year, earlier hailed him as "one of the most gifted and prolific musicians of our time." Prince became the sudden star of the second weekend of Coachella, the premier music festival which takes place in the California desert. LCD Soundsystem, the influential New York electronic band that reunited for Coachella, performed a cover of Prince's early funk hit "Controversy" during the group's headlining set late Friday.

The English pop singer Ellie Goulding sang "When Doves Cry" at Coachella while Mavis Staples, the 76-year-old R&B great once signed to Prince's label, broke down with emotion before offering a rendition of "Purple Rain." Saturday Night Live, the weekly comedy show, planned a special "Goodnight Sweet Prince" episode featuring some of its frequent skits about the entertainer as well as his performances. Prince himself was no stranger to tribute songs. Videos posted by fans revealed that at his final show in Atlanta he performed "Heroes" by David Bowie, another music legend who died several months earlier. — AFP

## Artist says Prince illustrations are now 'tribute' to icon

Rhode Island artist who illustrated Prince every day for a year says the project will now serve as a tribute to the music icon. Rebekah Major told The Associated Press on Saturday she began "365 Days of Prince" in March of last year to improve as an artist.

Major says she drew the pop music superstar in "every ridiculous way" she could think of once a day. She was inspired by moments within the last year of the musician's life, current events and more. One of

her favorite illustrations is a play on Norman Rockwell's famous self-portrait. Major says Prince always resonated with her because his music "brings everyone together." Prince was found dead Thursday at his suburban Minneapolis compound at age 57. — AP



These images provided by Rebekah Major show Major's illustrations of Prince. — AP photos



This undated photo released by Yamaha Entertainment Group shows a custom-made purple piano the company manufactured for musician Prince. — AP

## Prince's custom-made purple piano was to go on tour with him

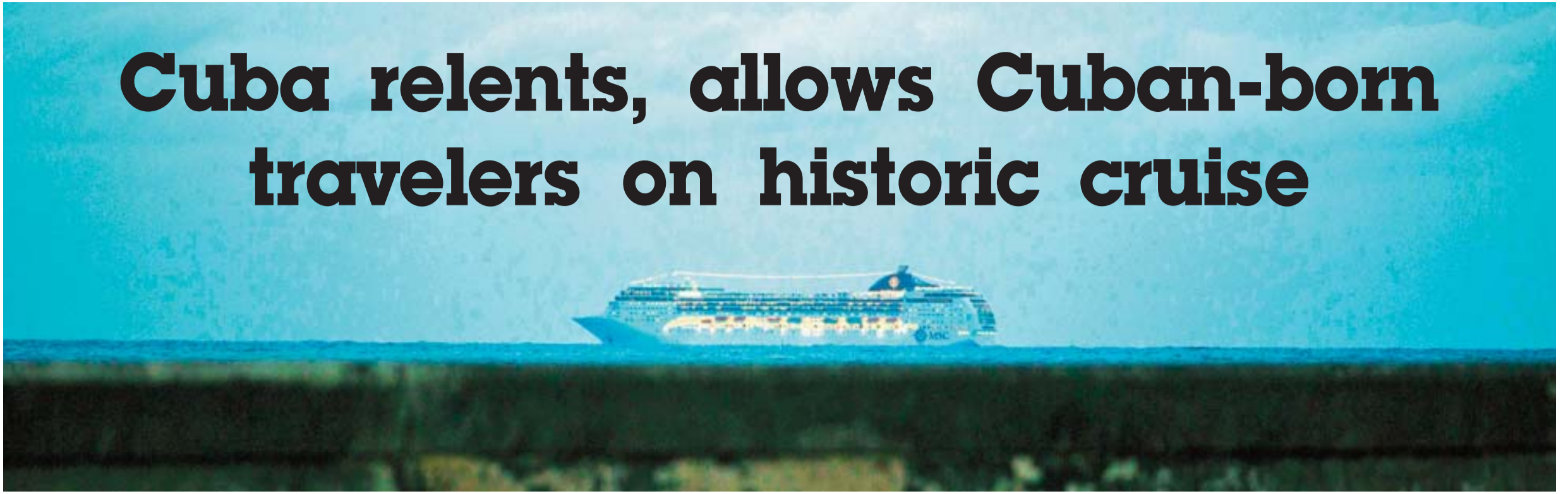
Days before his death, Prince tweeted a photo of a custom-made purple piano intended to be a centerpiece of his scheduled tour. The piano, which was delivered to Prince's home at Paisley Park in Minnesota a few weeks ago, was a rush job that had to be completed in about three months, said Chris Gero, vice president of Yamaha Entertainment Group, based in Franklin, Tennessee. "We were on the top end of the idea, but it accelerated so fast," Gero said Friday, revealing the behind-the-scenes work that went into its manufacture.

The acoustics of the piano were fine-tuned to Prince's specifications. The artist, 57, who was found dead in his suburban Minneapolis home Thursday, had intended it for his Prince, Piano and a Microphone tour. "So the piano is an acoustical piano, but it also has a tone generation system internally that can go out to a secondary audio source that all the sounds internally are highly modified just for him," Gero said. "They are EQed (equalized) a certain way. There were certain sounds that were made just specifically for him." Prince also wanted the manufacturer to match the color to a couch in his home.

"The color purple was specifically chosen by him to match an item in his house, which was actually made of several different colors of purple that made one specific color of purple," Gero said. The company searched everywhere for the exact shade, ultimately painting it with paint used for cars. Gero said he was surprised to see that Prince tweeted a picture of the piano and then over the weekend unveiled it to an audience at a show at his compound. "It was really the last big performance he had done publicly in which he unveiled it and he was very proud of it," Gero said.

He said the value of the piano now is unknown especially because now that Prince has died, but he hopes it will end up in a place where fans can enjoy it. "It's very oddly attached, and sadly attached, to his final days," Gero said. "It changes obviously the visual component of its value. We don't want to think in those terms. Obviously people will think in those terms. We would like it to find a safe home in a very prominent place that honors him." — AP

# Cuba relents, allows Cuban-born travelers on historic cruise



This photo shows the MSC Opera cruiser off the coast of Havana as it departs Cuba. — AFP photos



The MSC Opera cruiser passes the Morro Fortress as the sun sets in Havana, Cuba.

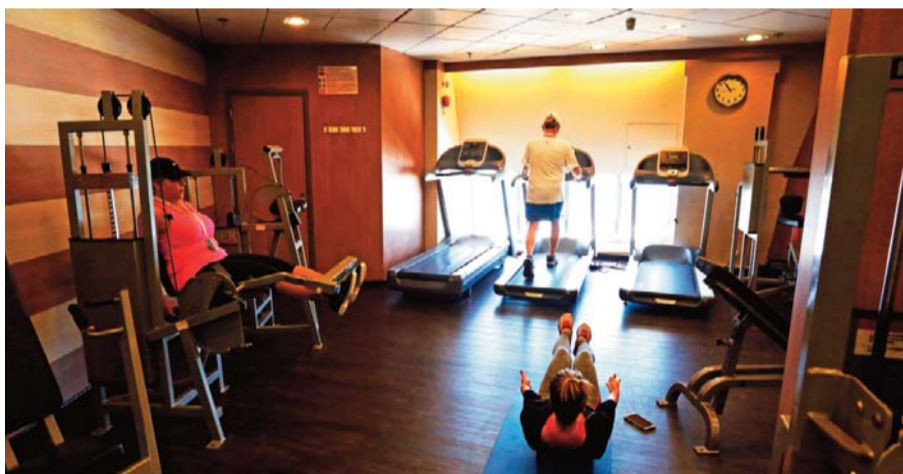


Photo shows passengers working out in the gym of the Malta flagged Celestial Crystal cruiser moored in Havana.



Photo shows the city of Havana from the Maltese flagged Celestial Crystal cruiser moored in Cuba.

Cuba has loosened a policy banning Cuban-born people from arriving by sea, allowing Carnival Corp. to go forward with the first US cruise to the island in a half-century, the Cuban government and the Miami-based cruise line announced Friday. The company at first barred Cuban-born Americans from buying tickets for the planned May 1 cruise to comply with Cuba's ban, drawing complaints from the Cuban-American community in Miami and a discrimination lawsuit. Then, the company said it would sell tickets to Cuban-Americans but hold the cruise only if Cuba relented and changed its policy.

### Seven-day trip

Early Friday, Cuban state media announced the loosening of the maritime ban, and Carnival CEO Arnold Donald said in a statement that the trip would go forward May 1 from Miami. The 704-passenger Adonia of Carnival's Fathom brand is scheduled to make the initial seven-day trip, with future cruises planned every other week. Donald said Carnival negotiated a change in Cuban policy, and that now its cruise ships and other commercial vessels will be treated the same as aircraft, which already are permitted to carry Cuban-born passengers.

"This is very positive outcome resulting from discussions we have been having for quite some time," Donald said in a conference call with reporters. "Today's development will impact countless lives. It's now available to everyone." In Havana, Cuban state media said the change is part of a broader shift in policy that removes many of the prohibitions on Cubans traveling by ship. Those prohibitions were put in place in response to Cuban exiles launching attacks from the water in the first years after the Cuban revolution.

The Cuban government said people born in Cuba will now be able to travel as passengers and crew on merchant ships and cruise ships, and will eventually be allowed on board yachts as both passengers and crew. The announcement does not specifically mention ferries. Carnival originally adhered to Cuba's longstanding previous policy by preventing Cuban exiles from booking passage on the cruise, sparking protests by Cuban-Americans outside the company's Doral headquarters, criticism from Secretary of State John Kerry and local politicians and a federal lawsuit that claimed discrimination.



Photo shows cruise travelers on the deck of the MSC Opera cruiser as it leaves the harbor.

### Cuban government

Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Gimenez, a Cuban-American who had questioned the previous Carnival policy, said Carnival Chairman Micky Arison called him Friday about the agreement. Arison also owns the NBA's Miami Heat. "This policy change was the right thing to do, and I congratulate both Mr. Arison and Carnival on their efforts in what is probably one of the very few times that a corporation has successfully negotiated the changing of a policy with the Cuban government," Gimenez said in a statement.

Beginning May 1, the Fathom will visit the ports of Havana, Cienfuegos and Santiago de Cuba. Carnival says bookings will start at \$1,800 per person and feature an array of cultural and educational activities, including Spanish lessons. The cruise is among the many changes in US-Cuban relations since a thaw between the old Cold War foes began in late 2014. Carnival is the world's largest cruise line, operating 10 brands with 100 ships that visit 700 ports worldwide, according to the company. —AP



Photo shows a waiter carrying drinks to passengers on the Maltese flagged Celestial Crystal cruiser moored in Havana.



Photo shows a crew member working on the deck of the Maltese flagged Celestial Crystal cruiser moored.

# Game of Thrones dragons hatched in Germany

One hazard of being the guy in charge of the dragons in mega-hit serial "Game of Thrones" is the constant pestering from family and friends for "all the gory details". But as Jonathan Symmonds knows, not keeping his mouth shut could unleash mayhem ahead of the widely anticipated season six of HBO's fantasy blockbuster, which premiered yesterday. "We have to hold back as much as we can. It would ruin everything for everyone if I were to reveal anything," said Symmonds, as he navigated a

dragon on his screen in a studio in Germany's financial capital Frankfurt.

Story line aside, one well-kept industry secret is that some of the Games' most defining animated characters—the dragons—were not hatched in Hollywood, but in Germany, usually better known for its precision engineering and automobiles. Pixomondo, the studio that employs Symmonds and where the Game's dragons are created, is located just a short drive away from the financial heart of Frankfurt.

Some 200 kilometers (120 miles) to the south, in Stuttgart, base of luxury carmakers Porsche and Daimler, Pixomondo's rival Mackevision is dreaming up other scenes for the screen adaptation of George R.R. Martin's bestselling book series "A Song of Ice and Fire".

Its designers have created, for instance, the oceans around Westeros, one of the four continents in Martin's magical world, and the ships plying them. Viktorija Ogureckaja, a Pixomondo producer sent from Los Angeles to supervise the

post-production process of Game of Thrones, said Germany is fertile ground for experts in the special effects field thanks to its schools. "Germany provides very good specialists out of the amazing schools that they have here like the Film Academy in Ludwigsburg," she said.

### Fit for big screen

With more than 20 million Americans alone glued to each episode of the series complete with Machiavellian intrigue and blood-curdling violence, its producer HBO has certainly not scrimped on costs to make it. Made with a budget estimated at \$60 million per season, the serial is one of the most expensive to date, and twice or even three times as costly as other blockbusters like "House of Cards" or "The Walking Dead". And the business of producing visual effects for the serial is certainly painstaking work.

For the opening scene of the city of Braavos in season four for instance, Mackevision had four people working for over three months on a sequence that lasted just 10 seconds, said Joern Grosshans, the company's director of visual effects. After all, the animation not only has to stand up on television size screens, but be detailed and rich enough to potentially dazzle a cinema audience.

"Full feature movie quality is expected from the settings, the actors, the camera work, and of course also from special effects," said Grosshans. "HBO says this is not a series, but 10 little feature movies that are good enough for cinemas," he added. Such exacting standards have secured

Game of Thrones successive Emmys for special effects.

### 'Shoot something real'

Although visual effects have an important part in the serial, the production crew also travels far and wide to locations including Ireland, Iceland and Morocco to capture natural settings. "We are the first to tell producers 'go and shoot something real whenever you can'. Because the more real scenes there are, the better the final result," said Sven Martin, Pixomondo's director of special effects for the series. Besides Pixomondo and Mackevision, a dozen other studios work on Game of Thrones. And just like in the story's Seven Kingdoms, competition is fierce.

The Germans and their competitors have to try every year to convince HBO to renew their contracts. "Each studio tries to give their best at the lowest price," said Martin, adding with a laugh however that unlike in the fantasy world, the battle is fought "without any blood shed". The studios also find themselves collaborating as the dragons, for instance, grow bigger as the story evolves and therefore more complex to animate. The final sequence of season six was also a collaborative effort. It "is absolutely captivating," said Grosshans. But will the computer animations stand the test of time? The success of the series is about more than dazzling effects and "lies in the interpersonal drama," argued Grosshans. "That is timeless." — AFP



This file photo shows Jan Burda, employee of Mackevision, a global market leader in Computer Generated Imagery, working on the Colossus of Rhodes for the movie 'Game of Thrones' in the company's headquarters in Stuttgart, southwestern Germany, on March 29, 2016.



Armin Pohl, CEO of Mackevision, a global market leader in Computer Generated Imagery, during an interview next to a screen displaying a scene of the movie Game of Thrones. — AFP photos



# Fantasies come to life at Myanmar 'cosplay' convention



**P**urple-haired princesses, wolves and dolled-up maids mingled at a "cosplay" fantasy costume festival held this weekend in Myanmar, where the global role-playing craze is building up a cult following. Hundreds gathered at the two-day convention in Yangon to enter singing competitions and chat with others sporting the colorful garb, elaborate make-up and exotic hairstyles of their fantasy idols.

In cosplay, short for costume role-play, enthusiasts gather to imitate characters from anime series, comics and video games, many drawn from Japanese pop culture. Chuu Kay Khine, who attended the event dressed as a Japanese anime character, told AFP she was still eager for more fantasy fans to play with. "The more people that know about it and the more friends we have the better," said the 21-year-old. "Then we could have even more fun."

Many of the eye-popping costumes on display in Myanmar's biggest city were imported from neighboring Thailand and China, while others were homespun or specially tailored for the occasion. The cosplay fad has swept much of the world but is still relatively new in Myanmar, where young people are racing to catch up with international trends a few years after junta-era Internet restrictions were lifted.

This year's festival is the eighth since the hobby first found a footing in the Southeast Asian country in 2012, shortly after a reformist government began loosening the military's grip on freedom of expression. It is now one of a host of new sub-cultures mushrooming across Myanmar as it hurtles into a what promises to be a new era of freedom under a recently elected civilian-led government.



Yet like fringe fads everywhere, Myanmar's cosplay scene has not been met with universal enthusiasm. "The main difficulty is trying to get people to accept the culture of cosplay in our country. We have to keep explaining it," Lin Aung Kyaw, a 24-year-old who helped organize the event, told AFP. "Some animated series are just as good as films, with very meaningful plots," he added. — AFP



Myanmar cosplay fans attend a cosplay festival in Yangon yesterday. Purple-haired princesses, wolves and dolled-up maids mingled at a "cosplay" fantasy costume festival held this weekend in Myanmar, where the global role-playing craze is building up a cult following. —AFP photos



Fantasies come to life at Myanmar 'cosplay' convention

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Emilia Pechinkova, a 24-years-old Bulgarian Pomak (Bulgarian speaking Muslims) bride poses for a photograph following the 'gelina' or face painting ceremony carried out by female guests and relatives in preparation for her three-day wedding ceremony in the village of Draginovo, 100 kms southeast of Sofia on April 22, 2016. Bulgaria's Muslim population is one of the highest in the European Union. During the Communist regime religious rituals were not tolerated, and Muslims were forced to abandon wearing their traditional wedding outfits. Recently, more young Pomak women want to include traditional wedding customs that were forbidden during the regime, regardless of their secular lifestyles and the high cost of such a wedding. — AFP



In this undated photo made available by the IMG Worlds of Adventure during their today press conference, the complex is seen with city background in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. — AP photos



The final steps of construction work are seen at the IMG Worlds of Adventure complex in Dubai.

## Dubai to open Marvel, Cartoon Network-branded theme park

Dubai will soon have a one-stop destination for families whose tastes run from Spider-Man to velociraptors to the Powerpuff Girls. Local developer Ilyas and Mustafa Galadari Group said yesterday its new 1.5 million square-foot (139,355 square meter) indoor amusement park on the city's desert outskirts will open on August 15.

The \$1 billion IMG Worlds of Adventure park includes one section centered on Marvel Comics and another branded by Cartoon Network. Another zone is dedicated to dinosaurs and features a roller coaster to whisk thrill-seekers outside and back into the air-conditioned complex. Dubai is increasingly looking to amusement parks to cement its standing as

a tourist haven. Another company is building a massive complex elsewhere in the 2020 World Expo host city that will include Legoland and Six Flags parks. — AP



Lennard Otto, Chief Executive Officer of IMG Worlds of Adventure at the IMG Worlds of Adventure press conference in Dubai.



Cartoon Network characters pose at the IMG Worlds of Adventure press conference in Dubai.



Marvel heroes, Iron Man and Black Widow pose at the IMG Worlds of Adventure press conference.



In this file photo, an architectural model of the Dubai Parks and Resorts complex is displayed at their site office in Dubai.