

Speaker hails student parliament as window to speak out



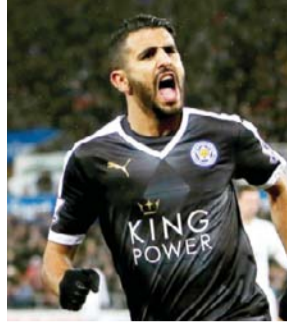
Obama to send 250 more special forces, troops to Syria



Bursa Kuwait takes over stock market operations



Mahrez named England's Player of the Year



## SAUDI ARABIA UNVEILS VAST PLAN TO END OIL 'ADDICTION'

ARAMCO SHARES TO BE SOLD • \$2TN FUND MULLED • 'GREEN CARD' FOR EXPATS EYED



Min 21°  
Max 41°  
High Tide 02:50 & 13:37  
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conspiracy theories

### A MAN WITH A VISION

By Badrya Darwish  
badrya\_d@kuwaittimes.net

It was very interesting to hear and read in the media about the Saudi kingdom's plan to launch a new system for expatriates. Saudi Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman announced yesterday that the kingdom will within five years implement a 'green card' system to allow expatriate Arabs and Muslims to live and work in the kingdom long-term.

This is historic. The expat problem in the Gulf has been an enigma since the first oil boom and influx from all over the world of foreign workers and professionals. Every country in the Gulf has its own set of rules for how to deal with them. But in the Gulf, expats cannot work without a sponsor (also known in Arabic as a kafeel).

This has actually caused a lot of economic and social problems - both for the countries and for expats. Rules in many cases were changed suddenly. It's not a constitutional issue and many times the laws governing expatriates fell under the mood of the social affairs or immigration minister at the moment or were subject to political winds. This in many cases led to rules and regulations that were sometimes tough, unfair or unjust towards expats. Actually, many times before I wrote calling on Gulf leaders to grant permanent residency to those who have lived here for long periods and have a clean police record.

Permanent residency could solve many problems in the Gulf countries. If we had adopted this system many years ago, we would not need to constantly bring new foreigners to the region. Instead, permanent residency will give a chance for professionals and their families to stay in the country and work and be loyal and help build our prosperity. They will have no need to send their salaries home. They will be loyal and dedicated to this place, this land and to us.

They are people who know the country very well along with their families and they know our traditions, our culture, our values and our ways. Many of them have already integrated into the society. Economically, it will boost the region, rather than bringing in new expats every two years, with many suffering from human traffickers who fill their pockets with money regardless of the human interests of the workers or the interests of the nation.

Actually, I salute Prince Mohammed bin Salman for this bold and pioneering step in trying to solve the expat problem and creating a just system similar to what they have in the West. The prince has a real vision for the future. I hope he will follow through and see this plan implemented in Saudi Arabia and ultimately across the Gulf.

Thank you Prince Mohammed.



RIYADH: Saudi Defense Minister and Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman speaks during a press conference yesterday to announce his economic reform plan known as "Vision 2030". — AFP

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia said yesterday it would create the world's largest sovereign investment fund and sell shares in state energy giant Aramco under a vast plan unveiled to transform its oil-dependent economy. The announcement of the long-term reform program, dubbed "Vision 2030", marks the beginning of a hugely ambitious attempt to move Saudi Arabia beyond oil, the backbone of its economy for decades.

"This is not a dream. This is a reality that will be achieved, God willing," the main architect of the diversification plan, Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, told reporters, many of them invited from around the world. Although it comes against a steep fall in oil prices, the plan "was not created only" to face that challenge, the prince said, answering questions for 50 minutes at a royal palace, in a rare government press conference.

The plan foresees social changes in one of the world's most conservative societies, with women contributing more to the workforce, something that has already grown quickly over the past five years, to 30 percent from 22 percent. But Prince Mohammed said he did not believe Saudi society was ready to end its ban on women driving. "So far the society is not persuaded - and it has negative influence - but we stress that it is up to the Saudi society," he said, adding that change cannot be forced.

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## CALL FOR BROAD STRATEGY TO FIGHT IS

'SENSE OF OPTIMISM' OVER YEMEN TALKS • UN WELCOMES 'PROGRESS'

KUWAIT: Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah called on the international community yesterday to collaborate on implementing a broad strategy to combat the so-called Islamic State (IS) and other terrorist groups. Jarallah made the remarks during the opening session of the sixth meeting of the communication group of the international coalition against the so-called Islamic State, co-chaired by the United Arab Emirates, United States and the United Kingdom.

This strategy requires educational institutions and media outlets to initiate an electronic portal that would extol the virtues of moderation, while portraying Islam's genuine image, one that advocates peace and denounces hate, he said. This meeting is a testament to the international community's determination to uphold security and rid the world of terrorism, Jarallah noted.

These terrorist groups have exploited the use of social media to propagate radical ideologies, the deputy foreign minister said. Moreover, Jarallah said that Kuwait has begun implementing a strategy to espouse

moderation and stifle extremism. Kuwait remains "vehemently opposed" to all forms and manifestations of terrorism, he added.

In his speech, US Undersecretary for Public Diplomacy and Affairs Richard Stengel said that it is imperative to curb the spread of IS' message "through military or electronic means". "We are working on a portal to halt the spread of terrorist messages, and social network websites have been willing to cooperate with us," he noted. Director of the UAE foreign ministry's Policy Planning Department Mohammed Abu Shehab said that his country has formed a number of centers designed to fight terrorism. Abu Shehab also underscored the need to look beyond the Internet, as "IS is capable of employing other means to disseminate its ideologies".

Jarallah also said there is a "sense of optimism" that over ongoing UN-brokered Yemen peace talks hosted by Kuwait, adding that "the Yemenis are adamant that these peace talks result in success". Responding to a question on conflicting

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KUWAIT: (From left) Director of policy planning at the UAE foreign ministry Mohammad Abu Shahab, Kuwait's foreign ministry undersecretary Khaled Al-Jarallah, US State Department undersecretary of state for public affairs Rick Stengel and head of the coalition communications cell at the UK foreign and commonwealth office Dan Chugg attend the 'Global Coalition Against ISIS' communication working group's conference yesterday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

## IMF URGES GULF TO ADAPT TO LOWER OIL

\$500BN LOSS SEEN FOR EXPORTERS

DUBAI: The International Monetary Fund forecast yesterday economic growth in the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council will be 1.8 percent this year, down from 3.3 percent in 2015, and urged spending cutbacks. In an interview with AFP, IMF regional chief Masood Ahmed also said the oil-exporting Gulf states should press forwards with diversifying their revenue base faced with persistent low crude prices.



DUBAI: Dr Masood Ahmed, Director of IMF Middle East and Central Asia Department, attends the IMF Regional Economic Outlook Update press conference yesterday. — AP

This year will see "a continuation of a low oil-price environment, so we are going to see further - maybe \$100 billion or so, in terms of lower revenues from oil exports" Ahmed said of the GCC which groups Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. "This is now beginning to affect not just the financing (of governments) but also the economies in terms of their economic activities," he said in Dubai, where he launched the IMF's regional economic outlook update.

The fund had projected in October that oil exporting countries in the region would see revenue losses of \$360 billion in 2015, but oil prices took a tumble by year's end and the drop in revenue amounted to \$30 billion more. In the revised economic outlook report released yesterday, the IMF said these countries will see revenues from oil exports drop even more in 2016, to between \$490 billion to \$540 billion compared to 2014, when oil prices were higher.

Oil prices have shed some 70 percent from their mid-2014 peak value to \$40 per barrel. The IMF said markets expect prices to recover modestly to \$50 by the end of this decade.

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## SALE OF STATE FIRMS REFERRED TO PROSECUTION

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: The National Assembly's public funds protection committee yesterday recommended that the sale of two state-owned companies should be referred to the public prosecution to investigate suspected corruption and violations, head of the committee said. MP Abdullah Al-Turajji said the committee had previously asked the Audit Bureau to investigate the sale contracts of Kuwait Motoring Company and Kuwait Agriculture Produce Company, both sold to private investors by their owner Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA).

The lawmaker said that the Audit Bureau report shows that the two companies were evaluated by the same official without applying the rule that requires at least three persons to make the evaluation. He said the report also shows that Kuwait Motoring Co was sold for about KD 9 million although it owns four large plots of land in Shuwaik, Khaitan, Sabahiya and Jahra ranging

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KUWAIT: National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem, lawmakers and education ministry officials take a group photo with students at the end of the 3rd round of Student Parliament yesterday. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

# DEMOCRATIC, HUMAN VALUES MUST BE TAUGHT TO CHILDREN SINCE EARLY AGE: SPEAKER

## STUDENT PARLIAMENT PROVIDES 'WINDOW TO SPEAK OUT'

**KUWAIT:** National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem said yesterday that Democratic and human values should be taught to children since early years. Ghanem said at the opening of the 3rd round of Student Parliament that the session "is a step in this direction." The top legislator added that the Student Parliament aims to give first-hand experience in parliamentary work and listen to students' points of view regarding the legislative activities and tasks.

Ghanem highlighted the importance of the initiative on promoting democracy and respect of different points of view. He added that the session was also a chance for the MPs to listen to the views of students on several issues.

Ghanem announced that the students will discuss a number of bills on the development of the educational process and the outcome of their deliberations would be referred to the parliamentary Educational Affairs Committee.

"As I said before on numerous occasions, one of the most important structural problems that would weaken any society is the widening gap between the generations. I am talking here about the distance that turns slowly into a state of isolation and alienation between generations so that the equation becomes either that young people speak but their voice is not heard or that adults speak up but no one comprehends its implications and meaning; and when these gaps widen and the common lan-

guage is lost, we turn into isolated islands," he stressed. He said "I always emphasize here that the idea is to create a forum through which we listen to this wide and important social segment of society and to their voice rather than having them hear us."

### Growing support

Meanwhile, Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Bader Al-Essa asserted that education enjoys continuous and growing support by His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Crown Prince and His Highness the Prime Minister as being the most important means of achieving sustainable development.

Essa expressed delight because educational issues are being discussed by individuals and state institutions of the Kuwaiti society, stressing that everyone is interested and eager to see education assume a higher status through coming up with proposals that would serve and elevate the educational work.

He added that the students' suggestions, such as the establishment of public universities and caring for gifted talents will be the concern of all sectors of the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Higher Education.

He expressed his confidence that the Student Parliament session would achieve its objectives and be successful. He explained that the deepening sense of loyalty to the homeland and the implementation of democracy practically as well as training students on how to deal with their

issues and exercising their right to freedom of expression objectively is the best way to promote the principles of the democratic system in the minds of students.

### Offense against society

In the meantime, Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah affirmed that the law will strictly deal with any offense against individuals of the Kuwaiti society. His remarks were in response to a student's question on a recent insult to students by a reporter. Sheikh Salman added that the reporter represents a non-Kuwaiti channel that does not own a Kuwaiti license.

### Channel for students

Ghanem said at the conclusion of the session that the Student Parliament was deemed a channel for students to voice their views and thoughts in line with constitutional and parliamentary regulations. "We have not created this (student) parliament out of showing-off. The Student Parliament has no parallel in neighboring countries," Ghanem said addressing the session. He added that the National Assembly's members spend nearly four hours with students as a sign of respect and appreciation for them and their views. The speaker voiced much pleasure at the magnificent way the students pursued to express their opinions during the session. The Student Parliament will convene again next year. — KUNA



National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem (center) and MP Mohammad Al-Huwailah (left) listen to students' arguments during the session.



A student addresses the session.



Public school students attend the 3rd round of Student Parliament.



A student carries a paper that contains a screenshot from a program broadcasted on Kuwait TV in 1982, which discusses plans to build the Shadadiya University.



(From left) Ministry of Youth Affairs Undersecretary Sheikh Al-Zain Al-Sabah, Director General of the Public Authority for Sports Sheikh Ahmad Al-Mansour Al-Sabah and Minister of Information, Minister of Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah attend the session.



MPs Mohammad Al-Enezi and Abdullah Al-Turaiji are seen in attendance.



Minister of Education Dr Bader Al-Essa talks to a student during the session.



A general view of the 3rd round of Student Parliament in progress.



A student comments on a news article regarding allowances of students in scholarships.



Two female officers from the National Assembly's guards look on as students attend the 3rd round of Student Parliament.

## GOVT OKS CLUBS' PROMOTION BILL

**KUWAIT:** The cabinet has given the thumbs up to a draft law mainly aiming at the promotion and development of national sports clubs, and sent it to His Highness the Amir before being taken to the National Assembly for final approval.

The bill, which was approved during a customary cabinet meeting held at Bayan Palace under chairmanship of Acting Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, is meant to provide annual financial support to sports clubs.

Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah said in a statement following the meeting that it would be up to the Public Authority for Sports' (PAS) board of directors to decide how much each club will get exactly.

The cabinet then approved two draft decrees pertinent to a Kuwaiti-Jordanian air service agreement and another visa agreement between Kuwait and Georgia. The cabinet also reviewed the quarterly report of the Kuwait National Fund for Small and Medium-size Enterprises (SMEs) Development for the period from December 2015 to February 2016.

### Expatriates' housing

It further discussed and lauded a recommendation on single expatriates' housing in residential areas where Kuwaiti citizens live, together with measures taken by the Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) to fight this phenomenon.

The at the onset of the meeting, the cabinet looked over a letter sent to His Highness the Amir by Montenegro's President Filip Vujanovic, which discussed cordial relations between Kuwait and the Southeastern European nation and ways to enhance them. The cabinet also welcomed Governor-General of Australia and retired senior army officer Peter Cosgrove's impending visit to the country.

Moreover, the meeting reviewed His Highness the Amir's participation in the GCC-Moroccan Summit held in the Saudi capital Riyadh last Wednesday, where GCC leaders and the Moroccan King alike reaffirmed their commitment to bolstering cooperation to achieve shared goals.

Meanwhile, the cabinet extolled the fruitful outcome of the summit, which sought to solidify GCC nations' ties with Morocco, for the betterment of the Arab world. The ministers also discussed His Highness the Amir's participation in the GCC-American Summit held in Riyadh last Thursday, with GCC leaders and US President Barack Obama in attendance. The summit highlighted the importance of persistent collaboration between the US and GCC nations to ensure peace and stability in the region.

Also during the summit, both sides vowed to take all necessary measures to exterminate terrorism and overcome all challenges. They also highlighted the importance of implementing the United Nation's resolution 2254, which calls for the unimpeded advent of humanitarian aid to besieged areas in Syria. The leaders also voiced their support of a cessation of hostilities in Yemen and the ongoing peace talks hosted by Kuwait.

### Paris agreement

The ministers then reviewed His Highness the Prime Minister's participation in the landmark signing of the Paris agreement on climate change in New York City last week. Kuwait joined the signatories of the agreement, in line with its humanitarian values.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah briefed the weekly meeting on Yemen peace talks in Kuwait, as part of efforts to leave no stone unturned to put an end to the Yemeni conflict.

The talks also aim to bring a political solution to the conflict in Yemen, one that has raged for several years, while maintaining peace and security at this critical juncture in Arab history. The cabinet hoped that stability would be restored in Yemen soon. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Dr Abdulmohsen Al-Kharafi and Adnan Al-Meneifi. — Amiri Diwan and KUNA photos



**Dr Sharifa Al-Deris presents His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah with a copy of her doctorate.**

## AMIR WELCOMES KUWAITI FIGURES

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace yesterday Dr Mahmoud Al-Azmi who handed His Highness a copy of his dissertation on a pre-university administration development strategy. His Highness also welcomed Dr Mohammad Al-Ajmi who presented His Highness with a copy of his dissertation on societal involvement in solving school management problems.

Dr Faisal Al-Mekrad was also received by His Highness the Amir, handing him a copy of his doctorate on subcontracting in administrative contracts. His Highness the Amir then welcomed Dr Sharifa Al-Deris who presented him with a copy of her doctorate on learning strategies for boosting Quranic understanding of children with special needs.

Among the Kuwaiti figures hosted by His Highness the Amir yesterday were Dr Shamayl Al-Senafi who gave His Highness the Amir a copy of her dissertation in the medical domain, and Dr Tahani Al-Said who handed His Highness the Amir a copy of her dissertation on electronic training programs for female social workers.



**His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Ambassador of Malawi to Kuwait Wilfred Ali.**

Finally, His Highness the Amir welcomed judge Faten Al-Tekheim who presented him with a copy of her doctorate on parliamentary supervision.

His Highness the Amir also received Dr Abdulmohsen Al-Kharafi and Adnan Al-Meneifi who handed him a book containing accounts of Kuwait's good people. His Highness the Amir then welcomed Ali Al-Roumi

who presented His Highness the Amir with a book on a rover's visions.

In other news, His Highness the Amir received Khaled bin Rakan Al-Hethleen, Sultan bin Salman Al-Hethleen, Mohammad bin Sultan Al-Hethleen and Shuwaireb Fahd Al-Askar. The meeting was attended by Deputy Amiri Diwan Affairs Minister Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah. He also

received Acting Premier and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received Engineer Abdulaziz Abdulatif Al-Ibrahim, as well as Khaled Al-Hethleen, Sultan Al-Hethleen, Mohammad Al-Hethleen and Shuwaireb Al-Askar. He also welcomed Dr Kharafi and Meneifi, who handed him two books; one entitled 'My Trip with Abdullah to Al-Hamad's House,' while the other is entitled 'Accounts of Kuwait's Good People.'

Also yesterday, His Highness the Crown Prince received a number of ambassadors on the occasion of assuming their new posts. They are Ambassador of Malawi to Kuwait Wilfred Ali, Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Kuwait Almas Abdramanov and the Ambassador of Pakistan Ghulam Dastagir. The meetings were attended by His Highness the Crown Prince Diwan's Protocol Chief Sheikh Mubarak Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah. His Highness the Crown Prince also received Chief of the National Security Bureau Sheikh Thamer Ali Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah. — KUNA

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in my view

## SUPERMAN OF THE 21ST CENTURY



By Khaled Al-Mutawa

There are instances of individuals who are like nations in their impact on the world. On April 25, 2016, I was fortunate enough to come in contact with such an individual, Dr Tareq Al-Swaidan, the Superman of the 21st century. Swaidan is a Kuwaiti citizen who progressively defeats the ideology of the Islamic State (IS) group by planting seeds of peace in the brains of the youth through generative projects, social dynamism and vibrant productivity based on critical and analytical self-study. The only way to defeat IS, Al-Qaeda, Taleban and other terrorist organizations is by using Swaidan's method and approach, which is: "spread a different ideology about Islam."

The US air force has fired more than 20,000 missiles and bombs since the US bombing campaign against IS began 15 months ago, according to the air force, leading to depleted munitions stockpiles and calls to ramp up funding and weapons production. Recently, the US is ramping up another campaign against Islamist terror in Iraq and Syria.

War, launching military troops to Syria and dropping missiles above the heads of brainwashed teenagers will only cause more bloodshed, loss of lives and bring undesirable outcomes. Studies have stated that the majority of IS members are teenagers - my age. According to Swaidan, the best strategy to defeat this particular extremist and poisonous ideology from spreading like cancer in the Arab region is by spreading another instructive ideology with flair and logic.

For instance, the new Islamic ideology that Swaidan introduces to the youth revolves around two major aspects:

1. Save humanity.
2. Make humanity happy.

Islam is a religion that does not correspond with terrorism with justifications and reasoning provided in following articles. Studies have shown that less than 1 percent of terrorist attacks were by Muslims in the United States. Swaidan is one of the first who came up with a solution against IS. In interviews, Swaidan labels himself as a thinker, but in my perspective, he is not. He is far more than a thinker or an Islamic preacher. Swaidan has preached to large audiences in the UK, Canada and Australia; and spoken to Western audiences at venues such as Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar and frequently supported Western and American Muslim organizations. But still, I do not perceive him as a preacher or imam.

Some people label him as a petroleum engineer, a businessman, founder of the American Creativity Academy in Kuwait, CEO of several companies or an author of dozens of self-motivational books. However my perception is distinct. I perceive him as the Superman of the 21st century with honor and sincerity. Because of founding fathers with revolutionary ideologies like these, I am hopeful for the future. I am hopeful for all the instructive ideas he has launched in the Arab world, making our institutions, constitutions and art houses a better place. Thank you Dr Tareq! Such individuals are like nations in their impact on the world. Thank you Superman.

# 10 NGOs IN SHUWAIKH FACE HQ DEMOLITION

By Nawara Fattahova

**KUWAIT:** The Kuwait House for National Works Museum along with other NGO headquarters located on street 70 in Shuwaikh will be demolished soon to complete a road development project in the area. The government gave them a deadline till July 1, 2016 to leave the buildings.

The museum hosted a press conference on Sunday evening to call on the government to extend the period for them or provide them an alternative place. The 10 affected societies are Kuwait Society for Human Rights, Kuwait Association for Accountants and Auditors, Kuwait Environment Protection Society, Kuwait Economic Society, Kuwait Society for Traffic Safety, Kuwait Association for the Employees of the Ministry of Communication, Kuwait Journalist Association, Popular Theatre, Kuwait House for National Works Museum and the Charity Society.

### Important landmark

Yousef Al-Amiri, Director of the Kuwait House for National Works Museum, said the museum is an important landmark in Kuwait that has archives of the most important period of Kuwait's history - the Iraqi invasion. "The museum was founded in 1997 under the patronage of late Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah. Some volunteers and I have collected visual and audio materials from our resources and we received financial support from the late Jassem Al-Khorafi," he noted.

The museum is very active. "We receive about 150 students daily who come on school field trips to learn about Kuwait history. Also, this museum is included in four pages of the textbooks of the fifth grade. Moreover, all foreign military delegations visiting Kuwait visit the museum, in addition to other delegations and Kuwaiti visitors and residents. We also have twinning agreements with 29 countries that have a booth of Kuwait at their museums, which is a great achievement for Kuwait," added Amiri.

Establishing this museum cost over KD 600,000. "We operate this place from our resources and donations without governmental support. Just two months ago, we newly built a hall that we haven't used yet, which cost KD 80,000, and the government wants to demolish it after two months. We call upon the prime minister to provide us an alternative place to move



**KUWAIT:** (From left) Ahmad Al-Faris, Chairman of the Kuwait Association for Accountants and Auditors, Yousef Al-Amiri, Director of the Kuwait House for National Works Museum, and Wijdan Al-Eqaab, Head of the Kuwait Environment Protection Society attend the press conference. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

to and to extend the deadline by three years. We appreciate that the government extended the period in the past but they didn't provide any replacement locations," he concluded.

### International unions

Around 135 Kuwaiti volunteers work in the 10 societies that are affected by the decision. Ahmad Al-Faris, Chairman of the Kuwait Association for Accountants and Auditors, said that the Association was founded in 1973 and serves the whole community. "We hold training courses inside and outside Kuwait and are a member of four international unions. Last week we held an important international forum in Kuwait, and if our association is demolished, then we won't be able to serve the community, as we are supervising over 60 accounting and auditing offices. The association has trained over 1,200 people and has also participated in preparing laws," he pointed out.

"As an NGO, we have limited resources, yet we have found

a place and will start building soon, but we need time. So we either need a temporary alternative place to move to or extend the period to allow us to stay till the building is ready to move," Faris added.

### Healthy environment

Wijdan Al-Eqaab, Head of the Kuwait Environment Protection Society, made the same demands. "Our society was established in 1974 and aims to protect the rights of people to live in a suitable healthy environment. We provide training, awareness and education to people and we have received hundreds of students for training. We also participated in amending the law related to the environment. Furthermore, we have many volunteers working with us and demolishing the society will make them refrain from volunteering. We have found a plot to build our new headquarters on it, but it's without any infrastructure since 12 years. So we demand to prolong the deadline," she stated.



**KUWAIT:** (From left) PADA Secretary General Dr Khaled Mahdi, UNDP Resident Representative Zineb Touimi-Benjelloun and PADA Director General Tariq Al-Shatti attend the press conference. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

## KUWAIT'S '2035 VISION' FULLY SUPPORTS DISABLED

**KUWAIT:** Director General of the Public Authority for Disabled Affairs (PADA) Tariq Al-Shatti yesterday highlighted the importance of implementing Kuwait's '2035 Vision' for the disabled and special needs, one that fully supports and assimilates them into society. In a speech during the signing of a finalized document pertaining to the disabled, in conjunction with the Supreme Council for Planning and Development (SCPD) and a special United Nations (UN)

program, Shatti said this document would help facilitate the lives of the disabled. The document, set to be implemented within three years, will be instrumental to PADA's efforts of supporting the disabled, Shatti noted. Meanwhile, Secretary General of the General Secretariat of PADA Dr Khaled Mahdi described the document as a milestone that would help eliminate any impediments to the complete assimilation of the disabled into society. — KUNA

## OOREDOO ANNOUNCES PHASE TWO OF 'WALK THE TALK' INITIATIVE

**KUWAIT:** Ooredoo Kuwait, a member of the international Ooredoo Group, has recently announced proceeding with phase two of 'Walk the talk' initiative, launched last year under the auspices of CEO and General Manager of Ooredoo Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Thani, which aims to enrich customers' experience and providing them with higher quality of service.

As part of this project, Ooredoo's Retail Sales management team has conducted a visit to Ooredoo Customer Care Division, at the company's headquarter, to listen to customers' calls and experience agents' day to day operations and provide the team with recommendations on how to better address challenges and concerns and hence; improve overall performance. This initiative comes in line with the company's customer centric strategy. Commenting on the initiative, Mijbil Alayoub, Director of Corporate Communications at Ooredoo said: "Walk the talk' initiative comes as part of the company's ongoing efforts to ensure the best possible experience for our cus-



Mijbil Alayoub

tomers. The previous visit was conducted by Ooredoo's executive managers to Customer Case Division and had a positive impact on enhancing both customers' and employees' experience. We look forward to the outcome of this phase and we are confident that it will have a positive impact on our approach moving forward".

This initiative aims to support the customer care team and to develop the operating systems and methods, which in turn will raise the standards of Ooredoo's services.

## 'WOMEN IN CORPORATE WORLD' HOSTS TWO DISCUSSION PANELS

ORGANIZED BY ALGHANIM INDUSTRIES AND GULF BANK

**KUWAIT:** Alghanim Industries and Gulf Bank are pleased to announce that the "Women in the Corporate World: Beyond the Glass Ceiling" conference, which is set to take place on Wednesday, 4 May 2016 at Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel, will host two major discussion panels. The first panel, entitled 'The Work/Life Balance' will be moderated by Nima Abu Wardeh, Columnist and award-winning broadcast journalist, and the second, 'The Role Identity' by Richard Mosley, Vice President of Global Strategy at Universum, the international employer branding company.

In a recent survey of professional women in the GCC by MCG Group, 76 percent cited a lack of flexible options as their reason for not returning to work, with more than a third stating they would start tomorrow if the right opportunities were available. 'The Work/Life Balance' panel will focus on strategies for maintaining a healthy balance between a successful career and personal life. This issue is faced by both men and women; however women often feel added pressure in striving to achieve this balance.

This 'Work/Life Balance' panel is scheduled from 6:00pm to 7:00pm on 4 May 2016, and will be moderated by Nima Abu Wardeh, with participation



Salma Al-Hajjaj

from Salma Al-Hajjaj, General Manager, Human Resources - Gulf Bank - Kuwait; Emad Al-Ablani, General Manager, Head of Group Human Resources - National Bank of Kuwait; Kristin Engvig, Founder - Women's International Networking (WIN); Dr Lubna Al-Kazi, Sociology Professor at Kuwait University and Director of the Women's Research and Studies Center; and Mona Ataya, CEO and Founder-mumzworld.com and Co-founder-bayt.com.

### Second panel

The second discussion panel, entitled 'The Role Identity', focuses on whether or not women need to



George Lambros

assume a more masculine role in order to climb the ranks in a corporate environment. This is a common occurrence as femininity is often masked so as not to be the "odd one out". HBR article "Women, Find Your Voice" 2014 mentioned "Female executives, vastly outnumbered in boardrooms and C-suites and with few role models and sponsors, report feeling alone, unsupported, outside their comfort zones, and unable to advocate forcefully for their perspectives in many high-level meetings."

This 'Role Identity' panel is scheduled from 8:15pm to 9:00pm on 4 May 2016, and will be moderated by Richard Mosley with participation from Eaman Al Awadhi, Director of Corporate Communications- KIPCO Group; Khalid Al-Khudair, CEO and Founder - Glowork; Lubna Qassim, Executive Vice President, Group Company Secretary and General Counsel- Emirates NBD; Najla Al Shirawi, CEO- Securities and Investment Co.; and Dr Alanoud Al-Sharikh, author and academic.

### Inspirational leaders

Chief Human Resources Officer at Alghanim Industries, George Lambros said: "Alghanim Industries is proud to be co-hosting this conference with

Gulf Bank and bringing together inspirational thought leaders from around the region and the world to share their experiences. By understanding the unique challenges that women face in the corporate world, employers will be better equipped to design and implement workplace practices that enable women to build long and rewarding careers. Improving gender diversity in the corporate environment is a global challenge, and Alghanim Industries is eager to push this crucial initiative to the forefront."

General Manager of Human Resources at Gulf Bank, Salma Al-Hajjaj said, "In partnership with Alghanim Industries, we've recently completed a Kuwait-wide survey of women in the workplace and the results will be released at the conference. It will address the issues and obstacles women are facing in the corporate world. At Gulf Bank we are committed to recruiting and retaining the best talent, as well as increasing gender parity. We know that investing in our employees and ensuring the workplace is gender diverse is important for not only us, but all businesses."

"Women in the Corporate World: Beyond the Glass Ceiling," is a non-profit conference which will bring together key influential international, regional, and local leaders together to discuss the important issue of gender diversity in the workplace. The conference will include keynote speakers and panel discussions, providing a networking platform to exchange various ideas on achieving success in the corporate environment.

For information about the conference and registration, please visit: [www.womeninthecorporateworld.com](http://www.womeninthecorporateworld.com) and follow Instagram account: @GDC2016

For inquiries and partnership opportunities, please contact [events@alghanim.com](mailto:events@alghanim.com).



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# MINISTRY ADVISOR ARRESTED FOR RECEIVING KD 120,000 IN BRIBES

## DUO FORGED DOCUMENTS TO ISSUE 247 PERMITS ILLEGALLY

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** Police yesterday arrested an advisor at the Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW) who received around KD 120,000 in bribes in order to pass illegal transactions for companies that have contract with the ministry. The suspect, identified as Nabeel Ibrahim, Egyptian, took advantage of his job that authorized him to supervise projects that the ministry signs with companies to pass transactions of violating companies in exchange of money, the Interior Ministry's Relations and Security Media Department said in a statement. The man pled guilty during questioning and was sent to the public prosecution for further action.



**KUWAIT:** This handout photo shows Nabeel Ibrahim, an advisor at the Ministry of Electricity and Water who was arrested for receiving bribes to pass illegal transactions.

**Work permits**  
In other news, detectives arrested two people for committing forgery that allowed them to issue 247 permits for workers in a farm. The suspects, Egyptian, forged documents obtained by the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources to specify the number of workers that their farm needs. They changed the workers' number in the documents to '300' then proceeded to issue 247 work permits with the relevant labor authorities, the Interior Ministry's Residency Affairs Investigations Department said.

Police first arrested some of the workers who said that they paid a middleman and a mandoub (representative) in order to obtain their visas. The two were arrested and confessed during questioning that they collected between KD 1,200 and KD 1,350 for each transaction, then split the money with the farm's owner.

**Forged ID**

Detectives arrested a Pakistani man for forgery of official documents. Information was received about forgery of a mandoub's (company representative) ID card, who used it to submit a residency extension transaction for an Indian national. When checked, it was discovered that a man called Sharazad gave his ID card to another expat of the



Weapons and ammunition confiscated inside a man's house who had kept them without a license.

same nationality named Shawkat Tanweer, who forged it and put details of his private company on it, because he does not have a mandoub's ID for his company. The suspects were sent to concerned authorities.

**Weapons' possession**

Weapons detectives arrested a Kuwaiti man with possession of unlicensed weapons and ammunition, who was sentenced to two years in jail on drugs charges. Investigations revealed that the citizen had the weapons, then following legal procedures, his Sabahiya house was searched and four AK-47s, six pistols, a shotgun and air rifle and 14 AK-47 magazines and ammunitions, in addition to a quantity of illicit drugs were found. The suspect and the contraband are being sent to concerned authorities.

**Car fire**

A vehicle caught fire on the Fifth Ring Road near Omariya, prompting Farwaniya center to respond. The fire was put out without injuries. An investigation was opened to determine the causes of the fire.

**Traffic campaign**

The Interior Ministry's General Traffic Department carried out several surprise campaigns last week resulting in recording 44,983 violations, 1918 vehicles impounded, five wanted cars impounded, eight motorcycles impounded, 83 persons detained at the traffic jail, while seven persons were sent for deportation for driving without a driving license.



This handout picture shows two people who were arrested for forging documents to issue 247 permits for workers in a farm.

# EPA: NO BBQS ON KUWAITI ISLANDS

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** Chairman of the Environment Public Authority (EPA) Sheikh Abdullah Al-Humoud Al-Sabah called for 'regulating' barbecuing on Kuwaiti coasts and islands. In a letter he sent to Kuwait Municipality's director, Sheikh Abdullah said that a meeting had been held including the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR), Kuwait Municipality and the Touristic Enterprises Company (TEC) to discuss regulating the locations and activities of barbecuing on various islands and on coastal areas and that each of them was asked to present a plan accordingly. Sheikh Abdullah stressed the need to ban barbecuing on southern islands, which are Kubbar, Garouh and Um Al-Maradem, in order to protect their natural beauty and regulate this activity in other areas. Notably, the Municipality's coordination manager Aatif Al-Matrouf had presided a meeting to discuss designating places for barbecuing in public places, yards, facilities and the seafront.

**Kuwaiti nurses**

After receiving the board of directors of Kuwait Nursing Society (KNS) headed by Bandar Nashmi Al-Enezi, Health

Minister Dr Ali Al-Obaidi announced his approval of granting Kuwaiti nursing staff members two days off a week instead of one after a one-year experiment in this regard succeeded. Commenting on the decision, Enezi praised Obaidi's decision and said that he also promised to try applying the same system with bedoon and GCC nurses soon pending including them if it succeeded.

Enezi said that the new board of directors discussed various important issues with the minister including having the youth take up nursing as a career, and reshuffling and referring those who had been in service for a long time to retirement. "The minister promised to study these proposals," he added, noting that KNS would meet the minister soon to follow up on these demands.

**Advisor**

MP Mohammed Tana Al-Enezi yesterday filed an inquiry to Deputy Prime Minister, Finance Minister and Acting Oil Minister Anas Al-Saleh over appointing an Egyptian advisor in the oil sector. The lawmaker had previously raised questions about violations the advisor had allegedly committed while working for the public authority for the disabled and had the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor (MSAL) dismiss him.

# MP DASHTI REMANDED FOR 10 DAYS ONCE ARRESTED

By Meshal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** The public prosecution yesterday ordered detaining MP Abdulhameed Dashti for 10 days starting from the day he is arrested over a case filed against him by the Saudi embassy in Kuwait. Dashti is currently out of Kuwait, and an arrest warrant was already issued to arrest him as soon as he steps foot into Kuwait. Notably, both Saudi Arabia and Bahrain have filed state security cases accusing Dashti of undermining brotherly relations among the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states.



Abdulhameed Dashti

in Kuwait and forcing them work in prostitution. Ghanem urged the ministry to take such stories seriously to protect Kuwait's image as a 'humanitarian center'. Ghanem also called for activating law number 91/2013 pertaining with human trafficking and immigrant smuggling and to take it more seriously to make sure people committing such crimes would not get away unpunished.

"Kuwait passed law 91/2013 as a leading one in fighting human trafficking and people smuggling in the Arab region, but in view of the spread of visa trafficking, it is not enforced enough and need to be activated to protect immigrant labor rights," he underlined. Ghanem added that represented by the Manpower Public Authority, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor (MSAL) had referred 51 suspects to the public prosecution over charges of abusing workers in 2014 and that it had also referred 34 others over charges of human trafficking.

"No verdicts have been so far issued against any of those suspects," he remarked, noting that the public prosecution had described the charges the suspects are facing as violating personal liberty rather than 'forced labor', and accordingly, they were punished according to the private sector labor act and other penal laws instead of law 91/2013.

Ghanem stressed the importance of developing the skills of judges, investigators and police officers in handling human trafficking cases through proper training, conferences and workshops. He also urged the media to keep playing a basic role in boosting public awareness about this crime and its danger and to boost awareness of immigrant laborers, namely domestic helpers, in various languages to help them avoid falling victim to such crimes.

Ghanem said KHRs will soon launch an awareness project under the title "Together to Enlighten Immigrant Laborers about their Rights in Kuwait" in several languages to help laborers develop enough knowledge about their rights and provide them with legal consultancy to contribute to reduce violations of their rights as well as to improve the image of human rights in Kuwait.

**Mosque blast**

The Cassation Court yesterday postponed passing its final ruling in the Al-Sadeq Mosque bombing case until May 30. Notably, on Sept 15, the comprehensive court had previously sentenced seven suspects to death, acquitted 14 others and sentenced eight others to 2 to 15 years in prison. Separately, a case was filed against a female citizen slandering Bedouins in a video she posted on social media networks that has been circulating over the past few days.

Kuwait Digest

# EDUCATION NEEDS DISCIPLINE

By Talal Al-Ghannam



local@kuwaittimes.net

**G**ood morning dear and honorable brothers and sisters. Today's article is a little bit different from the previous ones which tackled mostly wrongdoings in public places, some of which are associated with the traffic department. The title of this article 'Education Needs Disciples' has been in my mind for a long time, and I wanted to dedicate adequate time and effort to address it rather than writing a paragraph or two about it.

I think the article's title says it all, and anyone who reads the title would for sure get an idea about what I will be talking about here. The Education Ministry's name in Arabic literally translates to 'Ministry of Disciple.' I do not see why officials would not take the matter seriously and change the name to be the Discipline and Education Ministry instead of education alone.

Nowadays, I hear so many incidents and wrongdoings taking place in various government schools for our kids by some of the teachers who are supposed to set a good example to be followed by the students and others. Personally, my little kids keep telling me every day: "Dad, I want to tell you something that happened in school." "Ya Allah what now?" I answer. They reply by saying that one of the teachers yelled at them and told them to stand by the garbage can as punishment. Some teachers also call students names of all animals in the universe. Some also threaten the little ones if they did not bring a project or do the homework. So, after this, would you expect the kids to like school?

The teachers who do not tolerate, be kind or friendly with the kids must sit at home or go seek advice from a psychologist because our kids are our future. I also hear some little ones repeating insults every now and then. When asked why they say these words, they reply by saying that they heard them from the teachers, believing that those must be good words because they believe that teachers will always say good and respectable things.

Lastly, in the seventies and eighties of the past century, teachers were like angels. They used to beat us when we did wrong, and our parents never objected. Instead, they would tell the teachers and principal to discipline us. So, now we bore the fruits of their discipline to us, and this can be seen obviously in our respect to them. Whereas nowadays, many of the teachers fear the young students because they can be subjected to questioning or sued by the parents. Many young students now know very well how to punish the teachers if they do not give them good marks through burning their cars' tires or even damaging their vehicles. Many teachers now park their cars in nearby areas and come walking to school in fear of that. This is something I was personally told by an expatriate teacher.

Until the next article insha Allah.



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## Crime

Report

## THREE ARRESTED ON SCAM CHARGES

**KUWAIT:** Criminal detectives led by Major General Mahmoud Al-Tabbakh arrested three Arab nationals who conned victims by selling an electronic device they made buyers believe was worth KD 300, offering it to them for KD 50, although the device is worth only KD 30. Several citizens and expats filed complaints that they were cheated. Investigations identified a person, who was arrested. The man then confessed regarding the names of his two partners.

## Reckless driver

Interior Ministry Assistant Undersecretary for Traffic Affairs Major General Abdullah Al-Muhanna ordered the detention of a reckless driver after he held a 'show' on Fahaaheel Expressway. The driver's car was also impounded. A security source said that traffic officers rejected all 'wasta' attempts to free the youth.

## Officer attacked

A police officer who works in a 'sensitive department' complained that he was attacked while on duty. The officer gave police the details of the citizen who attacked him and deliberately rammed his car, chasing him and filming him with his mobile. The officer said he showed the attacker his ID, but he kept pursuing him and ramming his car, until both reached Nugra police station.

## Pedestrian mugged

Hawally prosecutor asked detectives to look for unidentified persons who robbed a Bangladeshi man while posing as detectives. The victim told police he was robbed of KD 267. — Al-Anbaa

## WORKERS WHO SPURNED STRIKE TO BE REWARDED

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Petroleum Corporation CEO Nizar Al-Adsani sent an urgent letter to KOC, KNPC, KOTC and PIC CEOs over the workers' recent strike and asked them for the names of workers who were at work during the strike, as oil sources expected this request aims at rewarding them. Meanwhile, union sources said KPC's intentions to reward workers who worked during the strike is a provocative matter for striking workers, and it comes out of pressuring the "strikers" who were demanding their rights, according to the sources.

Meanwhile, informed sources said today will be decisive for workers in the oil sector and their representatives from oil unions, as expectations regarding results of the government committee headed by State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah, which is entrusted with ending the workers' demands on a legal basis, is expected to sign a document or an agreement between unions' representatives and KPC to end the dispute.

Union source said if guarantees to meet the workers' demands, based on which the strike was ended, are not given, all options will be available for further escalation. They said oil unions have eight major demands and will not drop or negotiate over them, because they were made on sound legal basis, court rulings and ratified agreements, including annual increases, personal grades, car advantages and the government's undertaking to exclude the oil sector from the strategic payroll alternative. — Al-Qabas

## NO DOCTORS' STRIKE

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Medical Association said that there are no plans for doctors to go on strike, adding that negotiations with concerned authorities is the best way to bring views closer, while keeping the state's higher interest in mind. Secretary General of the Association Dr Mohammad Al-Qinae said the association is the legal and legitimate representative of doctors, "so any statement issued in the name of doctors from outside the association will not be considered and is a legal violation". Qinae said KMA is the body that defends doctors' rights and continues to defend them to achieve all goals that enhance medical services. — Al-Rai

## 1,281 TO STOP RECEIVING HOUSING ALLOWANCES

**KUWAIT:** The process of controlling the payment of rent allowance for non-deserving people at the Public Authority Housing Welfare stopped 1,281 applications registered since nearly 30 years, as applicants exhausted all opportunities and alternatives provided by the authority from that time until today.

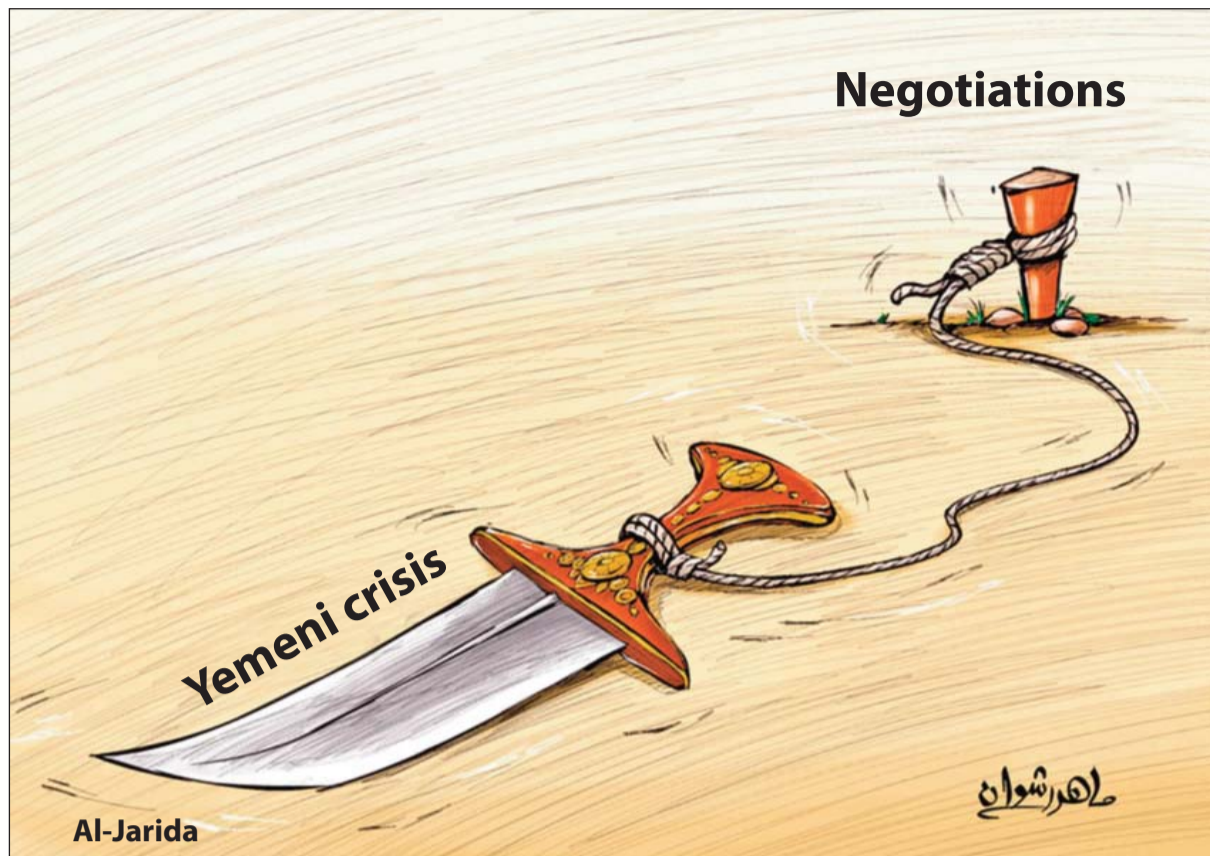
An informed source at the authority said this measure completes the steps of the authority to control payment of rent allowance, the latest of which is implementing a new electronic system that compels citizens to update their data every two years to guarantee continuity of allowance payment. The source said the payment halt included applications registered from 1985 until 1997, estimated at KD 200,000 per month the authority paid to citizens. He said the housing authority stopped payments to citizens who were found not serious in applying for housing. — Al-Rai

## SUSPECT BLAMES BIPOLAR DISORDER FOR OFFENSIVES

**KUWAIT:** 'Abu Rifaa' is known not only in Kuwait, but also in the wider Arab world. He is a suspect in jail, awaiting a court sentence, and is also awaiting a psychiatric report to determine his mental condition. He became famous overnight and is considered 'number one' locally on Snapchat with 4.8 million followers. The irony is that Abu Rifaa did not seek to become famous, while those who have sought fame haven't got this number of followers.

As for the insults he wrote on his personal account, he said: "My brain was on leave, and I went through circumstances that broke my back. I was treating seven of my family members who suffer from bipolar disorder to a point when I could not bear with it and I got the disease."

He swore that he cannot respond completely to his treatment and cannot sleep comfortably because he regrets what he said, though he was not aware of what he was saying, as he claims. He added: "Is there a sane person who swears at his mother?! I swore at my mother and family, but I was not aware of what I was doing, and I ask forgiveness from all." — Al-Qabas



**KUWAIT:** Waleed Al-Khashti, Zain's Corporate Communications and Relations Director (right) is pictured with Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah at the event.

## ZAIN CONCLUDES SPONSORSHIP OF KUWAIT GRAND PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

COMPANY SUPPORTED NATIONWIDE CONTEST FOR THIRD YEAR

**KUWAIT:** Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, successfully concluded its official sponsorship of the Kuwait Grand Photography Contest for the third year running. The contest, considered the largest of its kind in the country, came under the patronage of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

Zain took part in awarding first place winners during the conclusion ceremony, which was attended by the Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, who in turn honored Zain for its support to the contest for three consecutive years.

During his speech at the conclusion ceremony, Waleed Al-Khashti, Zain's Corporate Communications

and Relations Director said: "Zain would like to recognize the efforts of the organizers of Kuwait Grand Photography Contest for successfully holding the third version of this renowned contest."

Khashti added: Believe in the importance of contributing to the development of the arts in the community, and this is why the company was keen on supporting and encouraging this contest. Zain wishes all winners the best of luck in their creative careers, and we will continue to be a main supporter of such initiatives that cater to developing youth's creative skills."

Zain's support of this competition for three consecutive years came as part of its endless efforts to highlight and support Kuwaiti youth's hidden talents, especially

that photography is a hobby that has tremendous widespread among youth in Kuwait.

The previous two editions of Kuwait Grand Photography Contest witnessed overwhelming local and regional success. This year's contest witnessed its international launch with participation of judges from Kuwait, Oman, USA, UK, China, and Italy.

Zain's sponsorship of the contest springs from the company's core belief that equipping young people with skills and tools necessary to help them navigate their future lives is an opportunity it should not pass on. Photography is developing to become a well-recognized and regarded profession and Zain is keen to support its further development within the local community.

## NBK SHABAB PROGRAM WELCOMES TENTH BATCH OF FRESH KUWAITI GRADUATES

**KUWAIT:** National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) recently welcomed the tenth batch of trainees in the Shabab Training Program. This intensive program is specially designed to develop the skills of newly recruited diploma holding graduates.

NBK Shabab Training Program extends over a period of two months. The program is tailored to provide young Kuwaitis who recently joined the bank with theoretical and practical skills covering the different aspects of the banking industry.

NBK Shabab program falls within

the framework of NBK's strategy to attract and hire qualified nationals. This program aims at improving young Kuwaiti skills in order to prepare them as highly qualified Kuwaiti banking leaders of the future.

Annually, NBK offers many training programs including NBK Academy, the Summer Internship Program and the first of its kind NBK's Advanced Academy for High Fliers Program that teaches key skills including strategic thinking, leadership skills, building a culture of excellence, management of change and innovation as well as

financial management. In collaboration with the renowned Harvard University, NBK also organizes an executive training program in line with the bank's commitment to developing and investing in its key resource and human capital.

NBK maintains its leading position as one of the country's largest employers in the private sector. NBK continues its efforts to provide career and training opportunities for nationals and to support the country's aim to encourage young Kuwaitis to assume roles in the private sector.



**Mohammed Khaled Al-Othman, NBK's Deputy General Manager, Consumer Banking Group along with NBK officials in a group photo with the new trainees.**

## Al-Anbaa

## A MESSAGE FROM KUWAIT'S DAUGHTER...

By Nermin Al-Houti

**D**uring the 1980s, air traffic controllers in the United States of America, which is the country of laws and human rights, decided to carry out a full strike, which would've halted operations at all airports across America, and life would've come to a standstill. Despite the warning by the government, the union did not heed it and decided to go ahead with the strike. Then one day before the strike, President Reagan issued a historic decision which did not happen in any country in the world - the termination of all air traffic controllers across the United States in one day and asked the military to take over as they were trained. At this point, all air traffic controllers found themselves out on the street without a job.

The government refused to rehire them despite their pleas, and new controllers were trained to assume duties from the military. This is the story that many Kuwaitis recalled with on the evening of April 17 through WhatsApp and other social media to express their anger towards some workers in the oil sector.

We are not writing these words in order to suppress freedoms, and we will not pause in front of those who want to complain, but our words are written with sadness towards what we saw, read and heard - the day the citizen cared about his own interest, ignoring that of the state had come. Yes, this is what happened Sunday morning when some workers in the oil sector gathered and refused to work and made threats - but against whom? Regretfully, and I write it with pain, to the "country" - and for what? For some dinars!

Kuwait is our mother and society, so how can anyone threaten his family? This is what we saw Sunday morning when the strikers came with daggers to kill their mother! I will not go into details, because many wrote in favor or against the strike, but today I will write in the name of Kuwait's daughter a message to every individual who wants to change the history of my homeland: If you are oppressed or feel it, and have documents that prove this, go to court and defend your right by law and not by hooliganism. I did not hear my grandfathers and fathers that the people of Kuwait have taken the road of grudges towards Kuwait and its people, rather it is known about us, and this is what makes every Kuwaiti proud, is that we are forgiving people, peace-loving and generous.

But today there come those who want to change the history of my country - sorry, we will not allow you to change the attributes of Kuwait and its people. This is how we were raised, and this is how we will remain for the sake of Kuwait, not for a few dinars.

— Translated by Kuwait Times

## News

In brief

## Teachers summer salaries in May

**KUWAIT:** Teachers in public schools will receive their pay for the three-month summer holiday with May's salary, Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Bader Al-Essa announced. This covers both Kuwaiti and expatriate teachers working in public schools.

## 'Sectarian' cleric deported

**KUWAIT:** A Jordanian cleric was suspended and deported after expressing sectarian opinions in public, sources said. Minister of Justice, Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Yaqoub Al-Sane issued orders to have cleric Mashour Suleiman suspended after the latter made sectarian comments on social media recently, in addition to making similar remarks in the past.

## Security cards

**KUWAIT:** Stateless residents or 'Bedoons' registered in the 1980 and 1985 censuses and who have security restrictions against them will soon receive new security cards that have a validity of 13 months and are nonrenewable. Once the cards expire, nearly 9,000 bedoons who hold them will be required to legalize their status, according to sources. A stateless residents with 'security restrictions' means that he or she has a criminal record or security reason barring him from being considered for naturalization. A 'bedoon' in this case is given a security card as the only form of identification.

## Two choices

**KUWAIT:** Interior Ministry officers who own businesses will soon be given a choice to either resign from the force or close their business ventures. A list containing names of officers who own companies in violation of the law will soon be referred to Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah to take necessary action against them.

## Cigarette causes fire

**KUWAIT:** Cigarette pots caused a fire at the Shadadiya University's site a few days ago, according to preliminary investigations. The fire started at the basement of a college under construction after a cigarette was thrown at some lumber inside, said Lieutenant General Yousuf Al-Ansari, Director General of the Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFSD).

## Bedoon teachers

**KUWAIT:** The Education Ministry's Acting Assistant Undersecretary for Administrative Affairs and Administrative Development Yousuf Al-Najjar said there is coordination with the Justice Ministry to determine the marital status of 49 female bedoon teachers in order to re-adjust their housing allowance. Najjar also announced the approval of financial rights for six committees and the ministry's working teams. — Al-Rai

## Shell's contract

**KUWAIT:** After two years of investigations by the prosecution, Prosecutor General Dherar Al-Asousi ordered the complaint submitted by former Oil Minister Hani Hussein with regards to Shell Oil Co be shelved, because it did not have what constitutes a crime. An informed source said the prosecution found that the events mentioned in the complaint were administrative, so it decided to shelve the complaint. — Al-Jarida



**Pakistani Sikh politician killed by Hindu rival - not Taliban**

WHITE HOUSE TO RELEASE SECRET PAGES FROM 9/11 INQUIRY

## ARAB COALITION KILLS 800 QAEDA FIGHTERS

### YEMEN GOVERNMENT FORCES MAKE GAINS

**MARIB:** Yemeni troops backed by Arab coalition air strikes killed more than 800 members of Al-Qaeda in an attack on a southeastern provincial capital held by the group for the past year, the coalition said yesterday. Pro-government forces recaptured an oil terminal as well as the city of Mukalla, which was considered a jihadist stronghold, military sources said. "The operation resulted... in the death of more than 800 Al-Qaeda members and some of their leaders, while some others fled," Arab coalition commanders said in a statement published by SPA, the official Saudi news agency.

The death toll could not be independently confirmed and no indication was given of civilian casualties. The operation was part of a wider offensive aimed at securing parts of the country captured by jihadist militants who have exploited a 13-month war between Gulf-backed loyalists and rebels supported by Iran. It coincides with UN-brokered peace talks in Kuwait after a ceasefire entered into effect on April 11, but from which jihadists groups are excluded.

"We entered the city centre (of Mukalla) and were met by no resistance from Al-Qaeda militants who withdrew west" towards the vast desert in Hadramawt and Shabwa provinces, a military officer told AFP by phone from the city the jihadists seized last April. The officer, who requested anonymity, said residents of Mukalla, home to an estimated 200,000 people, had appealed to the jihadists to spare the city the destruction of fighting and to withdraw. Yemeni military sources said Emirati military vehicles were used in the operation and that troops from the Gulf country, a key member of the Saudi-led coalition, were among the forces that entered Mukalla.

AFP could not immediately confirm these reports from officials in the United Arab Emirates. The Arab coalition battling rebels in Yemen since March 2015 carried out air strikes against Al-Qaeda positions in Mukalla to pave the way for the ground troops, military sources said. Troops also recaptured Mina Al-Dhaba oil terminal in Shehr further east, the sources said. Earlier Sunday, military sources said pro-govern-

ment forces seized Riyan airport and an army brigade headquarters Al-Qaeda had held for a year on Mukalla's outskirts.

Yemen-based Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) is regarded by Washington as the network's most dangerous branch, and has carried out deadly attacks on the West in the past. Last month, a US air strike on an Al-Qaeda training camp in Hadramawt province killed dozens of fighters in a major blow to the jihadists. A provincial official in Shabwa said jihadists also fled from the town of Azzan on Sunday which they seized in February.

#### Bomb kills 7 troops

As the anti-jihadist offensive gained momentum, a bomb-laden vehicle exploded Sunday, killing seven soldiers and wounding 14. They were in a convoy entering another southern jihadist stronghold-Zinjibar, capital of Abyan province, said military sources, blaming Al-Qaeda for the attack. The coalition, led by Sunni powerhouse Saudi Arabia, has

deployed Apache helicopters to support loyalists fighting on the ground. Forces loyal to internationally recognised President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi's government have retreated from Zinjibar after entering it late Saturday, an officer in Abyan said. "The withdrawal was decided following information that Al-Qaeda was preparing other car-bomb attacks against our troops," added the officer who requested anonymity.

Coalition-backed forces have also driven militants from Aden, the southern city declared by Hadi as Yemen's temporary capital after the Shiite Huthi rebels overran Sanaa in September 2014. And last week, government forces expelled AQAP militants from Huta, the provincial capital of Lahj. When US President Barack Obama met Gulf leaders on Thursday in Saudi Arabia, they discussed the wars in Yemen and Syria. During the visit, Ben Rhodes, one of Obama's closest advisers, urged all warring sides in Yemen to participate "constructively" in the Kuwait talks that began on Thursday, saying that a political solution would "allow for a focus on AQAP in Yemen".—AFP



**Forces loyal to the Saudi-backed Yemeni president flash their arms on a road on the entrance to Abyan province as they take part in an operation to drive Al-Qaeda fighters out of the southern provincial capital. — AFP**

### AFGHANISTAN PRESIDENT BLASTS TALEBAN 'SLAVES'

**KABUL:** President Ashraf Ghani said Afghanistan faced a terrorist enemy led by Taliban "slaves" in Pakistan in a somber speech to parliament yesterday that nonetheless left the door open to resuming peace talks with parts of the Taliban. Addressing a joint session of the two houses of parliament following a Taliban bomb blast that killed at least 64 people and wounded hundreds in Kabul on Tuesday, Ghani branded the insurgents criminals fighting the legitimate government.

But he stopped short of declaring a state of national emergency, pledging war against radical groups like Islamic State, usually known in Afghanistan as Daesh, or the Haqqani network while suggesting there was still some hope of compromise with at least some Taliban. "The enemies of Afghanistan are Daesh, al Qaeda, the murderous Haqqani network and some of the Taliban who enjoy shedding the blood of countrymen," he said.

He added that the doors of negotiation would remain open for those Taliban ready to stop bloodshed but added: "This opportunity will not be there forever." He said Taliban leaders sheltering in the western Pakistani cities of Peshawar and Quetta were "slaves and enemies of Afghanistan who shed the blood of their countrymen" and he called on the government in Islamabad to wipe them out. He did not say whose slaves he thought the Taliban were, but his predecessor, Hamid Karzai, frequently accused Pakistan of harboring the Taliban and supporting other militant groups such Haqqani network. Pakistan denies harboring and aiding the Taliban but Ghani urged its government to "fulfill promises and carry out military operations against those whose bases are in Pakistan". The response from the Taliban, who have already rejected peace talks while Western forces remain in Afghanistan, was scornful. "The nation is not blind, people understand who the slave is and who works for the interest of others," spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said in a tweet. After a year that saw 11,000 civilian casualties and some 5,500 members of the security forces killed fighting the Taliban, the distinction may make little concrete difference to the fighting on the ground.

But two weeks after the Taliban announced the start of their annual spring offensive and then followed up with the biggest single attack seen in Kabul since 2011, there had been wide speculation among politicians in Kabul that Ghani could declare the stalled peace process formally dead. The Taliban, who ruled Afghanistan with an iron fist from 1996 to 2001, are seeking to topple the Western-backed government in Kabul and reimpose Islamic rule.

Ghani's speech came at a time of growing apprehension in Kabul at the prospect of more intense fighting over the summer months. Over recent days, Afghan security forces have fought back Taliban attacks on Kunduz, the northern city that briefly fell to the insurgents last year. Large parts of the southern province of Helmand are now in insurgent hands and there has been heavy fighting in several other provinces from Herat in the west to Kunar in the east. Ghani said security forces, fighting alone since the end of NATO's main combat mission in 2014, were in a stronger position than last year and said a permanent minister of defense and head of the main intelligence agency would be appointed soon.—Reuters



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## US GOVT TO RELEASE SECRET PAGES FROM 9/11 INQUIRY

**WASHINGTON:** The Obama administration will soon release at least part of a 28 page secret chapter from a congressional inquiry into 9/11 that may shed light on possible Saudi connections to the attackers. The documents, kept in a secure room in the basement of the Capitol, contain information from the joint congressional inquiry into "specific sources of foreign support for some of the Sept 11 hijackers while they were in the United States."

Bob Graham, who was co-chairman of that bipartisan panel, and others say the documents point suspicion at the Saudis. President Barack Obama has hinted the administration might soon release at least part of the documents, noting that James Clapper, national director of intelligence, has been reviewing the classified pages. The disclosure would come at a time of strained US relations with Saudi Arabia, a long-time American ally. "I hope that decision is to honor the American people and make it available," Graham told NBC's "Meet the Press" on Sunday. "The most important unanswered question of 9/11 is, did these 19 people conduct this very sophisticated plot alone, or were they supported?"



**FLORIDA:** Bob Graham speaks in Gainesville, Fla in this file photo. The Obama administration will likely soon release at least part of a 28-page secret chapter from a congressional inquiry into 9/11 that may shed light on possible Saudi connections to the attackers. Graham and others say the documents point suspicion at the Saudis. — AP

### Preliminary police report

Tim Roemer, who was a member of both the joint congressional inquiry as well as the 9/11 Commission and has read the secret chapter three times, described the 28 pages as a "preliminary police report." "There were clues. There were allegations. There were witness reports. There was evidence about the hijackers, about people they met with - all kinds of different things that the 9/11 Commission was then tasked with reviewing and investigating," the former Democratic congressman from Indiana said Friday.

Fifteen of the 19 hijackers were citizens of Saudi Arabia. The Saudi government says it has been "wrongfully and morbidly accused of complicity" in the attacks, is fighting extremists and working to clamp down on their funding channels. Still, the Saudis have long said that they would welcome declassification of the 28 pages because it would "allow us to respond to any allegations in a clear and credible manner." The pages were withheld from the 838-page report on the orders of President George W. Bush, who said the release could divulge intelligence sources and methods. Still, protecting US-Saudi

diplomatic relations also was believed to have been a factor.

Speaking of the Clapper review, Ben Rhodes, Obama's deputy national security adviser, said "when that's done we'd expect that there will be some degree of declassification that provides more information." Neither the congressional inquiry nor the subsequent 9/11 Commission found any evidence that the Saudi government or senior Saudi officials knowingly supported those who orchestrated the attacks that killed nearly 3,000 people. But Graham, the relatives of victims and some lawmakers think there is reason to further probe possible Saudi links.

Roemer said many questions remain about the roles of Fahad Al Thumairy, an official at the Saudi consulate in Los Angeles who allegedly helped two of the hijackers find housing and transportation after they arrived in Southern California. Al Thumairy was later denied entry into the United States in May 2003 after the State Department alleged that he might be involved in terrorist activity. Roemer also wants to know more about Omar Al Bayoumi, who was strongly suspected of being a Saudi spy and was alleged to have been helpful to the hijackers.

A fertile ground  
"We did not discover ... Saudi government involvement at the highest level of the 9/11 attacks," Roemer said. But he added: "We certainly did not exonerate the Saudis. ... Saudi was a fertile ground for fundraising for Al-Qaeda. Some of these issues continue to be problems today. That's why we need to continue to get to the bottom of this." An Internet site pushing to get the documents released, 28pages.org, points to another document declassified in July 2015 that outlined ways in which the commission could examine possible Saudi links. That 47-page document lists several pages of individuals of interest and suggests questions that could be pursued. One name is suspected Al-Qaeda operative Ghassan Al Sharbi.

Al Sharbi, who was taking flight lessons in the Phoenix area before 9/11, was captured in 2002 in the same place in Pakistan as Abu Zubaydah, a top Al-Qaeda trainer who was apprehended and waterboarded dozens of times by US interrogators. The document said that after Al Sharbi was captured, the FBI discovered some documents buried nearby. One was Al Sharbi's pilot certificate inside an envelope from the Saudi Embassy in Washington, although it's unclear whether the license had been mailed by the embassy or if the envelope was simply being reused.

A CIA inspector-general report in June 2015 said there had been no reliable information confirming Saudi government "involvement with and financial support for terrorist prior to 9/11." But it said also that people in the CIA's Near East Division and Counterterrorism Center "speculated that dissident sympathizers within the government may have aided Al-Qaeda." The rest of the chapter, titled "Issues Related to Saudi Arabia," is blacked out. A bill directing the president to release the 28-page chapter was introduced in the Senate, and nearly three dozen Republicans and Democrats in the House are backing a similar resolution.

Reps Walter Jones, R-NC, Stephen Lynch, D-Mass, and Thomas Massie, R-Ky wrote Obama last week saying they don't think releasing the chapter will harm national security and could provide closure for the victims' families. California Rep. Adam Schiff, the top Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee, has read the pages and said this past week that while he wants to see them declassified to end speculation about what they say, releasing them will not quell the debate over the issue.—AP



**NEW HAVEN:** Democratic presidential candidate Sen Bernie Sanders, I-Vt, high-fives supporters during a campaign rally on New Haven Green in New Haven, Conn on Sunday, April 24, 2016. — AP

## US DELEGATE MATH

### HOW TUESDAY COULD CLOSE DOOR ON SANDERS BID

**WASHINGTON:** Hillary Clinton can't win enough delegates today to officially knock Bernie Sanders out of the presidential race, but she can erase any lingering honest doubts about whether she'll soon be the Democratic nominee. After her victory in New York this past week, Clinton has a lead over Sanders of more than 200 pledged delegates won in primaries and caucuses. As she narrowed Sanders' dwindling opportunities to catch up, Clinton continued to build on her overwhelming support among superdelegates - the party officials who are free to back any candidate they choose.

In the past two days, Clinton picked up 11 more endorsements from superdelegates, according to an Associated Press survey. Factoring in superdelegates, Clinton's lead stands at 1,941 to 1,191 for Sanders, according to the AP count. That puts her at 81 percent of the 2,383 delegates needed to win the nomination. At stake today are 384 delegates in primaries in Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania and Rhode Island. This group of contests offers Sanders one of the last chances on the election calendar to gain ground in pledged delegates and make a broader case to superdelegates to support him.

Yet it appears Clinton could do well enough today to end the night with 90 percent of the delegates needed to win the nomination, leaving her just 200 or so shy. The Sanders campaign knows a tough battle awaits in those five states and says it will reassess its campaign after today. If Sanders fails to win significantly in the latest primaries,

he won't have another chance to draw closer in a big way until California votes on June 7. "We intend to take the fight all the way to California," Sanders said Sunday on ABC's "This Week." Clinton is on track to have hit the magic number of 2,383 by that point. A look at the paths forward for the two candidates:

#### Sanders' hope

After losing New York, Sanders needs to win 73 percent of the remaining delegates and uncommitted superdelegates to capture the nomination. That's not too realistic. So his campaign is arguing that the Vermont senator can flip superdelegates at the July convention in Philadelphia, especially if he were somehow able to overtake Clinton among pledged delegates. To do so, Sanders would need to win 59 percent of those remaining. The Sanders camp acknowledges that will require a win in Pennsylvania, the biggest prize today with 189 delegates. Sanders is trailing Clinton by double digits in preference polling in the state. His campaign also believes he can pick up delegates in Connecticut, where 55 are at stake.

Sanders would recapture some momentum with such an unexpected big-state win, but he can't escape the fact that Democrats award delegates in proportion to the vote. Even the loser gets some. That means a close victory for Sanders in Pennsylvania probably would be offset by the results in Maryland. That state, the second biggest prize of the night with 95 delegates, is a Clinton stronghold. The upshot - To catch Clinton, Sanders needs big wins in the delegate-rich, racially

diverse states still left to hold primary elections. The problem: His next win by such a wide margin over Clinton in such a state would be his first.

#### Clinton's path

If Clinton were to win four or five states today, as preference polling suggests, she will extend her pledged delegate lead to about 300. The most likely scenario: big hauls in Pennsylvania and Maryland, and modest gains in Delaware, Connecticut and Rhode Island. At that point, she would need to win just 35 percent or so of the remaining delegates from primaries and caucuses to maintain her lead in pledged delegates. In actuality, she's been winning 55 percent so far. More significantly, doing well today would likely cement her support among superdelegates. Clinton now holds a 513-38 advantage among those party officials.

An additional 163 superdelegates have yet to commit, but many have told the AP that they ultimately will support the candidate who wins the most delegates in the primaries and caucuses. Never before have superdelegates lifted a candidate to the Democratic nomination when he or she trailed in pledged delegates. When superdelegates are included, Clinton's lead after an average performance today would require Sanders to start winning far more than the three of every four delegates he needs now just to catch up. Do a little better than that, and Clinton can reasonably expect to clinch the nomination by June 7 - before the first votes are even counted in California. — AP

## TRUMP'S MUSLIM SUPPORTERS SEE PAST HIS BLUSTER


**DETROIT:** As a Donald Trump supporter, Nedal Tamer feels he's in the minority among Muslim-Americans, comfortable with his choice yet somewhat confounded that he doesn't have more company. Small numbers of Muslims find comfort, not concern, in Trump's strong stance on immigrants. They see it as proof that the Republican presidential front-runner could better contain extremists than other candidates. "People have the wrong idea, even Arabs and Muslims," said Tamer, 40, who works in real estate and construction and lives in the Detroit suburb of Dearborn, which is known for its large Arab and Muslim population. "I like the fact that he's a little nuts. He's got the good heart, he cares about America."


The discomfort that many Muslims have with the outspoken billionaire businessman comes from his suggestion that Muslims be banned from entering the United States. Trump also has said the US should stop the flow of refugees from countries where the Islamic State group has a significant presence. For some, it's hardest to reconcile Trump's statement that "Islam hates the West." The Associated Press spoke to a number of Muslims who back Trump, some of whom declined to be interviewed. Tamer was born in Lebanon and immigrated to the US in the late 1990s from the United Arab Emirates. He said Trump is speaking about extremists, such as the Islamic State group and those it inspires, not all followers of the religion. —AP

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# BANGLADESH'S TOP BLOGGER RECEIVES DEATH THREAT

## TWO MORE HACKED TO DEATH IN BANGLADESH

**DHAKA:** Two people were hacked to death yesterday at an apartment in the Bangladesh capital Dhaka, police said, with a local television channel identifying one of them as a leading gay rights activist. "Unidentified attackers entered an apartment at Kalabagan and hacked two people to death. Another person was injured," Dhaka Metropolitan Police spokesman Maruf Hossain Sorder said. He did not identify the dead, but private television Channel 24 said one of them was the editor of Roopbaan, the country's only magazine for the LGBT community. A spokesman for a gay group, Boys of Bangladesh, confirmed to AFP by text message that the Roopbaan editor was among the dead.

The editor was behind an annual Rainbow Rally, which since 2014 has been held on April 14, Bengali New Year. But police this year banned the rally as part of widespread security measures. Ahead of the banned rally earlier this month, the editor told AFP that they had received threats from Islamists, who posted messages online. "They have even set up an online group to threaten us," he said. The death came two days after a liberal and free-thinking professor was hacked to death in the northwestern city of Rajshahi, the latest in a series of murders of secular bloggers and liberal activists that has left the country reeling.



**RAJSHAHI:** Bangladeshi students protest in Rajshahi, days after unidentified attackers hacked to death a university professor. — AFP

The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the attack through its news agency, saying the 58-year-old professor who wrote poetry and fiction had been murdered for "calling for atheism". But Bangladesh Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan rejected the Islamic State group's assertion and said "local militants" were responsible for the murder. The

LGBT community has been heavily persecuted in Muslim-majority Bangladesh. But in recent years some activists have tried to increase awareness and rights.

### Death threat

Meanwhile, Bangladesh's best-known blogger said yesterday he has become the latest secular activist threatened with mur-

der, a warning which he suspected was linked to his recent scathing criticism of the government. On Saturday an English professor was hacked to death by suspected Islamist militants, the latest in a series of murders of secular bloggers and liberal activists since last year that has left Bangladesh reeling. Blogger Imran Sarker, who led major protests by secular activists

in 2013 against Islamist leaders, said he had received a phone call on Sunday warning that he would be killed "very soon".

But Sarker claimed the threat was probably connected to his opposition to the government's alleged crackdown on dissent, rather than the offence he caused to Islamic extremists. "A male voice called me Sunday evening and said I will be murdered very soon. He hung up as soon as I asked him where they would kill me," the 33-year-old said. Sarker, who heads a network of Bangladesh bloggers and online activists, said "influential ruling party leaders have been openly threatening me" although it was the first time he had received an anonymous phone call. Dhaka Metropolitan Police spokesman Maruf Hossain Sorder said the threat would only be investigated if Sarker filed a formal complaint.

But the blogger said he did not plan to approach police because it would be "no use". A senior official of the ruling Awami League party refused to comment. Sarker, who has nearly one million friends on his Facebook page, led the 2013 protests against Islamist leaders accused of war crimes, prompting authorities to fast-track their trials. The protests against Islamists accused of atrocities during Bangladesh's 1971 battle for independence were staged with the tacit support of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's party. — Agencies



**VIENNA:** Austrian presidential candidate Alexander Van der Bellen, backed by the Greens, celebrates after preliminary results were published of the Austrian presidential elections in Vienna. — AFP

## AUSTRIA GOVT IN SHOCK AS FAR-RIGHT TRIUMPHS

**VIENNA:** Austria's government was licking its wounds yesterday after the anti-immigration far-right triumphed in presidential elections, in a debacle of historic proportions for a cosy political establishment seen as out of touch and ineffectual. According to preliminary results, Norbert Hofer of the Freedom Party (FPÖ) came a clear first with 36 percent of the vote in the first round of elections for the largely, but not entirely, ceremonial post of head of state.

Candidates from the two ruling centrist parties, which have effectively run Austria since the end of World War II, failed to even make it into a runoff on May 22, coming fourth and fifth with 11 percent each. The result means that for the first time since 1945, Austria will not have a president backed by either Chancellor Werner Faymann's Social Democrats (SPÖ) or their centre-right coalition partners, the People's Party (ÖVP).

Having a president in the Habsburg dynasty's former palace in Vienna not from either of the two main parties could shake up the traditionally staid and consensus-driven world of Austrian politics. "This is the beginning of a new political era," FPÖ leader Heinz-Christian Strache said after what constituted the best-ever result at federal level for the former party of the late Joerg Haider, calling it a "historic result". The Oesterreich tabloid described Hofer's victory as a "tsunami that has turned our political landscape upside down." Hofer is a "a kind, nice protest politician who wraps the FPÖ's brutal declarations against refugees in soft language," Faymann said Sunday the result was a "clear warning to the government that we have to work together more strongly". He said however that his party would not make any personnel changes-including with regard to his own position. Facing Hofer on May 22 is likely to be Alexander van der Bellen, backed by the Greens, who garnered 20 percent, ahead of third-place independent candidate Irmgard

Griss, who won 18.5 percent. The only candidate who fared worse than the main parties' candidates was Richard Lugner, an 83-year-old construction magnate and socialite married to a former Playboy model 57 years his junior, who won just over two percent.

### 'Bravo,' says Le Pen

The rise of fringe politicians has been mirrored across Europe, including in Spain, Britain and Germany, and also in the United States with the populist messages of Donald Trump and Bernie Sanders. Marine Le Pen, leader of France's National Front hoping to become president next year, tweeted Sunday her congratulations to the FPÖ for its "magnificent result. Bravo to the Austrian people". Last year Austria received 90,000 asylum requests, the second highest in Europe on a per capita basis, and Faymann's government has taken a firmer line on immigration in recent weeks. But this has not stopped support for the FPÖ surging. Recent opinion polls put the party in first place with more than 30 percent of voter intentions ahead of the next scheduled general elections in 2018.

### Sliding support

Support for the two main parties has been sliding for years and in the last general election in 2013 they only just garnered enough support to re-form their "grand coalition". Austria's traditionally strong economy has also faltered of late and it no longer has the lowest unemployment rate in the European Union. Faymann's coalition, in power since 2008, has struggled to agree structural reforms.

David Pfarrhofer from the Market polling institute said Sunday's result showed that the traditional parties cannot continue "messaging around" if they want to cling onto power. "It's not so much about personalities but about issues... Something needs to change if the SPÖ and the ÖVP want to avoid another debacle like this," Pfarrhofer said. —AFP

# INDIA REVOKES VISA FOR UIGHUR ACTIVIST

## 'GOVERNMENT BUCKLED TO PRESSURE FROM BEIJING'

**NEW DELHI:** India yesterday said it had withdrawn a visa to an exiled Uighur leader whom China has long branded a terrorist, provoking criticism from the opposition that it had buckled to pressure from Beijing. China blames unrest that has killed hundreds of people in its far western province of Xinjiang on Islamist militants looking to establish an independent state for the mostly Muslim Uighur ethnic minority. Dolkun Isa, executive chairman of the Munich-based World Uyghur Congress, planned to attend a conference this month in India's northern hill town of Dharamsala, the seat of the Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama.

Isa's World Uyghur Congress is a leading ethnic Uighur group which advocates democracy and human rights. New Delhi granted Isa a tourist visa in a sign that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government was ready to break

from the past, when it had discouraged a visit by the top exiled Uighur leader, Rebiya Kadeer, in 2009. But yesterday, an Interior Ministry spokesman said Isa's electronic visa had been withdrawn, without giving a reason for the decision. "A visa was given to him. That has been cancelled," the spokesman said. The foreign ministry directed queries to the interior ministry.

The announcement came after domestic media quoted the Chinese Foreign Ministry as saying Isa was wanted by China and Interpol had put out a "red-corner" notice for his arrest. Isa said he was disappointed by the decision to block his travel to a conference aimed at exchanging ideas among different ethnic and religious communities. "I recognize and understand the difficult position that the Indian government found itself, and regret that my trip has generated such unwarranted controversy," he

said in a statement on the group's website. Modi's administration has sought a more assertive posture in its relations with neighbors and erstwhile foes, Pakistan and China, as it seeks to expand commercial ties.

India reacted angrily this month to China's decision to put a hold on its request to add the head of the Pakistani militant group Jaish-e-Mohammad, or the Army of Mohammad, to the United Nations' al Qaeda-Islamic State blacklist. Some political supporters of Modi's government saw the initial grant of the visa as a response to Beijing's decision to side with Pakistan over the militant leader operating from the neighboring country. The flip-flop provoked opposition criticism. "Modi's latest foreign policy disaster on China can be termed a Himalayan blunder," said Sanjay Jha, a spokesman of the main opposition Congress party. — Reuters

# PAKISTANI SIKH POLITICIAN KILLED BY HINDU RIVAL - NOT TALEBAN

**PESHAWAR:** A Sikh politician in Pakistan who was gunned down last week was murdered by hired assassins and not the Taliban, police said yesterday, adding they had arrested his Hindu rival who ordered the hit. Gunmen on motorbikes opened fire on Sardar Soran Singh's car on Friday evening in the Buner district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province where he was the minister for minority affairs, killing him on the spot.

The Pakistani Taliban, who are active in the region, claimed the killing the next day, sparking widespread condemnation from rights activists and fellow lawmakers. But Azad Khan, a senior local police official, disputed the claim. "The Taliban's claim is not true, he was killed because of a political dispute," he said, adding that six people had been arrested in connection with the murder including two assassins and the alleged mastermind, named as Baldev Kumar. Both Singh and Kumar were members of the Pakistan Tehreek Insaaf (PTI) political party led by cricketer-turned-politician Imran Khan, which governs Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

According to police official Khan, Kumar was angry that he had been overlooked in favor of Singh for a party ticket in the 2013 election, and had hoped that killing his rival would pave the way for him to become a lawmaker on the party's quota for religious minorities.

The Pakistani Taliban routinely target minorities as part of their almost decade-long struggle to establish their rule over the country, and in 2011 gunned down Shahbaz Bhatti, a

Christian who was federal minister for minority affairs. But they are also known to fabricate some claims in order to exaggerate their strength. — AFP



**PESHAWAR:** A Pakistani policeman stands guard alongside suspects who allegedly killed Sikh politician Sardar Soran Singh during a press conference after his arrest in Peshawar. — AFP

# FEARS MOUNT IN QUAKE-HIT NEPAL; TOURISTS STAY AWAY

**LANGTANG:** Former guesthouse owner Tenzing Lama remembers when foreign tourists thronged Nepal's Langtang valley, trekking through the breathtaking Himalayan wilderness and soaking up the tranquility. But the massive earthquake that ripped through Nepal one year ago killing almost 9,000 people, obliterated the valley, part of the country's oldest national park, along with the tourism industry on which it relied.

Villagers have since returned to the valley and started the Herculean task of clearing trails and rebuilding homes and guesthouses flattened in a massive quake-triggered avalanche. But as is the case in the rest of the country, trekkers and backpackers have so far stayed away, leaving already desperate locals facing an uncertain future. "Every family here depended on tourism. One hundred percent of our economy came from that," said Lama, 45, who grew up in Langtang village which was decimated by the avalanche that sent huge blocks of ice barreling through the valley.

As a boy, Lama often saw foreigners passing through his village, where they would sometimes stop for a meal or an overnight stay, sharing chocolates with local children, during days-long trekking expeditions. By the time he built his own guesthouse in 2000, the valley was enjoying a

tourism boom, with Langtang village alone hosting dozens of lodges that served up everything from Nepali staples of lentils and rice to trekker

favorites like apple pie. When the avalanche struck on April 25, killing his brother, niece and nephew and burying hundreds of neighbors and

friends in rubble, Lama and other survivors were evacuated to Kathmandu until the valley was deemed safe. The disaster killed 283 locals and 43 foreign visitors in the valley, according to police. Many villagers like Lama have since taken rebuilding matters into their own hands, carrying sacks of supplies along steep, hilly paths and repairing trails and lodges on their own. "I had nothing left... but then, as time passed, I thought I should go back, I should try and rebuild my life, my guesthouse," the father-of-four said.

### Terrified trekkers

When the earthquake struck, triggering avalanches and landslides, many backpackers were stranded for days in remote, mountainous areas accessible only by helicopter. Terrified foreigners fled the Himalayan nation and many prospective tourists cancelled bookings, even avoiding popular trekking routes such as the Annapurna trail, which escaped the carnage unscathed. The industry's annual revenues fell by 32 percent in 2015, according to the Nepal Tourism Board, dealing a devastating blow to the economy of the already impoverished country.

Nepal relies on tourism for around four percent of its gross domestic product, with the

industry providing 3.5 percent of employment. Tour operators say their businesses are unlikely to recover this year.

"When you lose 85 percent of your business... basically that's 85 percent of your cash flow that's gone," said Ashok Pokharel, president of the Nepal Association of Tour Operators. In a bid to lure visitors back, authorities decided to hand out free mobile SIM cards to backpackers ahead of this year's spring trekking season, hoping to reassure them that they would be helped if disaster struck.

The government also called in international experts from Miyamoto, a US-based firm, to assess the safety of the Everest and Annapurna trekking routes in the months following the quake. Engineers ruled that both routes were largely unaffected and safe for travel. In the Kathmandu Valley, masons have begun to repair quake-hit historic monuments in an effort to restore and preserve Nepal's rich architectural heritage, which dates back to the fifth century and remains a key tourist attraction. "The government is rebuilding a few sites are already built and a few are being built (and) will be completed in one to three years," said Nepal Tourism Board CEO Deepak Raj Joshi. —AFP



**LANGTANG:** Nepalese workers rebuild a teahouse in the Langtang valley in Nepal's Rasuwa district. — AFP

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**Finance Director - Healthcare**  
Charterhouse  
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You will be responsible for financial statements, external audit and annual budget of the organization, leading the finance department, providing clear finance support to the business where necessary, identifying key risks for the organization and providing useful analysis to ensure robust decisions are made around spend and direction.

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You will be responsible for ensuring the Smiths Code of Corporate Responsibility and Business Ethics is upheld in all activities, generating alternatives and solutions when faced with problems and managing stakeholders accordingly, as well as, ensuring all operations are meeting contract service objectives with customers throughout the region.

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Company LLC - Qatar

You will be responsible for searching for and bidding on new projects, determining the client's goals and requirements of the project, sketching preliminary design plans, including electrical layouts, specifying materials and furnishings, such as kitchens, lighting, furniture, wall finishes, flooring, and plumbing fixtures, as well as, repairing final plans and using computer applications.

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Charterhouse - Qatar

You will be responsible for working with the business and other support functions to assess the vulnerability of products and services to existing or future legal challenges and with an awareness of business priorities, devising mitigation strategies, as well as, providing assistance and advice to the bank's credit, recovery, trade and investment advisory business.

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**Senior Planning Engineer - Roads/Highways** - Parsons International Limited - Qatar

You will be responsible for providing all necessary assistance to the construction supervision team with respect to all planning and scheduling issues and progress of the works, reviewing and approval of the submitted work program by the contractor and monitoring the work progress during the construction and reporting to the SRE.

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## MCILROY TO PLAY FRENCH OPEN

**LONDON:** Rory McIlroy will play at this year's French Open rather than the WGC-Bridgestone Invitational, saying it will serve as better preparation for the British Open at Troon. Four-time major winner McIlroy won Bridgestone in Akron, Ohio two years ago and the event is one of the most prestigious on the PGA Tour. But this year it clashes with the 100th French Open after schedules were tweaked to accommodate the Rio Olympics. The Paris event, played on the course that will host the 2018 Ryder Cup, begins on June 30, two weeks before the year's third major on Scotland's west coast. "Le Golf National might not be a pure links course, but it is traditionally firm and fast and can throw up some tricky conditions," said McIlroy, 26, a native of Northern Ireland. "It is a great test of golf and I think playing there, as well as staying in Europe, will be the best way to prepare for The Open at Troon." The European Tour decided not to sanction this year's WGC-Bridgestone Invitational, meaning prize money earned in it by European players will not count towards the Race to Dubai or selection for this year's Ryder Cup. — Reuters

## LIEGE WIN DREAM COME TRUE FOR POELS AFTER TOUR CRASH

**ANS:** Wouter Poels said winning Liege-Bastogne-Liege was a "dream come true" almost four years after a crash almost ended his career. The 28-year-old Dutchman suffered a ruptured spleen and kidney, three broken ribs and bruised lungs in a crash on stage six of the 2012 Tour de France.

"Some doctors were saying it would be better to stop riding a bike, so now to win Liege is really amazing: like a dream come true," said the Team Sky rider.

More known as a specialist climber whose previous best results came at stage races of up to one week, Poels hopes this win will help him take the step up to Grand Tour leader for his team. "I hope I can go next year maybe in a Grand Tour for my own chances," said Poels, who will be one of Chris Froome's chief lieutenants at July's Tour de France.

"I don't know if it will be the Tour-Chris is outstanding in that. I also have to show I can do that, I hope with this victory I can speed up (the process to becoming a Grand Tour leader) a little bit—we'll see."

Poels had come fourth in Wednesday's Fleche Wallonne, already his best ever result in a one-day classic, and before the race Froome—who came home 112th, more than 10 minutes back—had said he would be riding for Poels and Polish team-mate Michal Kwiatkowski.

When the race got to the business end after more than six hours of riding through cold, snow, rain and hail, Poels showed great maturity and strength in riding at the front, ensuring he could react when Michael Albasini launched his attack in the final 3km.

### SPRINT FINISH

Only Poels, Ruis Costa and Samuel Sanchez managed to follow it. In the sprint finish, Sanchez had no strength left, Costa faded and Albasini didn't have the kick to overtake Poels who had struck out for home first. "You always hope for a really nice victory, you dream about it but that you can win it now on a day like this is really amazing, it's a really special feeling," said Poels.

"So I'll enjoy it!" He added: "When I passed the finish line I really couldn't believe it. It's an amazing feeling, an amazing victory, the highlight of my career!" Switzerland's Albasini revealed he'd initially expected to be riding to help Australian team-mate Simon Gerrans, the 2014 winner in Liege. "At the end I was still there and he wasn't feeling good so it was up to me to make the race," said the 35-year-old.

"I tried to stay with the leading positions to cover any attacks. On the cobbles I knew I was going to just ride at my own tempo. Sometimes it's easier to just follow your own tempo (than that of others). I was surprised that I was the strongest, although in the end I think I was one of the strongest and not the strongest because the strongest won!"

While the favourites including defending champion Alejandro Valverde failed to match the attacking move by Albasini, Costa denied that it was a surprise result.

"At the end there was no Valverde and no Purito (Joaquim Rodriguez) but there were other guys," said the 29-year-old Portuguese, world champion in 2013. "With the day and the weather he had it was really the best vying for victory at the end." —AFP

## HILLSBOROUGH JURY TO DELIVER VERDICTS TODAY

**LONDON:** Jurors at the inquests into the deaths of 96 Liverpool fans at the 1989 Hillsborough stadium disaster will deliver their verdicts today, it was announced. Coroner John Goldring on Monday told the jury of six women and three men that he did not require a unanimous verdict on the one outstanding question they had still to agree on—whether the Liverpool supporters were unlawfully killed—and would accept a majority 7-2 or 8-1 decision. The jury continued to consider the issue before returning to tell Goldring that at least seven of them had reached agreement on this point. Their decisions are now set to be announced from 11:00am (1000 GMT) today. Goldring explained the choice of time by telling the jury: "It is so that those families who could not be here all the time can come. So it will be tomorrow that I will ask you formally to return your findings in relation to the general and individual questionnaires." On April 6, the jury retired to consider 14 key questions set out by Goldring, covering such topics as police planning, stadium safety and, significantly, whether the fans had been unlawfully killed, after hearing more than two years of evidence. —AFP

## TOURE SET TO MISS REAL MADRID CLASH

**MANCHESTER:** Manchester City midfielder Yaya Toure is expected to miss his side's Champions League semi-final first leg against Real Madrid today, manager Manuel Pellegrini revealed yesterday. The Ivorian did not take part in City's final pre-match training session on Monday after picking up a muscular injury towards the end of Sunday's 4-0 Premier League win over Stoke City. "I think he's going to be out," Pellegrini told a press conference at the City Football Academy training complex. "He hasn't recovered from a muscle injury." With Toure likely to miss out, Brazilians Fernando and Fernandinho are expected to be paired together in central midfield. "The two Brazilian lads have played well when they have played together, and in Europe as well," Pellegrini said. "For example against PSG (in the quarter-finals). I'm very confident in what they can provide." Captain Vincent Kompany, who has struggled with calf injuries this season, was able to train, having been rested for the victory against Stoke. While Real Madrid are chasing an 11th European Cup, City are appearing in the semi-finals of the Champions League for the first time. — AFP



**SAN ANTONIO:** Charley Hoffman, center, poses with his family and trophy after winning the Texas Open golf tournament, Sunday, in San Antonio. Hoffman's wife Stacy is at right, and daughter Katelyn, left, and Clair, second from left. — AP

## HOFFMAN BIRDIES FINAL HOLE FOR DRAMATIC TEXAS OPEN WIN

**SAN ANTONIO:** Charley Hoffman made a 10-foot birdie putt on the final hole to win the Valero Texas Open on Sunday for his fourth PGA Tour victory. The 39-year-old Hoffman closed with a 3-under 69 at TPC San Antonio for a one-stroke victory over Patrick Reed. Hoffman finished at 12-under 276 and earned \$1,116,000. Playing alongside Hoffman, Reed also birdied the par-5 18th for a 69. He missed birdie putts inside 8 feet on the par-3 16th and par-4 17th. Reed, who was born in San Antonio, put the pressure on Hoffman with a tap-in birdie at the 18th after reaching the fringe on the 595-yard hole in two. His shot to the green came from the left-hand rough, and had to clear an oak tree and creek in front of the green. Hoffman followed by hitting his third shot from a greenside bunker to set up his birdie. Hoffman also won the 2007 Bob Hope Chrysler Classic, 2010 Deutsche Bank Championship and 2015 OHL Classic at Mayakoba. Chad Collins was a career-best third at 10 under after a 69. He birdied four of the last five holes.

### SWINGING SKIRTS LPGA CLASSIC

Haru Nomura held on in strong wind to win the Swinging Skirts LPGA Classic for her second LPGA Tour victory of the year. The 23-year-old Japanese player closed with a 1-over 73 in steady 35-40 mph wind at Lake Merced to finish at 9-under 279 and beat South Africa's Lee-Anne Pace by four strokes. Nomura won the Australian Women's Open in February, pulling away to beat top-ranked Lydia Ko by three strokes for her first LPGA Tour title. Nomura was projected to jump from 36th to 23rd in world ranking. She joined Ko and Ha Na Jang as the only two-time winners this season. Pace bogeyed the first five holes in a 74. Ko shot a 75 on her 19th birthday to tie for sixth at 1 under. The New Zealander won the tournament the previous two years. Michelle Wie withdrew because of neck spasms after playing the first 15 holes in 11 over. Wie was 16 over after opening with rounds of 73, 73 and 75.

### BASS PRO SHOPS LEGENDS OF GOLF

Woody Austin and Michael Allen won the PGA Tour Champions' Bass Pro Shops Legends of Golf at Big Cedar Lodge, giving Austin two straight victories and three in the last four events on the 50-and-over tour. Allen made an 18-foot birdie putt on the final hole for a one-stroke victory over David Frost and Roger Chapman. Austin and Allen shot a 6-under 48 in breezy conditions, playing nine holes of modified alternate shot and nine of better ball on the par-3 Top of the Rock course. They finished at 23-under 156. Austin won the Tucson Conquistadores Classic last month in Arizona for his first senior title and took the Mitsubishi Electric Classic last week in a playoff in Georgia. Allen has eight senior titles. Frost and Chapman also shot a 48. Larry Nelson and Bruce Fleisher completed a wire-to-wire victory in the Legends Division for players 65 and older, beating John Bland and Graham Marsh by two strokes. Nelson

and Fleisher shot a 4-under 23 in a better-ball nine to finish at 19-under 116. Bland and Marsh also had a 23.

### SHENZHEN INTERNATIONAL

South Korea's Lee Soo-min pulled away in yesterday's finish to win the rain-interrupted Shenzhen International for his first European Tour victory. The 22-year-old Lee completed a 1-under 71 at Genzon Golf Club for a two-stroke victory. He birdied the par-3 16th, eagled the par-5 17th and bogeyed the par-4 18th to finish at 16-under 272. Lee was tied with England's Lee Slattery and France's Alexander Levy when play was suspended Sunday. Dutchman Joost Luiten and South Africa's Brandon Stone tied for second, each shooting 68. Slattery and Levy each shot 71 to tie for fourth at 13 under with Australia's Scott Hend. Hend closed with a 66 on Sunday. Bubba Watson shot a 66 on Sunday to tie for eighth at 10 under.

### EL BOSQUE MEXICO CHAMPIONSHIP

Wesley Bryan won the El Bosque Mexico Championship for his second Web.com Tour title of the year, shooting a 5-under 67 for a four-stroke victory. Bryan finished at 19-under 269 at El Bosque and earned \$117,000 to jump from

second to first on the money list with \$260,820, more than enough to wrap up a PGA Tour card for next season. The 26-year-old former University of South Carolina player won the Chitimacha Louisiana Open last month for his first tour title. Third-round leader Brad Fritsch, the Canadian coming off a victory two weeks ago in the Servientrega Championship in Colombia, had a 73 to tie for second with Richy Werenski. Werenski closed with a 66.

### GUARDIAN RETIREMENT CHAMPIONSHIP

Brittany Altomare won the Guardian Retirement Championship at windy Sara Bay, beating Denmark's Nicole Broch Larsen with a birdie on the fifth hole of a playoff. Altomare closed with a 2-under 70 to match Broch Larsen at even-par 70. Broch Larsen had a 75. After Altomare and Broch Larsen each parred the par-5 18th four times before Altomare broke through for her first career victory with a 4-foot birdie putt. The 25-year-old former University of Virginia player from Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, earned \$16,500. She expects to play in the next six LPGA Tour events are gaining status at the money-list reshuffle. Thailand's Sherman Santiwitthanaphong was third at 3 over after a 70.—AP

## KSSC TO ORGANIZE ITS FINAL TOURNAMENT OF THE SEASON

By Abdellatif Sharaa

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Shooting Sport Club (KSSC) will organize its final tournament for the season with the generous support from the family of the Late Sheikh Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah from Thursday 28/4 until Saturday 30/4.

The Late Sheikh Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah shooting tournament will be in the Skeet, Trap, Double Trap, 10m air pistol and rifle and Olympic archery.

Secretary General of Kuwait and Arab Shooting Federations Obaid Munahi Al-Osaimi lauded the major role of the late Sheikh family in patronizing this annual tournament on which the club depends to discover promising talents that support the club's future plans and maintain its achievements at the international level. He added that the club is proud to organize this annual championship as many shooters look for winning it.



Al-Osaimi also lauded the role of Information Minister, State Minister for Cabinet Affairs, Honorary President of KSSC Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah for his continued support of the shooting sport and his encouragement of club shooters, as he is keen on organizing this tournament annually to allow for new skilled shooters to be discovered.

## GILLESPIE DENIES AUSTRALIA APPROACH

**LONDON:** Yorkshire coach Jason Gillespie insisted yesterday he was committed to the reigning English county champions after being linked with a role as Australia's bowling coach.

The former Australia fast bowler has forged a fine reputation as a coach during four years in charge of Yorkshire, helping the Headingley club return to the First Division and then overseeing their back-to-back County Championship titles that have left the White Rose bidding for three in a row this season.

Last year saw Gillespie touted as a candidate to replace England coach Peter Moores before the job went to compatriot Trevor Bayliss.

Australia coach Darren Lehmann, who played cricket alongside Gillespie for South Australia and Australia, said last week in a radio interview that his old team-mate would "certainly be at forefront with other bowling coaches" when they looked to appoint a successor to Craig McDermott, who stepped down in March. But the 41-year-old Gillespie, who

took 259 wickets in 71 Tests, said Monday he had no immediate plans to leave Yorkshire, telling the county's website: "I haven't had any contact, so there's nothing to report to be honest."

"If anything changes, I'll let you know. At this point, it's just focusing on my role here," added Gillespie, who has also coached the Adelaide Strikers in Australia's Twenty20 Big Bash League.

"There is still a lot to do at Yorkshire and I solely want to concentrate on helping this team win cricket matches."

"You don't rule out opportunities in the future. It's whether you feel like you can make a difference in any job that comes available."

"It's well documented that I've got four kids under the age of 10. My eldest daughter, she's 21, has just had a little girl. So family is important, and it should be an important consideration. "Any job that comes up, certainly, I've always said family comes first. "If any opportunities come up in the future, that would certainly be a consideration." —AFP



**SAN FRANCISCO:** Haru Nomura of Japan poses with the winner's trophy after winning the Swinging Skirts LPGA Classic presented by CTBC at the Lake Merced Golf Club on Sunday in San Francisco, California. — AFP







## BLACKOUT LEAVES INDIANS' OLYMPIC DREAMS IN LIMBO

**NEW DELHI:** Two leading Indian sprinters' Olympics hopes were up in the air yesterday after a power cut during a qualifying event meant their apparently record-breaking performances could not be officially classified.

The outage during Sunday's Indian Grand Prix led to farcical scenes, with organisers having to use hand-held clocks to record the times after electronically powered digital timers and wind gauges packed up.

Four new national records were clocked at the event in New Delhi's

Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, while two athletes ran below the qualifying time for the Rio games beginning in August.

But their joy was short-lived when it was confirmed their times would not be ratified and they would instead have to try again at another event later this week. Amiya Kumar Mallick was timed running the 100 metres in 10.09 seconds, which not only shattered the national record by 0.21 seconds but was also quicker than the Olympic qualification mark of 10.16 seconds.

Srabani Nandaware won the

women's 100 metres in 11.23 seconds, apparently breaking the 16-year-old national record of 11.38 seconds and faster than the Rio qualification time of 11.32 seconds.

"It's disappointing because I know I had run a quick time. But it will not count for anything because the electronic timing was not working," Mallick was quoted as saying by the Indian Express.

The stadium, which was built for the 1982 Asian Games and was the main venue for the 2010 Commonwealth

Games, is managed by the Sports Authority of India which was not immediately available for comments yesterday. But an official at the Athletics Federation of India, which organised the event, said stadium administrators had blamed the blackout on a transformer fire. "There were generators there but still they said there is no back up," the official, speaking on condition of anonymity, told AFP.

Sunny Joshua, president of the Delhi Athletics Association which co-hosted the event, said the outage happened

just as the competition began.

"It happened all a sudden just before the start of the meet. We didn't even get the back up, so it was very disappointing," Joshua told AFP.

"But let's not play the blame game. I don't think anybody would do this on purpose. It has happened for the first time in 30 odd years, so I hope it's just a one-time incident," he added. The athletes will have another shot at booking a Rio berth during the Federation Cup, which is due to be held at the same venue from April 28-30. —AFP

## THOUSANDS OF FEYENOORD FANS CELEBRATE CUP WIN

**THE HAGUE:** A sea of red and white flooded Rotterdam yesterday as tens of thousands of Feyenoord fans hailed their team's Dutch Cup victory which ended an eight-year trophy drought.

Feyenoord Rotterdam's 2-1 defeat of Utrecht late Sunday sparked celebrations on the streets of the port city, and the team were greeted Monday as conquering heroes at the town hall.

"It's fantastic to see all these people here," said captain Dirk Kuyt, looking down on the tide of fans packed into the city's historic Coolingsel street. "What better place could we celebrate?" he told public broadcaster NOS.

Dressed in smart suits, the team hoisted the silver cup aloft from the town hall balcony, as the fans, who had braved driving rain and hail, chanted and sang below.

Mayor Ahmed Aboutaleb thanked the players "for this magnificent present for the city of Rotterdam" and praised the supporters for their "exceptional behaviour" during spontaneous celebrations late night celebrations Sunday in the city.

The Dutch news agency ANP said the tribute had been deliberately held at mid-

day Monday in order to avoid any trouble in the city. But part of the street had to be temporarily closed as so many jubilant fans turned out. According to Feyenoord's official website some three million people watched the match live, as the club claimed the trophy for the 12th time in its history-but for only the first time since 2008. "The club has not won a lot of trophies in recent years, but the fans have always supported us. We have been down, but we have got back up again. And we have had fantastic results, even though we have had some formidable adversaries," said Kuyt. "That's why we deserved the cup," the 35-year-old ex-Liverpool and former international star said.

In their glory days Feyenoord beat Celtic 2-1 to win the 1970 European Cup, and if they clinched the last of their 14 Dutch league titles back in 1999, they did win the UEFA Cup in 2002 with a memorable 3-2 win over Borussia Dortmund.

Currently coached by Giovanni van Bronckhorst they now sit third in the Dutch league with two games remaining, 21 points adrift of the top two, Ajax and PSV Eindhoven. —AFP



**ROTTERDAM:** (L-R) Dutch Feyenoord Rotterdam football coach Giovanni van Bronckhorst, Feyenoord Rotterdam football team forward Dirk Kuyt and Mayor Ahmed Aboutaleb hold the cup as they celebrate the Feyenoord's victory in the Dutch KNVB Cup in front of the City Hall of Rotterdam, yesterday. — AFP

## ISLANDERS ELIMINATE PANTHERS WITH 2-1 WIN

**NEW YORK:** John Tavares tied the game in the final minute of regulation then scored the winner in the second period of overtime to lead the New York Islanders past the Florida Panthers 2-1 Sunday night and into the second round of the playoffs for the first time since 1993. Tavares skated in and fired an initial shot that Roberto Luongo saved but the New York captain got the rebound, wrapped around the net and stuffed the puck in to end the longest home game in Islanders history. The Islanders will next face Tampa Bay. Thomas Greiss finished with 41 saves in the teams' second straight two-overtime game and third in the series to go past regulation. The Islanders won Game 3 here 4-3 in the first extra period, and took Game 5 in Florida 2-1 at 16 minutes of the second OT. Jonathan Huberdeau scored late in the first period for Florida while Luongo stopped 49 shots for the Panthers.

### CAPITALS 1, FLYERS 0

Nicklas Backstrom scored and Braden Holtby had 26 saves as the Washington Capitals beat the Philadelphia Flyers to advance to the Eastern Conference semifinals. The Capitals, who won the series in six games, will play the Pittsburgh Penguins, setting up a marquee matchup of Alex Ovechkin vs. Sidney Crosby. Ovechkin had

an assist on Backstrom's second-period goal that was easily enough against the Flyers. Riding the momentum of Michal Neuvirth in net, the Flyers won two straight to force an unlikely trip home. Neuvirth was sensational again but the Flyers were ultimately doomed by a power play they could not cash in against Holtby. The Flyers wasted nearly 2 minutes of a 5-on-3 power play in the second period that made a critical difference.

### STARS 5, WILD 4

Jason Spezza scored his fourth goal of the series and added three assists as goalie Kari Lehtonen and the Dallas Stars needed every last one of them to hold off the Minnesota Wild to wrap up the first-round as the Wild came within a fraction of an inch of tying it with 34 seconds remaining when Nino Niederreiter whacked at a loose puck in the crease. Freeze-frame replays showed it in the net, but not quite fully across the goal line as it connected with Lehtonen's right pad, a close call that was upheld by review. John Klingberg, Patrick Sharp, Jamie Benn and Alex Goligoski also scored for the Stars, who moved on to face the winner of the Chicago-St. Louis series, which is level at 3-3. The Blues host the Blackhawks in their decisive Game 7 on Monday night. — AP



**NEW YORK:** Alan Quine #10 of the New York Islanders flies over Reilly Smith #18 of the Florida Panthers in Game Six of the Eastern Conference First Round during the 2016 NHL Stanley Cup Playoffs at the Barclays Center on Sunday in the Brooklyn borough of New York City. The Islanders won the game 2-1 in double overtime to win the series four games to two. — AFP



**HOUSTON:** Dwight Howard #12 of the Houston Rockets is grabbed by Marreese Speights #5 of the Golden State Warriors as Ian Clark #21 looks on at Toyota Center on Sunday in Houston, Texas. — AFP

## SPURS, CAVALIERS SWEEP, WARRIORS WIN DESPITE CURRY INJURY SETBACK

**HOUSTON:** Klay Thompson scored 23 points as the Golden State Warriors set an NBA playoff record with 21 3-pointers to overcome another injury to Stephen Curry and beat the Houston Rockets 121-94 on Sunday for a 3-1 series lead. Curry returned after missing two games with a sprained right ankle but did not play in the second half after spraining his right knee. He slid awkwardly to the court while defending on the last play before halftime and immediately grabbed his knee. He got up and looked to have trouble putting weight on it before jogging with a limp to the locker room. He came out with the team after halftime but sat on the bench for most of the warmup time. After talking with coaches, he returned to the locker room. Golden State was just fine without him thanks to 3-point shooting that led to a 41-point third quarter. The Warriors beat the NBA record they shared for 3s in a playoff game when Brandon Rush made one from the top of the key with about 2 1/2 minutes left. Golden State hosts Game 5 on Wednesday. Dwight Howard led Houston with 19 points and 15 rebounds while James Harden had 18 points, 10 assists and seven steals.

### CAVALIERS 100, PISTONS 98

Kyrie Irving scored 20 of his 31 points in the second half as Cleveland held on to finish off a four-game sweep of Detroit. The Cavs advance to the second round to play either Atlanta or Boston. LeBron James had 22 points for Cleveland but it was Irving who made the biggest shots all night. His midcourt buzzer beater put the Cavs up 81-78 after the third quarter, and with Cleveland clinging to a one-point lead in the final minute, he calmly sank a 3-pointer from the right wing with 42 seconds remaining. Detroit still had a chance at the end but Reggie Jackson's shot at the buzzer was off the mark.

### SPURS 116, GRIZZLIES 95

Kawhi Leonard scored 21 points as San Antonio routed Memphis to sweep the best-of-seven series and advance to the Western Conference semifinals. The Spurs finished off their ninth sweep of a postseason series in franchise history, their third against the Grizzlies. San Antonio also swept Memphis in the 2004 first round and the 2013 Western Conference finals. The only thing that delayed the Spurs advancing was a power surge that knocked out the lights, stopping the game for about 20 minutes in the second quarter. San Antonio now awaits the winner of Oklahoma City-Dallas, a best-of-seven series that the Thunder lead 3-1. LaMarcus Aldridge scored 15 points and grabbed 10 rebounds for the Spurs. Tony Parker added 16 points. David West had 11. Lance Stephenson scored 26 points off the bench for the Grizzlies. Zach Randolph and Matt Barnes each had 15 points and Vince Carter 14.

### CELTICS 104, HAWKS 95, OT

Isaiah Thomas scored 28 points, hitting a corner 3-pointer with 30 seconds left in overtime and then adding a pair of clinching free throws, as Boston sent its first-round playoff series back to Atlanta tied at two games apiece. Paul Millsap

scored 45 for the Hawks - a career playoff high and one off his all-time best - and added 13 rebounds. Marcus Smart scored 20 points - including 11 straight for Boston in the fourth quarter - and Jonas Jerebko had 16 points and 10 rebounds. Game 5 is Tuesday night in Atlanta. — AP



**AUBURN HILLS:** LeBron James #23 of the Cleveland Cavaliers takes a fourth quarter shot over Reggie Jackson #1 of the Detroit Pistons in game four of the NBA Eastern Conference quarter-finals during the 2016 NBA Playoffs at the Palace of Auburn Hills in Auburn Hills, Michigan. Cleveland won the game 100-98 to win the series. —AFP

# Sports

Hoffman birdies final hole for dramatic Texas Open win



Spurs, Cavaliers sweep, Warriors win despite Curry injury setback



TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 2016

NADAL SUES FORMER FRENCH MINISTER WHO ACCUSED HIM OF DOPING

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ROME: Roma's midfielder from Belgium Radja Nainggolan (2ndL) fights for the ball with Napoli's forward from Argentina Gonzalo Higuain and Napoli's midfielder from Slovakia Marek Hamsik (R) during the Italian Serie A football match AS Roma vs Napoli yesterday at the Olympic Stadium in Rome. — AFP

## JUVENTUS CLINCHES 5TH STRAIGHT SERIE A TITLE

ROME: Juventus clinched its fifth straight Serie A title with three matches to spare after Napoli was beaten 1-0 at Roma yesterday, capping an impressive run after a difficult start to the season. Juventus won 2-1 at Fiorentina on Sunday and Napoli needed to beat Roma to prevent the Bianconeri from celebrating. It's the first time a team has won Serie A after losing four of its opening 10 matches.

"I always say that you grow amid hardships, so considering our path, I've got even more pride," Juventus manager Massimiliano Allegri wrote on Twitter. Allegri also attached a tweet he made in August: "Serie A isn't a 100-meter final; it's a marathon: You need to be patient to find the right rhythm."

Radja Nainggolan scored for Roma one minute from the end on a play that began with Roma's 39-year-old captain Francesco Totti. Juventus leads Napoli by 12 points, with Roma

two points further back in a tight race for second and the last direct berth in the Champions League. "Now we've got to win all of the remaining matches," Nainggolan said. It was Juve's 32nd Italian league title - not including the two honors that were taken away after the 2006 match-fixing scandal known as Calciopoli. Known as the "Old Lady" of Italian football, Juventus also became the first club to win five straight titles twice.

Without a match to attend, Juventus fans celebrated in Turin's central Piazza San Carlo. Juventus players danced around at the club's training center, wearing championship T-shirts with a big '34' on the back, which includes the two titles that were taken away.

Monday is Liberation Day in Italy, a national holiday. Last-place Hellas Verona beat AC Milan 2-1 with a stoppage-time free kick from Luca Siligardi. Giampaolo Pazzini equalized with a

penalty in the second half after Jeremy Menez had given Milan an early lead. Milan has won only one of three matches since Cristian Brocchi was hired to replace fired manager Sinisa Mihajlovic.

Later, relegation-threatened Carpi will play Empoli. Standouts Andrea Pirlo, Carlos Tevez and Arturo Vidal left Juventus after last season and the Bianconeri struggled with only one win in their opening six matches. But as the newly signed Paulo Dybala and Mario Mandzukic began to make an impact, Juventus eventually turned things around.

### DYBALA LEADS

Dybala leads Juve with 16 goals and the team hasn't lost in Serie A since October - a run of 25 matches that includes 24 wins and one draw. Following his two-goal performance in a 3-2 comeback win over Torino, Totti came on

nine minutes from the end and lofted the ball into the area before Mohamed Salah slid it back to Nainggolan for Roma's winning strike.

Gonzalo Higuain, the Napoli forward who tops Serie A scoring this season with 30 goals, returned from a three-match ban for severe protests with the referee. It didn't take Higuain long to be involved in more controversy, this time by hitting Kostas Manolas in the left eye as he tried to hold off the Roma defender. Higuain got away without a yellow card while Manolas had to be replaced by Ervin Zukanovic as he struggled with his vision.

Napoli forward Jose Callejon then had a goal wiped off for a debatable offside call and Roma goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny stopped Higuain with a well-timed save.

Szczesny also denied Higuain several times in the second half and Napoli captain Marek Hamsik had an attempt into an empty net

deflected by a defender in the 83rd.

Juventus last won five consecutive titles from 1931-35. Inter Milan was the previous Italian club to win five straight titles, from 2006-10 - its first in that streak coming when Juventus was stripped of the honor for Calciopoli. "This is the best one because this season has really been crazy and incredible," Juventus goalkeeper and captain Gianluigi Buffon said Sunday. "It shows the technical and moral strength of the team, and the desire not to give up and continue surprising."

Last month, Buffon broke a 22-year-old Serie A record by not conceding a goal for 974 consecutive minutes. He also saved a late penalty against Fiorentina on Sunday.

Juventus faces Milan for the Italian Cup title on May 21, having been eliminated from the Champions League by Bayern Munich in the Round of 16. —AP

## MAN CITY NEED LEAP OF FAITH AGAINST REAL

LONDON: Until this season Manchester City's progression in the Champions League could be measured in baby steps but today they can make a huge leap forward when they host Real Madrid in their first European semi-final for 45 years.

The Abu Dhabi-backed English club have already broken new ground this season, moving past the last 16 stage that proved their limit for the past two seasons having failed even to survive the group stage prior to that.

In seeing off Paris St Germain, who have similar financial muscle, in the quarter-finals they delivered a powerful statement of intent to reach their first semi-final since a European Cup Winners' Cup defeat

by Chelsea in 1971. They also kept alive the intriguing possibility of a Milan final against Bundesliga giants Bayern Munich, whose manager Pep Guardiola will take over the Manchester City hot seat from former Real Madrid manager Manuel Pellegrini next season.

First, however, City's defence must find a way of keeping Cristiano Ronaldo, Gareth Bale and Karim Benzema quiet at their Etihad Stadium so as to arrive at their opponents' Santiago Bernabeu fortress with something tangible to hang on to. Ronaldo has scored 47 times this season, including 16 in just 10 Champions League appearances, but Pellegrini says he knows how to stop the Portuguese goal machine. "I knew all about him from (my team) playing (against) Manchester United when I was at Villarreal," Pellegrini said. "We played them four times in the Champions League and each time it was 0-0, so defensively we must have been doing something right."

### UNSTOPPABLE REAL

While City's recent form has been on the rise, if a little late to stop the

Premier League's fairytale title hunters Leicester City, Real have been almost unstoppable of late as they try and chase down Barcelona in La Liga. Since the beginning of March Zinedine Zidane's side have won nine La Liga games in a row and even when they suffered a hiccup in a 2-0 defeat by Wolfsburg in the Champions League quarter-final they responded with a 3-0 home victory. The Wolfsburg loss gives City cause for optimism, though, and with their Argentina striker Sergio Aguero and Belgium midfielder Kevin De Bruyne finishing the season with a flourish, Real's defence will be given a testing examination.

Aguero, who recently reached the 100-goal milestone in the Premier League, never finished on the winning side against Real while he was at Atletico Madrid and he will be itching to put the record straight against the 10-times European champions.

Wales forward Bale has, however, warned City that Real, who are appearing in their 27th European Cup semi-final, will seek to inflict some damage before finishing the job next week. —Reuters

## MAHREZ TAKES ENGLISH PLAYER OF THE YEAR PRIZE

LONDON: Leicester City star Riyad Mahrez was on Sunday named as the winner of English football's Player of the Year prize, voted for by his fellow professionals.

The 25-year-old French-born Algerian international winger, outstanding in Leicester's incredible charge towards the Premier League title, received the trophy at a lavish awards ceremony in London.

Tottenham Hotspur midfielder Dele Alli was named Young Player of the Year at the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA) awards. Mahrez, a £400,000 (\$580,000) signing from French Ligue 2 side Le Havre in January 2014, has contributed 17 goals and 11 assists to help put Leicester on the brink of becoming English champions for the first time.

He had scored the opener in the Foxes' 4-0 thrashing of Swansea City earlier in the day at the King Power Stadium that left Claudio Ranieri's side eight points clear of second-placed Tottenham with three games left to play. Mahrez was then flown down by helicopter to the ceremony as he held off competition from club colleagues Jamie Vardy and N'Golo Kante as well as West Ham United's Dimitri Payet, Tottenham's Harry Kane and Arsenal's Mesut Ozil to win the award.

However, Mahrez later dedicated the success to his colleagues. "All the credit is for them, seriously," said Mahrez, who succeeds Chelsea's Eden Hazard as the winner of the prize. "And for my manager and the staff. Without them I wouldn't receive this award and I wouldn't score. It's the team spirit, and I want to dedicate it to them. "I'm very grateful to receive this award, it's a pleasure. It's extra special because if the players vote for me it's because they've seen I've been great this year so I'm happy. "But it's more team things. Without my teammates I wouldn't get this award."

Alli, 20, held off competition from team-mate Harry Kane, Stoke City goalkeeper Jack Butland, Liverpool midfielder Philippe Coutinho and Everton duo Romelu Lukaku and Ross Barkley to take the young player gong.

Alli, who won the Football League Young Player of the Year 12 months ago, joined Tottenham from lower-league MK Dons in 2015 and was expected to be used sparingly in his first season at White Hart Lane.

However, he has been outstanding in midfield for Spurs and has already won six caps for England. He was not there to pick up his award in person as Tottenham play West Bromwich Albion in the Premier League on Monday night. —AFP



Algerian midfielder Riyad Mahrez.

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Man City v Real Madrid 21:45  
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## UAE'S REAL GDP GROWTH TO REMAIN MODERATE IN 2016



KUWAIT: Kuwait traders follow the stock market at the Kuwait Stock Exchange(KSE) in Kuwait City after the Kuwait Boursa Company began managing the KSE operations as of yesterday.— Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

# BOURSA KUWAIT TAKES OVER KSE OPERATIONS

## THE START OF A NEW ERA FOR KUWAIT'S FINANCIAL MARKET

**KUWAIT:** Boursa Kuwait yesterday announced that it has officially assumed responsibility for the management of the Kuwait Stock Exchange (KSE)'s operations. The handover follows the implementation of a detailed operational plan and strategic roadmap to ensure the smooth transition of stock market operations. The process has been developed in close collaboration with the Capital Markets Authority (CMA).

The announcement was made at a joint press briefing at the stock exchange headquarters by the Chairman of the CMA Board of Commissioners Dr Nayef Falah Al-Hajraf, CMA Board Commissioner Khalifa Al-Ajeel, who directed the handover operation, and Vice Chairman and CEO Boursa Kuwait, Khaled Abdulrazzaq Al-Khaled.

Yesterday's changes also mean that Boursa Kuwait's Board of Directors has replaced KSE's committee, whose duties have ceased. In addition, Boursa Kuwait's CEO has been officially assigned as the Director of the Market. The transition period is scheduled for completion by 30 September 2016, when Boursa Kuwait will obtain its official license to replace KSE, and at a later stage, prepare for an Initial Public Offering (IPO).

Al-Hajraf, commenting after Boursa Kuwait ended its first day of trading as the official operator of the market, said: "Today we have taken the first step on the road to privatizing the Kuwait Stock Exchange and we are looking forward to working closely with Boursa Kuwait's management on making further progress. This will include the development of investment tools, restructuring the market to increase its competitiveness, working to increase liquidity and attract investments with a view to issuing an IPO to Kuwaiti citizens, collaborating with other government stakeholders and determining a stake for an international operator."

### Transition

Al-Hajraf added: "Starting today, Kuwait's stock exchange

is managed by the Kuwaiti private sector, which has always been a leading and creative economic force. We are very confident in the capabilities of Boursa Kuwait management in translating its development plans and strategies into an efficient, transparent and accessible stock market that both meets the aspirations of Kuwaitis and contributes to H H the Amir's vision of transforming Kuwait to a financial and commercial center."

Al-Ajeel, who supervised and directed the transformation process, expressed pride in the success of the handover. He added that the CMA had played an active role in the process, maintaining the highest institutional standards and that it will continue to pursue the completion of the process, with the aim of fully licensing Boursa Kuwait to take complete control and ownership of the market by 30 September 2016.

He said: "All the CMA divisions have worked throughout the past period with stakeholders such as the Kuwait Clearing Company, Kuwait Stock Exchange (KSE), and Boursa Kuwait. We had more than 1,500 hours of recorded meeting time resulting in 20 regulatory resolutions, and we archived more than 95 million documents that date back to the establishment of the market 33 years ago. This was a great effort by all involved and I would like to thank the teams for their professionalism and commitment."

Al-Ajeel also pointed that the CMA has worked to create a suitable legal environment, organising its regulations to accommodate this significant institutional change, for the benefit of the financial markets and the Kuwaiti economy as a whole.

### Long-term plans

He concluded, "CMA works according to strategies and long-term plans that aim to create a vibrant financial market with a strong structure that qualifies it to be a leader in the ranks of developing markets in the world. We look forward to what Boursa Kuwait will bring to improve and develop the market and we will provide them all the support we can, in accordance to the highest international standards and best practices."

Al-Khaled said: "Today, Boursa Kuwait embarks on a journey that aims to progressively transition the stock market operations to a regionally competitive exchange, operating

to world class standards, while driving transparency, efficiency and accessibility.

"The transition of KSE's operations to a private company, which we plan to complete during 2016, is a key milestone in the history of Kuwait's economy. Embracing the private sector has long been an objective of the State of Kuwait and here we are today, marking the start of a new era for one of the state's most important facilities. Since its inception, Kuwait's stock exchange was known as a key driver of the nation's economy. In recent years the exchange has seen a decline but now it is time for the Kuwait stock exchange to again resume that pioneering role and today is the first step towards achieving that."

### Global face

Speaking about the preparations for Boursa Kuwait's assumption of management responsibility, Al-Khaled said: "For the past year, we have worked hard to establish Boursa Kuwait, in order for it to be properly prepared to take the place of KSE. We brought in a pool of experts and devised a transitional strategy which included intensive meetings with stakeholders, such as companies, banks, licensed companies, brokerage firms, governmental entities and listed companies. We also worked very closely with the CMA, which has been very supportive throughout and is keen to develop the current status of the Kuwait stock market. We will continue to work with the CMA until the transition phase is completed and Boursa Kuwait will be officially licensed to be the sole operator."

Al-Khaled added: "The focal point of Boursa Kuwait's operations is not just the successful completion of the transition phase, but to enhance the overall market status. We aim to achieve this by introducing new products and tools, upgrading KSE's infrastructure and business environment to international standards and creating a robust, transparent and fair capital market platform that services all relevant asset classes, whilst focusing on clients' interests."

KSE faced several challenges since its inception in 1952 with the establishment of NBK as the first shareholding company. The first transactions that resembled an exchange market occurred within real estate broker offices and cafes in the merchant's market, where brokers acted like market makers. Soon after, the first hint of market regulation was established by Commercial Law No. 15 of 1960 that organized the issuance of shares and the subscription in them and was followed by the issuance of the first law that specifically dealt with stock trading in November 1970.

In 1983, an Amiri Decree was issued to establish the modern Kuwait stock exchange and KSE functioned as a market operator and regulator. During KSE's existence, electronic trading was introduced, along with forwards, futures and call options. In the past, the market typically followed the prevailing conditions of the day, going through the ups and downs of the economic cycle. The creation of the CMA and its success in making a radical change by privatizing the Kuwait stock market, has resulted in today's transition of operations to Boursa Kuwait.



Vice Chairman and CEO Boursa Kuwait Khaled Abdulrazzaq Al-Khaled.



KUWAIT: Chairman of the CMA Board of Commissioners Dr Nayef Falah Al-Hajraf, CMA Board Commissioner Khalifa Al-Ajeel, Vice Chairman and CEO Boursa Kuwait Khaled Abdulrazzaq Al-Khaled and other officials during a handover ceremony at the Kuwait Stock Exchange yesterday.

# AL-TIJARI REPORTS KD 7.8M NET PROFIT FOR Q1 2016

**KUWAIT:** Commercial Bank of Kuwait announced a net profit of KD 7.8 million for the first quarter of 2016 up by 22.8 percent compared with KD 6.3 million for Q1 2015. The Bank's operating profits before provisions reached KD 28.6 million up by 4.4 percent compared with KD 27.3 million for the same period in 2015.

Commenting on the Bank's financial results, the Bank's spokesman Yacoub Al-Ebrahim said, Commercial Bank's total assets at the end of March 2016 was KD 4,147 million (March 2015: KD 4,099 million) with an increase of KD 48 million on the back of higher returns on the credit and investment portfolios

and fee income in addition to treasury revenues.

The Bank's capital adequacy ratio at the end of March 2016 was 17.5 percent exceeding the minimum regulatory requirement of 13 percent as set by the Central Bank of Kuwait and financial leverage ratio reached 11 percent which is more than the (3 percent) minimum requirement. The ROE (after provisions) increased from 4.82 percent at the end of March 2015 up to 5.66 percent as at the end of March 2016.

Al-Ebrahim added that the improvement seen in the Bank's financial indicators is attributed to the conservative policy adopted by the Bank to use a

portion of the operating profits to build a solid provisioning base with provisions amounting to KD 140.6 million as at the end of March 2016 with coverage of 677.5 percent for NPL. Building such buffers comes in line and according to the directions of the regulatory authorities.

All that in addition to the aggressive policy on write offs without waiving any of the Bank's legal rights to clean the loan portfolio and reduce the NPL ratio to become lower than the industry average as the Bank continues to maintain a lower NPL ratio which reached 0.85 percent as at the end of March 2016, one of the best ratios in Kuwait banking system

if not the best. As such, the Bank will be able to cope with any reverse conditions that may impact the Bank's credit and investment portfolios.

Al-Ebrahim concluded his statement by referring to the strategy adopted by the Bank since last year which aims at restructuring the bank's assets & liabilities to improve assets quality and profitability level and which yielded its results with improvement seen in profitability levels of some business areas at the Bank, particularly Treasury Division and International Banking & Syndication Division, stressing that the Bank will continue to avail the available investment opportunities with acceptable risks.



Yacoub Al-Ebrahim





BEIJING: A woman poses for a picture inside a DS 21 on display at the Beijing Auto Show in Beijing yesterday. Global carmakers gathered in Beijing yesterday to show off their wares as competition intensifies and growth slows in the world's biggest auto market, with the key SUV and new energy vehicle sectors the focus of attention. (Center) A Chinese guest looks at an Audi S7 on display at the Beijing Auto Show in Beijing. (Right) People visit the Cadillac stand at the Beijing Auto Show in Beijing yesterday. — AFP photos

## CHINA AUTO SHOW HIGHLIGHTS SUVs IN SLOWING MARKET

BEIJING: Automakers showcased a new generation of luxurious SUVs at China's biggest auto show of the year to lure buyers in its cooling, crowded market. Honda Motor Co. on Monday held world debuts for two SUVs among dozens shown by global and local automakers. Sales of SUVs, the popular option on China's rough roads, soared 52 percent last year, the only product segment that still is growing in the world's largest market. Sedan sales contracted by 5.3 percent and those of minivans plunged 17.5 percent.

"We're seeing a surge of SUV sales in China," said Renault-Nissan's CEO Carlos Ghosn, "In our opinion, this is a trend which is going to continue." The SUV boom is a financial lifeline to the industry and has allowed local brands to claw back market share from global rivals by offering budget-conscious buyers SUVs priced as low as 45,000 yuan (\$6,900). But the



BEIJING: A general view of the Renault stand at the Beijing Auto Show in Beijing yesterday.

flood of new models is crowding the market and squeezing products.

As many as 50 new SUVs are due to be launched in China this year by global and Chinese brands, according to research firm IHS Automotive.

Already, local manufacturers Great Wall Motor Co and Changan Automobile Group have been forced to cut prices on their flagship mid-size SUVs. "The pricing situation is getting tougher. This is obvious," said Joachim Wedler, president of Audi China. Still, automakers see strong growth potential in a market with rising incomes and low vehicle ownership rates. But Beijing and other major cities are trying to curb congestion and smog by imposing limits on new car ownership, which forces automakers to look for buyers in smaller cities where incomes and profits are lower. — AP

### News

in brief

#### US dollar down against Kuwaiti dinar at KD 0.301

KUWAIT: The US dollar was down against the Kuwaiti dinar yesterday exchanging at 0.301 whereas the euro stabilized at KD 0.339 in contrast to Sunday's rates, the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) said. The Sterling pound also remained unchanged at KD 0.435, whereas the Swiss franc rose to KD 0.309 and the Japanese yen firmed at KD 0.002.

#### OPEC basket price down 31 cents to \$39.78 pb

VIENNA: The OPEC daily basket price shed 31 cents on Friday and stood at \$39.78 a barrel compared with \$40.09 on Thursday, the organization announced yesterday. The annual average of the OPEC basket price hit \$49.64 pb, it said in a press release. The new OPEC Reference Basket of Crudes (ORB) is made up of the following: Saharan Blend (Algeria), Girassol (Angola), Oriente (Ecuador), Iran Heavy (Islamic Republic of Iran), Basra Light (Iraq), Kuwait Export (Kuwait), Es Sider (Libya), Bonny Light (Nigeria), Qatar Marine (Qatar), Arab Light (Saudi Arabia), Murban (UAE) and Merey (Venezuela). During their recent meeting in Vienna in late 2015, OPEC member countries had decided to maintain their production at 30 million barrels per day (bpd) despite a surplus in the market estimated at over a million barrels.

#### Egypt's to buy up to 138,000 tons of gasoil

LONDON: Egypt's EGPC issued a tender to buy up to 138,000 tons of 0.1 percent gasoil in May, according to the tender documents. The company is looking for two cargoes of gasoil with a sulphur content of 0.1 percent delivered to the port of Suez, and two delivered to Alexandria or El Dekheila. It requested cargoes of 34,000-36,000 tons to Suez for delivery on May 25-27 and 28-30 and cargoes of 30,000-33,000 tons to Alexandria or El Dekheila on May 11-13 and 21-23.

#### Emaar says fire-hit hotel will not reopen in 2016

DUBAI: Dubai's Address Downtown hotel, which was damaged in a fire on New Year's Eve, will not reopen this year, an executive at the hospitality group of operator Emaar Properties said yesterday. There had been no negative impact on Emaar's balance sheet from the hotel's temporary closure, Chris Newman, Emaar Hospitality Group director of operations, told reporters. Fire engulfed the 63-storey hotel and residential tower on New Year's Eve.

#### ALAFCO ANNOUNCES NET PROFIT OF KD 6.1 MILLION

KUWAIT: Aviation Lease and Finance Company (ALAFCO) announced net profit of KD 6.1 million (\$20.1 million) for the first half of the fiscal year ended 31 March 2016, with earnings per share of 6.9 fils (\$0.02).

The company is on track in the implementation of its growth strategy through sale and lease-back operations and through acquisition of aircraft with lease attached, ALAFCO's Vice Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer Ahmad A Alzabin said in a statement released to the press after a meeting of the Board of Directors, yesterday.

ALAFCO is a Kuwait-based aircraft leasing company and is listed on the Kuwait Stock Exchange. ALAFCO's portfolio consists of 49 Airbus and Boeing aircraft, leased to 14 airlines in 13 countries across Europe, Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Middle East.

Additionally, the company has contracted with Boeing and Airbus to acquire 117 new aircraft valued at \$14.9 billion to be delivered between 2017 and 2021. ALAFCO aims to have a fleet of more than 100 aircraft by the end of the decade, in order to position itself amongst the world's top aircraft leasing companies. — KUNA

## SAUDI SURGES AS REFORMS ANNOUNCED; GULF WEAK

### MIDEAST STOCK MARKETS

DUBAI: Saudi Arabia's stock market recovered from early losses and jumped 2.5 percent yesterday as Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman announced an economic overhaul for the oil-dependent kingdom.

He outlined a restructuring of the government's Public Investment Fund to make it an international investment power, a planned sale of a stake of less than 5 percent in national oil giant Saudi Aramco, a restructuring of the housing ministry to increase supply of affordable housing, and a "green card" system to give expatriates long-term residence. There were few details, and many analysts said execution of some of the reforms would be difficult.

But the stock market was lifted by a sense that the government was acting energetically to address the economy's problems.

"The main theme of Vision 2030 is to diversify, liberalize and reform the Saudi economy, and the reliance on oil income will gradually fall," said Shakeel Sarwar, head of asset management at Bahrain's Securities and Investment Co.

Trading volume climbed to its highest level since August 2015. "I believe this vision has a lot to offer and am optimistic, but the biggest challenge will be the execution," said Mohammad al Shammasi, head of asset management at Riyadh-based Derayah Financial.

He said the jump in the stock market

might not continue, but noted that other factors had been supporting the bourse's performance in the last few weeks, including firmer oil prices and generally solid quarterly earnings. Banking stocks led the market up as the reform plan was announced, since investors think privatization exercises will benefit institutions with large investment banking operations.

Samba Financial Group, lead underwriter of the recent initial public offer of Middle East Healthcare, rocketed 9.3 percent and National Commercial Bank added 8.2 percent.

#### DUBAI, QATAR

Elsewhere in the Gulf, Industries Qatar

reported a 26.7 percent fall in first-quarter net profit to 697 million riyals (\$186 million), against analysts' average net profit forecast of 748.5 million riyals. Its shares fell 1.8 percent as the main Qatari index dropped 0.8 percent. Dubai's third-biggest lender by assets, Mashreq, posted an 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 last year. Shares in the bank, usually thinly traded, were down 1.1 percent. The Dubai index shed 0.7 percent. Builders Arabtec and Drake & Scull, which have not yet reported quarterly earnings, fell 1.7 and 2.1 percent respectively. Egypt's market was closed for a public holiday. — Reuters



A "Sold" sign sits in front of a house under the final stages of construction in Plano, Texas. The Commerce Department reports on sales of new homes in March. — AP

## NEW US HOME SALES DROP ON SHARP FALL IN THE WEST

WASHINGTON: New US single-family home sales unexpectedly fell in March, but the decline was concentrated in the West region, suggesting that the housing market continued to strengthen.

The Commerce Department said yesterday new home sales decreased 1.5 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 511,000 units. February's sales pace was revised up to 519,000 units from the previously reported 512,000 units. Sales rose in the Midwest and South, but tumbled in the West and were unchanged in the Northeast.

Economists polled by Reuters had forecast new home sales, which account for about 8.7 percent of the housing market, rising to a 520,000 unit-rate last month.

US financial markets were little moved by the data. New home sales are volatile month-to-month. The decline in sales over the past three months likely does not signal a slowdown in the housing market, given a strong labor market and historically low mortgage rates. A report last week showed a 5.1 percent surge in sales of previously owned homes in March. The housing market is bucking a broadly weak economy, with data such as trade, industrial production, business spending and retail sales suggesting the economy lost considerable momentum in the first quarter after logging a 1.4 percent annualized growth rate

in the fourth quarter.

First-quarter gross domestic product estimates are as low as a 0.3 percent rate. The government will release the advance first-quarter GDP estimate on Thursday. The demand for housing is being fueled by a robust labor market, characterized by the lowest unemployment benefit claims since 1973, and mortgage rates near record lows. Labor market strength has increased employment opportunities for young adults, boosting household formation.

But a shortage of properties for sale, which is limiting choice for buyers and driving up prices, remains a constraint for the housing market. Last month, the inventory of new homes on the market rose 2.1 percent to 246,000 units, the highest since September 2009. Despite the increase, new housing stock remains less than half of what it was at the height of housing bubble.

At March's sales pace it would take 5.8 months to clear the supply of houses on the market. That was the most since last September and was up from 5.6 months in February. New single-family homes sales surged 18.5 percent in the Midwest and climbed 5.0 percent in the populous South. Sales plunged 23.6 percent in the West, reversing February's 21.7 percent jump. The West has seen a sharp increase in home prices amid tight inventories. — Reuters

## NEW TURKISH CB CHIEF SEEN CUTTING INFLATION FORECAST

ISTANBUL: Turkey's new central bank chief is expected to lower its year-end inflation forecast yesterday at his first news conference, which will be watched for hints on possible further interest rate cuts, economists said. Murat Cetinkaya is seen lowering the bank's forecast for inflation at the end of 2016 to 7 percent from 7.5 percent when he announces the bank's quarterly inflation report, according to six economists contacted by Reuters.

Cetinkaya took over at the central bank last Tuesday. A day later, the bank trimmed the top end of its interest rate corridor by 50 basis points, in what some saw as a sign of more accommodative policy to come. "We expect a 50 basis point downward revision in the inflation forecast," said Is Portfolio economist Nilufer Sezgin, adding the revision was expected to be driven by lower food price inflation.

The central bank has consistently missed its inflation target of 5 percent over the last five years and at its last quarterly report in January, the year-end forecast was revised up to 7.5 percent from 6.5 percent. But inflation, which topped 9.5 percent earlier this year, cooled to a

seven-month low just under 7.5 percent in March, helped by a slowdown in volatile food prices.

Cetinkaya said as he took office last week that he would try to keep inflation in line with targets, maintain a close eye on financial stability and improve communication in order to bolster the bank's credibility. His comments today will be closely watched for further clues on the monetary policy for the coming period, economists said, particularly any signs of his readiness to resist pressure from President Tayyip Erdogan for sharper rate cuts.

Erdogan has repeatedly spoken out against high interest rates, equating them with treason and arguing that borrowing costs need to come down to spur growth.

"The Q&A session will be important as the market will seek a hint over whether the new governor ... will follow prudent policy making or whether his statements will raise concern over (central bank) independence again," said Ozlem Deric, chief economist at Deniz Invest.

"Accordingly, we will have a clearer view about the magnitude of further loosening in monetary policy." — Reuters

## EDF SHARES DECLINE 5% ON NEWS OF CAPITAL INJECTION

PARIS: Shares in French energy giant EDF plunged more than five percent yesterday after the state said it would lead a four-billion-euro capital increase as the company tries to tackle a huge debt pile.

France, which owns 85 percent of EDF, announced the move late Friday, while the power company pledged to cut millions more in costs and sell off assets. EDF chairman Jean-Bernard Levy said Monday that there would be no additional job cuts at the power company beyond the 3,350 posts which EDF has already announced are set to go by 2018.

When trading opened on the Paris stock market yesterday, EDF shares fell 7.1 percent to 11.37 euros, later rising slightly to 11.6 euros-a fall of 5.5 percent. The power company's debt woes have weighed on its project to build a controversial 23-billion-euro (\$26 billion) nuclear power plant at Hinkley Point in southwest England. Hinkley Point, which EDF is to build in partnership with China General Nuclear Power Corporation (CGN), will be Britain's first nuclear power plant in decades and is to provide seven percent of its energy

needs by 2025. Questions have been raised about the financial viability of the project as EDF is struggling with a debt pile of more than 37 billion euros. Economy Minister Emmanuel Macron on Sunday said EDF would give the final green light to the controversial investment decision in September. The decision had been expected in May, but EDF announced the delay on Friday, saying it first had to consult with an internal committee as demanded by France's unions. On Friday, the French government announced that it would plough three billion euros into the energy provider, as part of the four-billion-euro capital increase.

John Sauven, director of Greenpeace UK, said the latest delay to EDF's investment decision "may now be the sign that the entire project is coming to a grinding halt" and showed the British government "urgently needs to back renewable energy as a more reliable alternative." Even if EDF could agree on the financing of the project, the European Commission could scupper it on the grounds that it was being built with "illegal state aid," Sauven added. — AFP

STOCKS STUMBLE AHEAD OF FED, BOJ MEETINGS

LONDON: World stocks, the dollar and oil all fell modestly yesterday as investors locked in recent gains before central bank meetings in the United States and Japan this week. European and Asian equities both sank as 3.2 and 1.2 percent falls for miners and oil firms pushed the FTSEurofirst 300 down for a third straight day and Tokyo gave back a fifth of the 4 percent it made last week.

Wall Street looked set for a subdued start too

with another flurry of company earnings from, among others, Halliburton and Xerox about to hit after some disappointing showings last week. Signs that a three-month rally in stocks and commodities markets was cooling, a US Federal Reserve rate decision on Wednesday and a Bank of Japan policy update on Thursday meant there was little incentive for traders to be bold. Talk has been that Japan could push deeper into negative interest rate territory, while

there is intense interest on where the Fed currently stands on another rate hike.

“Central banks are still the name of the game,” said Nordea’s chief strategist for developed markets, Jan von Gerich. “There is a chance that the Fed could surprise with a bit of hawkishness on Wednesday. The dollar hasn’t really strengthened and the S&P 500 is back near its all-time high, so they could certainly test the market.” The dollar index was trading 0.3 percent low-

er on the day at 94.862. Against the euro, it dipped to \$1.1256, at the weaker end of a 10-cent range it has held for a year, while the yen rose to 111.16 after a walloping at the end of last week. Sterling, meanwhile, had hit its highest in over a month after a UK media blitz from President Barack Obama calling for Britain to stay in the European Union saw bookmakers lengthen the odds on a Brexit vote in June.

“If one of our best friends is in an organization that enhances their influence and enhances their power and enhances their economy, then I want them to stay in it,” Obama said.

The subdued start to the week for Europe’s markets, was further compounded by an unexpected dip in German business morale amid simmering global growth concerns. The Munich-based Ifo economic institute said its business climate index, which surveys around 7,000 firms, edged down to 106.6 in April compared to a forecast of a rise to 107.0. That was still well above the survey’s long-term average, but also its fourth fall in five months.

“The mood in the German economy is good but not euphoric,” Ifo economist Klaus Wohlrabe said, citing concerns about weakening exports-traditionally Germany’s main growth driver-linked to a slowdown in the United States and China.

BOJ MEETING

The jittery mood sent investors back into government bonds, having largely shunned them for the last couple of weeks. Bond yields fell a fraction but remained above 0.2 percent having ended Friday

with their biggest weekly rise since last December. US Treasury yields also squeezed lower in European trade.

As well as the big central bank meetings this week, there is a blizzard of multinational company earnings and A-list macro data including both US and eurozone Q1 GDP. In Asia overnight, Chinese shares had continued a recent poor run as the blue-chip CSI300 index and Shanghai Composite Index slipped 0.5 and 0.6 percent respectively. Japan’s Nikkei ended down 0.8 percent as the yen pulled off its lows. MSCI’s benchmark 23-country emerging market index dropped roughly the same in its second consecutive session of falls.

Japan’s central bank on Thursday is likely to cut its price forecasts and debate whether a strong yen, weak global demand and soft consumption have hurt inflation expectations enough to warrant another hit of stimulus. “We’ve had a strong 20 days (in Japan) and now is the point where the index will break out or move sideways in anticipation of further catalysts,” said Martin King, co-managing director at Tyton Capital Advisors.

Among commodities, oil prices slipped after notching their third straight week of gains following a pick-up in market sentiment and signs a persistent global supply glut may be easing. Brent fell roughly 1 percent to \$44.65 a barrel, while US crude shed 1.2 percent to \$43.20. Industrial metals also sagged after Shanghai aluminium futures hit their highest level in nearly 10 months overnight, while gold ticked higher on its reputation as a safe port in unsettled markets. — Reuters

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report Monday 25 April 2016. Table with columns: Index, Change, Closing, Last Closing, High, Low. Includes Price Index, Weighted Index, KXS 15, and various trade data.

Table with columns: Security, High, Low, Volume, Value (KD), Trades, Last, Change. Includes categories like Oil & Gas, Basic Materials, and various stock tickers.

Table with columns: Security, High, Low, Volume, Value (KD), Trades, Last, Change. Includes categories like Equipment, Consumer Goods, and various stock tickers.

Table with columns: Security, High, Low, Volume, Value (KD), Trades, Last, Change. Includes categories like Health Care, Consumer Services, and various stock tickers.

Table with columns: Security, High, Low, Volume, Value (KD), Trades, Last, Change. Includes categories like Investment Instruments, Financial Services, and various stock tickers.

Table with columns: Security, High, Low, Volume, Value (KD), Trades, Last, Change. Includes categories like Technology, Parallel Market, and various stock tickers.

Table with columns: Security, High, Low, Volume, Value (KD), Trades, Last, Change. Includes categories like Insurance, and various stock tickers.

For more information, call Global Investment House on 1 80 42 42, www.globalinv.net

National Bank of Kuwait Financial Markets Daily Report. Contains sections for Global Stock Indices, MENA Stock Indices, Global Currencies Exchange Rate, MENA Currencies Exchange Rate, Global Interest Rates, Global Bond Yields, and Commodities.



## GERMANS FLOCK TO PROPERTY AS RATES FALL AND RENTS RISE

**BERLIN:** Unlike his parents who rented their whole life, Berlin resident Sebastian lives in his own apartment and is considering buying a second property in the German capital as an investment to top up his pension one day. For decades a nation largely of tenants and prudent savers, growing numbers of Germans are buying property, not just to own their homes but also in search of investment returns they can no longer earn on their bank savings.

This shift to a more US or British approach to property is being encouraged by the European Central Bank's cheap money policies and rising rents, especially in German cities. A growing urban population and unexpectedly high immigration are pushing up a housing market where construction rates had been low for years.

"I've a private pension scheme, but despite diligent saving, it hardly yields anything due to the ultra-low interest rates," said Sebastian, a 38-year old management consultant, who asked not to be named in full because he does not want clients to know about his personal financial affairs.

While Sebastian bought his first apartment six years ago to escape rising rents, he now wants to buy a second property as a private retirement fund. In the years that followed the fall of the Berlin Wall, property prices in the city were significantly lower than in the likes of London or Paris. But the German capital is no longer a cheap place to live. "The problem now is: it's really difficult to find an apartment in Berlin which is not totally overpriced," said Sebastian. Figures from the European Union's statistics agency show 52.5 percent of Germans lived in their own home in 2014, well below the

EU average of around 70 percent. But this is sharply up from 2006 when, according to separate data from the German Federal Statistics Office, the level was about 42 percent. Strong demand for homes is fuelling a construction boom that is helping to support the German economy while exporters, who traditionally drive growth, struggle due to a slowdown in some of their major markets such as China.

In the last three months of 2015, construction was one of the biggest growth contributors while net trade was a drag. In the first two months of 2016, building investment further increased, raising hopes of a strong first quarter. However, concerns are growing that a property bubble may be inflating at least in some cities. If it bursts one day - a scenario that could be created by rising interest rates, higher unemployment and changing demographics - owners and lenders alike could be hurt, posing a risk to medium-term growth. A shortage of affordable housing is also forcing poorer families out of cities, widening the social gap in one of Europe's richest societies and raising tensions after a record one million migrants arrived last year alone.

### BENEFITING FROM THE BOOM

So far, Sebastian has benefited from the boom. After studying in London and Boston where rent ate up a large part of his scholarships, he returned to buy a 100 square metre (1,100 square foot) apartment in Berlin's then up-and-coming Wedding district. For the 120,000 euro (\$135,000) purchase, he borrowed 100,000 euros in 2010 on an interest rate of 3.8 percent.—Reuters

## GERMAN BUSINESS CONFIDENCE STABLE

**FRANKFURT:** German business confidence held stable in April as the positive mood in Europe's biggest economy prevails despite global uncertainties, the Ifo economic institute said yesterday.

The Ifo institute's closely-watched business climate index eased to 106.6 points in April from 106.7 points in March, Ifo said in a statement. Analysts had been expecting a modest increase in the index this month. Nevertheless, "the mood in the German economy remains positive," said Ifo president Clemens Fuest.

"Although companies were somewhat less satisfied with their current situation, their business expectations brightened once again. The moderate upturn in the

German economy continues," Fuest said. Ifo calculates its headline index on the basis of companies' assessments of the current business environment and the outlook for the next six months.

The sub-index measuring current business fell by 0.6 point to 113.2 points, while the outlook sub-index climbed by 0.4 point to 100.4 points, the institute said. The latest Ifo reading "adds to latest hopes that the widely-feared sharp global slowdown is not happening. At least the German economy is showing solid resistance," said ING DiBa economist Carsten Brzeski.

Nevertheless, under the surface of solid hard data, "a more worrying picture is emerging," the expert cautioned.—AFP



CHAMPEIX: French Economy minister Emmanuel Macron (right) visits nursing home care (EHPAD) of Champeix yesterday.—AFP

## COMPANIES EYE PARTNERSHIP DEALS TO COUNTER LOW GROWTH

### DIGITAL INNOVATION GENERATING UNCERTAINTY

**LONDON:** With global economic growth slowing, inflation staying low and digital innovation generating uncertainty, companies are increasingly looking at partnership deals with other firms, even competitors, to boost revenues, consulting firm EY said yesterday.

In its half-yearly review of corporate deal-making, EY found that 40 percent of firms plan to enter alliances of some kind. Such deals can involve sharing resources to undertake specific projects, and are usually informal and less permanent than joint ventures. Partnerships are becoming increasingly popular. IBM, Apple and Johnson & Johnson and others are working together to develop mobile apps that would help patients. EY itself recently entered into an alliance with LinkedIn to offer services via social networks.

"Alliances are increasingly being seen as a means to take advantage of the expertise of others," said Pip McCrostie, EY's global head of transactions. "They provide a more informal, lower risk approach, enabling companies to respond quickly to changes to the market." Elsewhere in its sur-

vey, EY said companies remain very interested in acquisitions in order to offset the impact of lower growth. It found that 50 percent of the executives it polled intend to make transactions over the coming year. Though down from the record 59 percent recorded in October, the appetite for mergers and acquisitions, or M&A, remains well above the survey's seven-year long-run average of 41 percent.

In effect, companies look to bolster their finances by purchasing other firms and reaping their profits - provided valuations are not exorbitant. In a slower-growth world that has its roots largely in the slowdown in China's economy, deals can help cushion firms' finances.

"Prolonged low economic growth coupled with market disruption, is generating a strong M&A appetite," said McCrostie. "Given the pressure on pricing and the pace of change, organic growth alone is often not enough." Companies are also shifting to bigger deals, according to EY, with a five-fold increase in the number of firms looking to make acquisitions worth \$1 billion or

more. Not all deals work out as planned, including the decision by Pfizer and Irish rival Allergan to scrap a \$160 billion deal following new Treasury Department rules to block American companies from moving their corporate addresses overseas - on paper - to avoid US taxes. Still, the number and value of deals have shot up over the past few years from the lows recorded during the global financial crisis of 2008-09 and the ensuing global recession. M&A really picked up steam last year, when many blockbuster deals - worth over \$10 billion each - were announced. They included the takeover of British-based SABMiller by Anheuser Busch InBev and the merger between Heinz and Kraft Foods, which is now called Kraft Heinz.

The pace of announcements has eased somewhat this year, perhaps due to the volatility in financial markets over the first couple of months. However, markets have steadied since then, a sign that investors are a little less fearful. EY's survey was based on interviews with 1,700 executives in 45 countries.—AP

# Al Mulla Group - Generating STARS through "KAIZEN Learning & Development Initiative"

**A**l Mulla Group is famous in implementing many management models by entirely people's involvement and participation. Each and every team member of Al Mulla Automotive Division is completely dedicated and committed to fulfill all the Long-term Strategic Requirements with a focus approach towards the Short-term & Long-term Strategic Desires. An immense support is getting from the Top Management in order to integrate the management models from top to bottom levels in all operational areas. Many times implementation of new initiatives given a hard task to all the team members, but the way they achieve the favorable results has enormous success records and quality achievements in all the areas of business operations. Facing the challenges is common but converting the challenges into the available opportunities is the key and critical art in our good talent and the best part of this virtue is People Development, it is not possible to achieve the good results in absence of People Development Initiative.

Our KAIZEN Learning & Development Initiative is one of the strong pillar of our operations. Its provide a clear Vision and Support our Business Requirements by emphasizing on Training & Development in all the Job Families.

We have Career Development Programs for our Technicians, Service Advisors, Vehicle Sales Staff, Parts Sales Staff and other support staff at the same time our "Supervisory Excellence and Appreciation Drive" (SPEED) for all our Supervisors and Potential Candidates and "Leadership Excellence & Appreciation Drive (LEAD) for all our Managers and Potential Candidates are the available tools which generating "STARS" on a continuous basis. Qualification Certificates and "KAIZEN" Appreciation Awards distributed in a very brilliance event.

"People Development is vital, our People Development Initiative not only generation "STARS" but also endorsing excellent Customer Satisfaction Index. We appreciate all the team, who driven these initiatives, Congratulate all the winners and wish all the best to all other staff, who are in race of People Development Programs under "Kaizen Learning & Development Initiative" said by Mr. ImadFlayhan, Managing Director - Al Mulla Group Automotive Division.





## NISSAN FURTHER STRENGTHENS ITS MODEL LINE-UP

### AUTO CHINA 2016

**DUBAI:** At Auto China 2016 Nissan unveiled the all-new Tiida and announced the launch of Maxima, strengthening its product offering for young consumers in China.

Additionally, the Nissan IDS Concept premiered, bringing the company's vision for the future of EVs and autonomous driving (AD) to China. Nissan reinforced its commitment to realize its vision for zero emissions and zero fatalities with "Nissan Intelligent Mobility" (Intelligent Mobility). Between now and 2020, the Renault-Nissan Alliance will introduce autonomous drive technologies to more than 10 models in global key markets, including China.

"Today, I am excited to outline Nissan's vision for the future. It is a vision that promises zero emissions and zero fatalities. It looks to a time when our relationship with cars will be a true partnership. With Intelligent Mobility, we are making this vision a reality," said Daniele Schillaci, Executive Vice President, Global Marketing & Sales, Nissan Motor Co., Ltd. at the press briefing.

Nissan also announced that the company will strengthen collaboration with Tsinghua University to promote Intelligent Mobility and related technologies.

#### All-New Tiida

The all-new Tiida was unveiled featuring engine and transmission enhancements, as well as



improvements in safety performance. As another important model in China, all-new Tiida speaks to the aesthetic of the young generation with the dynamic V-Motion grille and streamlined body. Tiida also brings a more comfortable experience with a more spacious interior.

The all-new Tiida is an example of Intelligent Mobility in action, delivering Intelligent Power, Intelligent Driving and Intelligent Integration. It is equipped with safety technologies that are related to Intelligent Driving, such as Forward Emergency Braking (FEB), Lane Departure Warning (LDW) and Blind Spot Warning (BSW). What's more, the drivers



of all-new Tiida can enjoy segment leading infotainment system with 7 inches audio display, and convenience through various kinds of media connection to the vehicle, making it a good example of Intelligent Integration.

Altogether, Intelligent Power, an even more powerful 1.6L HR16DE engine, coupled with the Intelligent Start and Stop system and improved Xtronic CVT, enables the all-new Tiida to deliver superior performance with efficient 5.3L/100km fuel consumption.

#### Maxima

With sophisticated styling, high performance

and pioneering technology, Maxima has attracted wide attention from young Chinese elites since its first China showing at Auto Guangzhou 2015.

A flagship model and key product, Maxima is equipped with a number of advanced technologies that are building blocks of AD and Nissan Intelligent Driving, such as FEB, LDW, BSW and Around View Monitor (AVM).

#### Nissan IDS Concept

The Nissan IDS Concept is the realization of Nissan's vision for zero emissions and zero fatalities by transforming the relationship between car and driver to a true partnership.

Created to guide the Nissan product evolution, Intelligent Mobility will anchor critical company decisions around how cars are powered, driven and integrated into society.

Nissan IDS Concept is equipped with a high-capacity 60kWh battery, catering for up to 550km\* long-distance drives. Advanced technologies, such as Piloted Park through smartphone or tablet and wireless charging, also enable the car to be fully autonomous in any occasions.

With a series of new model launches, including Murano, Qashqai, Lannia, Maxima and the forthcoming all-new Tiida, China continues to play a major role in the global business of Nissan.



## KFH LAUNCHES NEW BANKING CARDS MARKETING CAMPAIGN

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Finance House (KFH) launched a new marketing campaign themed "Win Samsung Curved UHD 65" TV with KFH Cards" 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 will get a chance to enter a draw and win daily Samsung Curved UHD 65" TV for 50 days ending June 14th 2016. KFH Credit and Prepaid cards used in domestic and international retail spends and KFH Debit cards used in international retail spends are eligible for the daily draw.

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.

## ETIHAD LAUNCHES INNOVATIVE MOBILE APP TO REIMAGINE TRAVEL EXPERIENCE

**ABU DHABI:** Etihad Airways, the national airline of the UAE, has launched a mobile application for the iPhone that enables guests to organize and manage their journey with even greater ease as the airline continues to adopt innovative technology to reimagine the flying experience.

Etihad Airways guests will enjoy 10 per cent off flights, and members of the airline's loyalty program Etihad Guest, will receive 250 bonus miles for every booking made through the mobile app before 30 May 2016. Those who attend the Etihad Airways stand (ME 2310) at the Arabian Travel Market in Dubai from 25 - 28 April 2016 will be able to trial the app's considerable features and functionality.

The Etihad Airways mobile app is simple and enjoyable to use, providing comprehensive trip management capabilities by taking full advantage of the latest innovations in mobile technology. Guests can organize their journey on the app including booking tickets, checking-in and viewing the status of their flight.

The airline also partnered with Abu Dhabi Airports Company, enabling guests to navigate their way around Abu Dhabi International Airport using indoor maps - a first in the Middle East. The mobile app also incorporates high resolution enhanced seat maps, giving passengers a detailed layout of the cabin and their chosen seat.

Peter Baumgartner, Etihad Airways Chief Commercial Officer, said: "Etihad Airways is dedicated to delivering excellence in every single guest interaction, be it face to face or on digital channels. We strive to provide innovative solutions that ensure our guests enjoy a seamless world-class service. We are confident that our guests will be delighted with the speed of the app, its ease of use and its considerable functionality. Regular travellers will also appreciate the ability to organize their journey on the go - all on the mobile app."

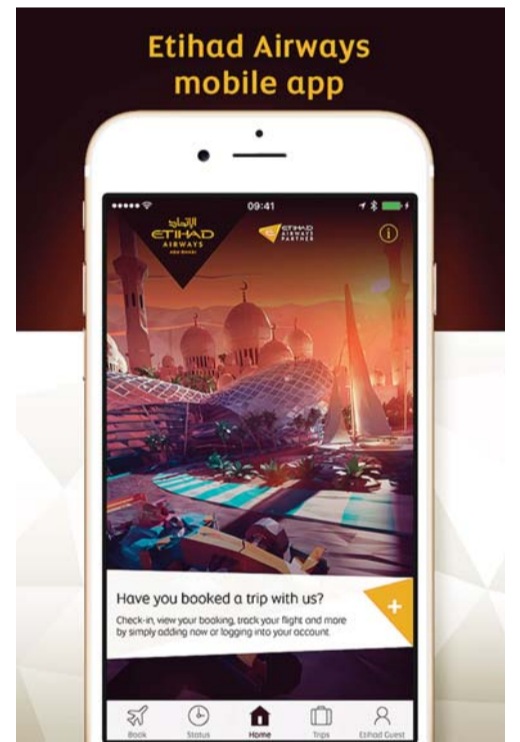
The Etihad Airways' app allows passengers to check in for their flight by using their mobile phone to simply scan their passport page. Guests can also pay for their tickets by scan-



ning their credit card, eliminating the need to enter passenger details and payment information manually.

The simple booking process allows guests to compare multiple fare choices and upgrade options. In the 'My Trips' section guests can view all their past and upcoming trips, which are automatically linked to their Etihad Guest reward program account. Boarding passes can be viewed from the app or downloaded directly to iOS Wallet.

The app offers a 'countdown to take off' feature to ensure guests arrive at the departure gate in plenty of time. Live flight status updates provide real time flight information enabling passengers' family and friends to track their flight. The mobile app is one of many innovative solutions being developed across Etihad Airways



as part of its Digital Guest Innovation strategy. This technology strategy ensures that Etihad Airways and its equity partner airlines embed world-class technologies to deliver a range of services and products that enhance the guest experience and ensure passengers' air travel expectations are met.

Robert Webb, Etihad Aviation Group's Chief Information Technology Officer, said: "The mobile app marks a great step forward in our Digital Guest Innovation strategy. Through technology, we're creating more personalized and tailored digital services and products to benefit our guests. This is just the beginning as we continue to empower our guests with greater control and flexibility over the entire booking and travel experience including how they choose to interact with our airline."

## AHLI UNITED BANK ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF AL-HASSAD ISLAMIC SAVING PROGRAM

**KUWAIT:** Ahli United Bank held its weekly draw of Al-Hassad Islamic Saving program on April 20, 2016. This program offers the biggest prize amount to the largest number of winners. The prize program succeeded in becoming the first prize account in Kuwait compliant with the Islamic Sharia principles. The program has been developed to fulfil the needs of the Bank customers and increase their opportunities in winning sizeable and attractive prizes in addition to enjoying the latest banking advantages that Ahli United Bank provides.

On this occasion, the bank issued the following press release: Al-Hassad Islamic Saving program offers the highest amounts of prizes which amount to KD 3.4 million per year. This program also offers 26 weekly prizes, with the highest number of weekly winners. The Islamic Hassad Saving Account may be opened by the lowest amount to open an



account, which is KD 100. The winner of the weekly grand prize in the amount of KD 25,000/- is: Sanaulhaq Mohamed Yusuf.

The winners of the KD 1,000 prize each: Nawaf Ali Al Enezi, Ali Salem Mohammad, Saleemah Mohammad Hasan, Mohammad F N Al Flajj, Abdulla Mohammed Al Qoud, Saad Dawod Almusallam, Ahmad Mohammad Ali, Nour M J S H Alzalalah, Khaled M O Al Mutairi, Abdullah Ahmad Al Saqoubi, Aliah Mohsen Al Mutairi, Nabeelah Abdullah Al Matrouk, Dalal Hamed Yousef, Maryam Taher Ali Al Qattan, Abdullah Ouwaied Al Enezi, Hasan Ahmed Hussain, Mohammad Awwadh Al

Mutairi, Awatef Abdulaziz Al Attar, Fatema A. Rasool Abdulla, Fatema S. Hasan, Habib Abbas Abdulla, Ali Akbar Ali, Alyaa Jameel Ali Al Matrouk, Ismail Ali Ebrahim, Salah Yusuf Abdulrahman.

The prize program of "Al-Hassad Islamic Saving" from Ahli United Bank offers a weekly grand prize worth KD 25,000/- in addition to 25 weekly prizes worth a total of KD 25,000 distributed to 25 prizes, KD 1,000 for each winner.

In addition, prizes of Al-Hassad Islamic saving program from Ahli United Bank offer 4 quarterly grand prizes announced in quarterly draws. Each is a "Salary for Life" prize which is worth KD 250,000.

In general, Ahli United Bank continues to offer innovative tools and means to meet the needs of its customers to match the Bank's long history of distinctive services which extend over 74 years during which the Bank managed to take the lead among local banks.

## GULF BANK'S MONTHLY SALARY ACCOUNT AND RED ACCOUNT DRAWS TO TAKE PLACE LIVE ON MARINA FM

**KUWAIT:** Gulf Bank has announced that it will be holding its monthly Salary Account draw and Red Account draw today at 1pm, live on Marina FM's famous Diwaniya show. The Salary & Red Account will have cash draw prize of KD 1,000 for each account. The draws will be held under the supervision of a Ministry of Commerce representative.



The new 2016 Kuwaiti Salary offer provides customers upon transferring their salary, a guaranteed cash gift of up to KD 200 or up to 60,000 Gulf Reward Points upon their first salary transfer as well as receiving a Gulf

Bank Signature Credit card free for life.

Furthermore quarterly car draws with the chance to win a new 2016 Cadillac. The new 2016 red(tm) account is designed for high school, college and university students aged 15 to 25 years old. Amongst the benefits is a monthly cash draw prizes of KD 1,000 and in addition a quarterly car draw will be for 1 lucky winner who will have a chance to win a new 2016 Cadillac. Account holders receive an ATM card and there is no minimum deposit required to open the account or a minimum balance charge.

For further information about the Salary, Red accounts and prize draws, visit one of Gulf Bank's 56 branches, or call Gulf Bank's Customer Contact Center on 1805805. General information about Gulf Bank's products and services can also be found at the Bank's website.



## CROCODILE ATTACKS SLEEPING AUSTRALIAN CAMPER

**SYDNEY:** A 19-year-old on a family camping holiday in northern Australia had a lucky escape yesterday when he fought off a crocodile which bit into his foot as he slept. The reptile struck at about 4:30am as the group slept at their campsite in the Northern Territory. Peter Rowsell told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation he was woken by something "shaking" his right foot. "I was sleeping in

a mozzie (mosquito) net, and ... I woke up and there was something shaking my foot, and I woke up and had a look and it was three to four meters long," he said.

He said he hit the reptile "once or twice" on the head and it went back into the water. His screams woke his fellow campers who drove him to hospital, more than two hours' drive away. Department of Health spokeswoman

Gail Liston confirmed a man was treated in Katherine Hospital after the attack in the Douglas Daly region south of Darwin. "He was bitten on the right foot by a crocodile," she said.

"He has puncture wounds." The man's injuries were not life-threatening, she said. Rowsell told the ABC he was not sure whether the crocodile was a freshwater variety or the larger and more

feared saltwater type.

In January a crocodile bit off a woman's arm in a "death roll" at a creek in a small town in neighboring Western Australia state. The reptiles are common in Australia's tropical north. Numbers have increased since the introduction of protection laws in 1971, with estimates putting the Northern Territory's population in the wild at about 100,000. In

2015 more than 250 of them were removed from waterways around Darwin, the capital of the Northern Territory, including a 4.25 meter-long (13.9 feet) male. Despite the dangers they pose for swimmers, boaters and fishermen, the Australian government in 2014 rejected the idea of crocodile safari hunts-saying there was a danger of "cruel and inhumane" behavior. — AFP

## INDIA URGED TO ACT TO HELP SLUM DWELLERS

**NEW DELHI:** India's ambitious target to build 20 million new homes for the nation's poor is failing slum dwellers and those living on the city's streets, Leilani Farha, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing, has warned. She said India, which has the world's largest number of urban poor and landless people, is trying to address the "scourge" of inadequate housing through its 'Housing for all' policy that vows to provide homes for all families by 2022.

But opponents fear this construction program focuses too much on driving economic growth with a concentration on new houses rather than the need to upgrade and provide services to existing communities in city slums or living on the streets. "For every luxury unit created, an untold number of households may be evicted and rendered homeless," Farha told a conference at the UN office in Delhi, calling for a moratorium on evictions and obligations to address homelessness.

"I am extremely concerned for the millions of people who experience exclusion, discrimination, evictions, insecure tenure, homelessness and who lack hope of accessing affordable and adequate housing in their lifetimes," Farha made her comments after a two-week tour through India which included visits to Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru. During her trip, she spoke to a range of city residents, including the homeless people described as "pavement dwellers".

An estimated 65 million people, or 13.6 million households, are housed in urban slums, according to the 2011 Indian census which estimated an additional 1.8 million people in India were homeless. Farha said the Indian government's push to encourage development of more housing nationally threatened to become what she described as a "a zero-sum game". "Its drive to become an

economic giant through real estate investment and development of infrastructure is creating homelessness and housing disadvantage," she said.

### Right to Housing

A Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation study in 2012 estimated that the urban housing shortage affected some 18.7 million people, with 96 percent of citizens in this group earning an annual income below \$3,000. The 'Housing for all' scheme has been cited to potentially boost the country's economy by 3.5 percent by 2022, according to the Fitch group rating agency, India Ratings. Farha said India's 'Housing for all' project aims to build 20 million dwellings with toilets, water and electricity by 2022 which would be provided for 100 million low income households.

She said this had a positive impact on residents gaining security of tenure for the first time. But Farha said the program did not cover people living on India's city streets with no national law reform plan, policy or program to address urban homelessness, which left women particularly vulnerable. "I met many women who had fled violent households and with few housing options, were left destitute living on the side of a road," Farha said. "Women face multiple layers of discrimination with respect to access, control and ownership and inheritance of housing, land and property."

The Bengaluru-based Indian Institute for Human Settlements (IIHS) says the government's vision of a slum-free India can succeed only if the focus is on upgrading existing housing for communities rather than constructing new units. But the Minister for Housing and Urban Poverty, Venkaiah Naidu, said the 'Housing for all' program addresses the shortcomings of earlier schemes and would be more "workable". — Reuters



**DRESDEN:** A recently hatched chick is seen in an incubator at a lab at the Carl Gustav Carus Faculty of Medicine of the Dresden Institute of Technology (TU Dresden) as part of a project to determine spectroscopically the sex of chicks in ovo before they hatch at their lab in Dresden yesterday. — AFP

## GERMAN SCIENTISTS SEEK WAY TO END LIVE CHICK SHREDDING

SCIENTISTS WORKING TO PREVENT MASS CULLS OF NEWBORNS

**DRESDEN:** In a basement of Dresden University, German scientists are busy refining a technique that could save millions of fluffy chicks from being shredded to death moments after they hatch. The young hatchlings are usually condemned to a violent end simply because they are male, as roosters are deemed largely useless in the world of livestock farming. Not only are they unable to lay eggs, their meat is not particularly popular.

Male chicks are therefore systematically eradicated. In many cases, they are mechanically shredded or crushed to death and used as animal feed. At Dresden's University Clinic, analytical chemist Gerald Steiner and his team are working to prevent such mass culls of newborns by detecting the sex of chicks before they hatch. Steiner uses a spectroscopic method, based on the analysis of scattered light on blood vessels, to determine the sex of chick embryos in the egg. Spectroscopy is already used in cancer treatment as it helps to differentiate between abnormal and healthy cells. "If we are able to identify a tumour, then why not the sex?" said Roberta Galli, a physicist.

### '95% accuracy'

Several teams of scientists-including veterinarians, chemists, engineers and physicists-are collaborating on the project, which also includes the participation of two private companies. In the laboratory, Galli and her colleague Grit Preusse take eggs out of the refrigerator to demonstrate their technique. The eggs have already been incubated for three days and blood vessels had by now formed. "But not the nerve cells, so they can't feel pain," Steiner explained. The team believes that from an ethical point of view, it is preferable to decide the chick's fate before, rather than after, it hatches.

Using a laser beam, the scientists trace a small circle at the top of an egg, which makes a little hole in the shell. Through this they can see veins in the yolk, as well as detect the flutter of a tiny beating heart. The egg is then placed in a large black box-the spectrometer-and quickly, the biochemical properties of the embryo's blood are displayed on a screen. "To the naked eye, we can't see the difference (between male

and female embryos) but the computer can, if it's programmed to do so," said Steiner.

His team has been fine-tuning the program over the past few years, and they now have it down to an identification accuracy rate of 95 percent. In a process that should ultimately take just a few minutes, an egg containing a male chick is discarded pre-birth, while one containing a female chick is fixed up with a plaster and then returned to the incubator. A few days later, a chick that will one day be a laying hen hatches. Steiner believes that some use will eventually be found for the unwanted male embryos-be it as fish feed or even in shampoo.

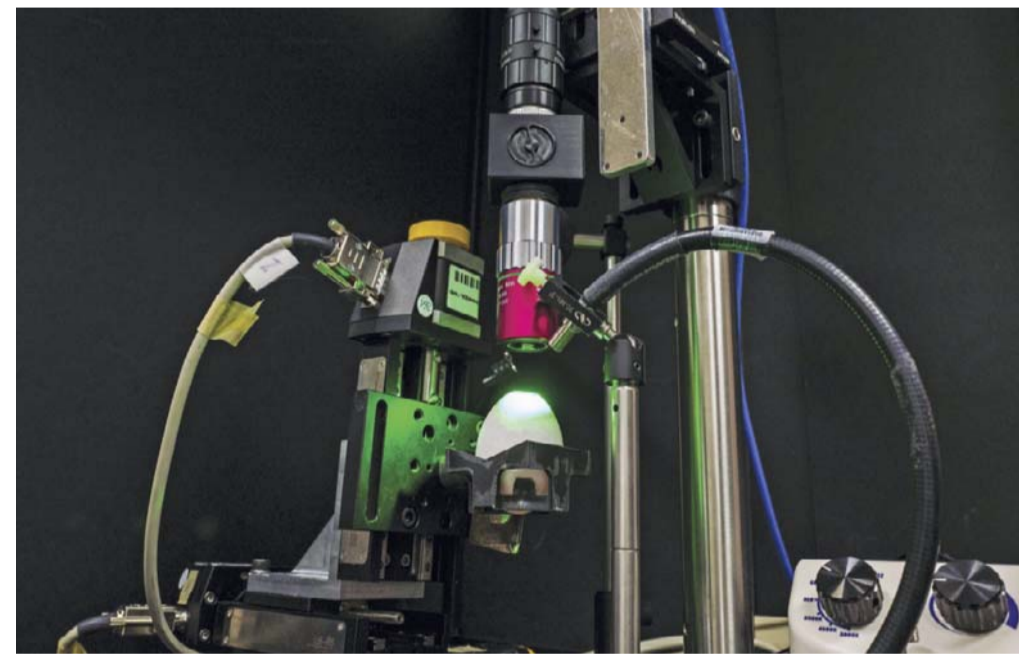
### 'Piling on pressure'

Beyond the challenge of finding a technique that is minimally invasive and which would allow the female "chicks to hatch and be in good health", another important factor is that the method has to have the potential to be auto-

mated, said Preusse. The plan is to have a machine bore a hole in the egg, while another machine identifies the gender, fixes up the female eggs and removes the male ones. A start-up in Dresden is currently working on developing the machines, which could one day be used by poultry farmers.

### But one big question is - when?

In Germany, the timing also has political resonance. With a public that is increasing concerned about animal welfare, Agriculture Minister Christian Schmidt had promised that by 2017, male chicks would no longer be sent to be crushed. At the same time, Schmidt is refusing to impose an outright ban, and is rather counting on Steiner's research-which the ministry is funding-to deliver. "The politicians are piling on pressure ahead of the 2017 elections," said Steiner, who said he was getting phone calls "every week" from the ministry, eager for an update. — AFP



**DRESDEN:** An egg is placed on a Spectrometer at a lab at the Carl Gustav Carus Faculty of Medicine of the Dresden Institute of Technology (TU Dresden) as part of a project to determine spectroscopically the sex of chicks in ovo before they hatch at their lab in Dresden. — AFP



**MUUNGONI, Tanzania:** A mother and her daughter harvest seaweed at their farm in the Muungoni area, south of Stone Town. Seaweed farmed on Tanzanian archipelago is one of the Zanzibar's key exports-for food, cosmetics and medicines in Asia, Europe and North America-but now the vital industry is struggling amid fears warmer waters is killing the crops. Over 23,000 farmers grow and harvest the seaweed-some 80 percent of those are rural women-according to government statistics. — AFP

## 6 AFRICAN NATIONS COULD BE MALARIA-FREE BY 2020

**GENEVA:** Six countries in Africa, the continent where malaria is most widespread, could be free of the disease by 2020, according to a WHO report published Monday to mark World Malaria Day. One of the goals of the World Health Organization's 2016-2030 program against malaria is to wipe out the disease in at least 10 countries by the end of this decade. "WHO estimates that 21 countries are in a position to achieve this goal, including six countries in the African Region, where the burden of the disease is heaviest," the Geneva-based organization said in a statement.

These countries are Algeria, Botswana, Cape Verde, Comoros, South Africa and Swaziland. In South Africa the elimination of malaria is a public health objective. The country registered 11,700 cases of the disease in 2014 - down from 64,000 in 2000 - with most diagnoses coming from areas bordering Swaziland, Zimbabwe

and Mozambique. "Through targeted action and cross-border collaboration, South Africa has the potential to eliminate malaria by 2020," the WHO report said.

The other countries the organization believes could achieve this objective are China, Malaysia and South Korea, eight Latin American nations (Costa Rica, Belize, El Salvador, Mexico, Argentina, Paraguay, Ecuador and Suriname), as well as Saudi Arabia, Iran, Oman, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Timor-Leste and Nepal. Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus eradicated malaria in 2015, according to a WHO report published earlier this month. Some 214 million people suffered from malaria last year of which 438,000 died from the disease, according to the organization. Nine out of 10 deaths from the disease in 2015 came from sub-Saharan Africa, the report said. — AFP



**LAGOS:** Health official takes blood sample of a woman for malaria testing at Ajah in Eti Osa East district of Lagos. Dozens of patients and community members received malaria testing and treatment from the non-governmental organization Development Africa, which in collaboration with Total company distributes treated mosquito nets and other actions to prevent malaria attacks to mark this year's World Malaria Day. — AFP

## US HOUSE SEEKS LEGISLATIVE RESPONSE TO DRUG ABUSE

**WASHINGTON:** More than a month after the Senate acted on legislation to reduce heroin deaths, the House is trying to figure out how to deal with the election-year issue. Heroin and opioid painkiller abuse is a growing, deadly problem that has become a top political issue in many states. More than 47,000 Americans died of drug overdoses in 2014 in cities and rural areas alike, more than double the death rate in 2000. The Senate last month passed a bill 94-1 that would create grants to bolster state and local programs aimed at reducing overdose deaths. At a news conference Thursday, a bipartisan group of House lawmakers pushed for a package of bills including similar grants and legislation to reduce over-prescribing and improve treatment.

House committees already are considering the bills, and GOP leaders have said they want to vote on a package in May. But it still hasn't been decided exactly what the package will look like. Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., said this week that the House is "right on track" for getting the legislation done. Speaker Paul Ryan has said the chamber will move on the issue soon but has not given a timeline. "Our goal is to go to confer-

ence with the Senate and get a bill to the president's desk," Ryan said Thursday.

In both chambers, Republican lawmakers facing tough re-election bids in states most affected by drug abuse have led efforts to get the legislation passed. Rep. Frank Guinta, vulnerable in his home state of New Hampshire, is pushing the legislation with his state Democratic colleague, Rep. Annie Kuster. New Hampshire Sen. Kelly Ayotte and Ohio Sen. Rob Portman, also Republicans in tough races, pushed for the Senate bill. The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has said the drug problem has grown most significantly in the Northeast, Midwest and South. West Virginia, New Mexico, New Hampshire, Kentucky and Ohio had the highest death rates from drug overdoses in 2014.

At the news conference, Guinta said House committees still are deciding which bills will be part of the package and how much the legislation will cost. "That could take some additional time," Guinta said. Guinta, Kuster and other lawmakers have asked House colleagues in charge of spending for more than \$800 million for the efforts. The Senate bill would provide no new money for the

grants; Republicans said previously approved money could be used and more could be provided when Congress writes next year's spending bills. Senate Democrats had attempted to add \$600 million to the legislation, but that effort was rejected. In a letter expressing support for the bill's grants, White House officials had said that unless Congress provides extra money, the bill "would do little to address the epidemic" of drug abuse.

Still, the legislation won wide support from senators of both parties. That bill includes money to train emergency workers to treat drug abusers, create treatment programs that would be alternatives to imprisonment and finance recovery programs at schools and nonprofit groups. There would be grants for helping veterans and pregnant offenders, and funds for using drugs like naloxone that can reverse opiate overdoses and for local law enforcement efforts. Senators are pushing the House to move more quickly. Portman says the House should pass the Senate bill and move on the rest of their bills separately. "It's urgent," Portman said on the Senate floor Thursday. "There is a crisis. There's no time to waste." — AP



**VOROTETS:** An equipment for milking cows with milk is fixed on a wall at a farm in the village of Vorotets, on land, just 45 kilometers north of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in Ukraine, where a reactor explosion and fire on April 26, 1986, belched a cloud of smoke infested with radioactive particles over much of northern Europe.



**KHOINIKI:** The milk products are displayed at the local factory of Milkavita in Khoiniki, on land about 60 kilometers north of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in Ukraine, where a reactor explosion and fire on April 26, 1986, belched a cloud of smoke infested with radioactive particles over much of northern Europe. — AP photos

# TEST FINDS CHERNOBYL RESIDUE IN BELARUS MILK

**GUBAREVICH:** On the edge of Belarus' Chernobyl exclusion zone, down the road from the signs warning "Stop! Radiation," a dairy farmer offers his visitors a glass of freshly drawn milk. Associated Press reporters politely decline the drink but pass on a bottled sample to a laboratory, which confirms it contains levels of a radioactive isotope at levels 10 times higher than the nation's food safety limits. That finding on the eve of the 30th anniversary of the world's worst nuclear accident indicates how fallout from the April 26, 1986, explosion at the plant in neighboring Ukraine continues to taint life in Belarus.

The authoritarian government of this agriculture-dependent nation appears determined to restore long-idle land to farm use and in a country where dissent is quashed, any objection to the policy is thin. The farmer, Nikolai Chubenok, proudly says his herd of 50 dairy cows produces up to two tons of milk a day for the local factory of Milkavita, whose brand of Parmesan cheese is sold chiefly in Russia. Milkavita officials called the AP-commissioned lab finding "impossible," insisting their own tests show their milk supply contains traces of radioactive isotopes well below safety limits.

Yet a tour along the edge of the Polesie Radioecological Reserve, a 2,200-square-kilometer ghost landscape of 470 evacuated villages and towns, reveals a nation showing little regard for the potentially cancer-causing isotopes still to be found in the soil. Farmers suggest the lack of mutations and other glaring health problems mean Chernobyl's troubles can be consigned to history. "There is no danger. How can you be afraid of radiation?" said Chubenok, who since 2014 has produced milk from his farm just 45 kilometers north of the shuttered Chernobyl site, and two kilometers from the boundary of a zone that remains officially off-limits to full-time human habitation.

Chubenok says he hopes to double his herd size and start producing farmhouse cheese on site. His milk is part of the Milkavita supply chain for making Poleskiye brand cheese, about 90 percent of which is sold in Russia, the rest domestically. The World Bank identifies Russia as the major market for Belarusian food exports, which represent 15 percent of the country's export economy. Since rising to power in 1994, President Alexander Lukashenko - the former director of a state-owned farm - has stopped resettlement programs for people living near the mandatory exclusion zone and developed a long-term plan to raze empty villages and reclaim the land for crops and livestock.

## Chernobyl fallout

The Chernobyl explosion meant 138,000 Belarusians closest to the plant had to be resettled, while 200,000 others living nearby left voluntarily. One of the most prominent medical critics of the government's approach to safeguarding the public from Chernobyl fallout, Dr Yuri Bandazhevsky, was removed as director of a Belarusian research institute and imprisoned in 2001 on corruption charges that international rights groups branded politically motivated. Since his 2005 parole he has resumed his research into Chernobyl-related cancers with European Union sponsorship. Bandazhevsky, now based in Ukraine, says he has no doubt that Belarus is failing to protect citizens from carcinogens in the food supply. "We have a disaster," he told the AP in the Ukraine capital, Kiev. "In Belarus, there is no protection of the population from radiation exposure. On the contrary, the government is trying to persuade people not to pay attention to radiation, and food is grown in contaminated areas and sent to all points in the country."

The milk sample subjected to an AP-commissioned analysis backs this picture. The state-run Minsk Center of Hygiene and Epidemiology said it found strontium-90, a radioactive isotope linked to cancers and cardiovascular disease, in quantities 10 times higher than Belarusian food safety regulations allow. The test, like others in resource-strapped Belarus, was insufficiently sophisticated to test for heavier radioactive isotopes associated with nuclear fallout, including americium and variants of plutonium.

The Belarusian Agriculture Ministry says levels of strontium-90 should not exceed 3.7 becquerels per kilogram in food and drink. Becquerels are a globally recognized unit of measurement for radioactivity. The Minsk lab informed the AP that the milk sample contained 37.5 becquerels. That radioactive isotope is, along with cesium-137, commonly produced during nuclear fission and generates most of the heat and penetrating radiation from nuclear waste. When consumed, scientists say strontium-90 mimics the behavior of calcium in the human body, settling in bones.

## 'In-depth' analysis

Milkavita chief engineer Maia Fedonchuk rejected the findings. "It's impossible. We do our own testing. There must have been a mix-up," she said, adding they test samples from every batch of milk they receive from Chubenok and do an "in-depth" analysis every six months. She said the plant's own lab analysis indicates its overall milk supply contains an average of 2.85 becquerels per kilogram. A

person who answered the telephone at the press office of the Belarusian Emergency Situations Ministry, which is tasked with dealing with the fallout of the nuclear disaster, said they would not comment on the AP's findings. Health officials say the danger level posed by low levels of radioactive isotopes depends greatly on length of exposure and individual physiology. Notably, the regional free-trade bloc that includes Belarus and Russia permits higher levels of strontium-90 in goods of up to 25 becquerels per kilogram, still lower than that detected in the AP-commissioned test. The question is whether anyone in authority is

unit of the World Health Organization, said the consumption of radioactive food is linked chiefly to the development of cancer in the thyroid, a gland in the neck that produces body-regulating hormones. Thyroid cancer is typically not fatal if diagnosed early.

## Chernobyl-related dangers

WHO officials say they are dependent on reports from sister agencies in Belarus to alert them to cancer clusters or other signs of unresolved Chernobyl-related dangers. Gregory Hartl, a WHO spokesman in Geneva, said the agency had no authority to regulate or over-

producing goods containing excessive levels of radioactive materials.

Irina Sukhly, founder of the Belarus ecological group Green Network, said workers in food-industry factories have confidentially told her that ingredients and products are blended to dilute the impact of potentially radioactive ingredients from Belarusian suppliers bordering Ukraine. Such alleged mixing, she said, reduces the level of potentially carcinogenic isotopes in dairy products and processed meat below "the allowable dose, but it is still hazardous to health."

The division of the Belarusian Emergencies Ministry responsible for cleaning up the consequences of Chernobyl says that the rate of thyroid cancer in children runs 33 times higher than before the nuclear blast. It says thyroid cancer rates run several times higher in adults. Farmers working both on the edge of, and inside, the prohibited zone say they see no obvious signs of nuclear dangers, have been given no guidelines on reducing the risk of permitting radioactive isotopes into the food chain, and aren't worried about this. Chubenok, the dairy farmer, said he had never heard of the sorbent substance Ferocin, known as Prussian Blue, which farmers in Ukraine feed their cattle to accelerate the removal of the cesium-137 isotope from their digestive tracts.

## Nobody's in danger

A tractor driver on one of his neighboring farms, where an abandoned village has been demolished to make way for fields of grain, says he's never seen an official testing for radiation levels in the soil. But Leonid Kravchenko said there was no reason for alarm. "Nobody's in danger," he said. Driving toward Chernobyl and into the nearby Radioecological Reserve required AP journalists to negotiate painstaking government permission. Inside the zone, Belarus has authorized an experimental farm to operate for the past decade. Today it contains 265 horses, 56 cows and apiaries buzzing with honey bees. The farm director, Mikhail Kirpichenko, said he's permitted to pursue commercial ventures, including the sale last year of 100 horses to a Belarusian manufacturer of kumys, a popular beverage in swathes of Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Kumys is produced from fermented mares' milk. "We're not afraid of radiation. We've already gotten used to it," said Kirpichenko, who suggested that his horses had to pass a basic eyesight test to confirm their good health. "Horses aren't being born with two heads or without legs. There are no such mutations," he said. "This Chernobyl syndrome passed long ago." — AP



**GUBAREVICH:** Farmer Nikolai Chubenok stands near cows in the village of Gubarevichi, on land just 45 kilometers north of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in Ukraine, where a reactor explosion and fire on April 26, 1986, belched a cloud of smoke infested with radioactive particles over much of northern Europe. — AP

positioned to identify the true level of risks in produce from farms on the frontier of Belarus' prohibited zone.

The deputy director of Belarus' Institute of Radiobiology, Natalya Timokhina, said Belarus permits food producers to conduct their own food safety monitoring and lacks the lab equipment necessary to identify the presence of americium, which is estimated to be present in about 2 percent of Belarus' top soil and is expected to remain a health risk for another 270 years. "One-time ingestion of contaminated food is not very dangerous," Timokhina said. "What's dangerous is the accumulation of radionuclides in the body." Ausrele Kesminiene, a doctor in the cancer research

see food safety - even products exported to other countries - because that is a domestic responsibility. "Radiation effects and the development of cancers and the effects on the region are something which go on over a long, long period. So we haven't seen the end of it," Hartl said. "Undoubtedly there is going to be some increase in cancers."

Hartl said WHO officials have not received "any red flags" from Belarus. Environmentalists critical of Belarus' Chernobyl cleanup record says that's hardly surprising, since the government has funded no machinery to scrutinize corrupt practices in the food industry. As a result, they say, no Belarusian food maker has ever been prosecuted for using ingredients or

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## AL-SAYER GROUP MARKS SUCCESSFUL CLOSURE OF 2015 GREEN CAMP

**U**nderlining the strong commitment towards society, Al-Sayer Group has announced the successful closure of their 2015 green camp. The Green Camp witnessed an overwhelming crowd of more than 10,000 visitors consisting of Al-Sayer Group staffs, their families relatives, friends, and prominent guests during the period between November 2015 and March 2016.

The location became a perfect weekend destination for recreational as well as team building activities. The camp which spreads across total area of 30,000 sq m is surrounded by green trees, individual big and small social gathering tents equipped with barbecue stations. The facility also has entertainment space for men and women consisting of indoor games to cover table tennis, baby-foot (Table football) and outdoor games including football and volleyball courts in addition to kids play yards with inflated slides, spring jumping nets and swings, in full compliance with safety and security of the visitors.

According to Mohamed Naser Chairman Al-Sayer Group CSR "Al-Sayer Group Holding has established the Corporate Excellence department to oversee the areas of business sustainability, quality systems, health



and occupational safety and employee well-being to promote Al-Sayer Group as a pace-setter in the field of sustainable practices by adopting the best process and procedures for its business performance, employees, society, and nature. To reflect this strategic approach, we have adopted the Sustainability Gear as our symbol and as our organizing platform. It represents Economy, Society, Well-being and Nature

with the integration functions of management in the center."

Some of the major events organized at the Seasonal Green Camp of 2016 were: Kuwait National and Liberation day celebrations, General Managers Day Off and Toyota Dream Car Art contest jury evaluation.

Eng. Nehad Al-Haj Ali, Group Manager Corporate Excellence said "Al-Sayer Group is keen to provide inspiring experience to its



employees, partners, and clients to keep them motivated and satisfied to contribute their best. As well such projects and services should be sustainable to bring continuous development and maintain all aspects of the sustainability compass adopted by the Sayer Group in 2014; to relentlessly improve our business, well-being of staff and customers, community and environment. So we are glad, Al-Sayer winter-spring camp

has been performed as a "resort for staff and their families", a place for gathering, entertainment, brainstorming, and rejuvenation. A place to get rid of work pressure, hustle and bustle of daily life. We thank members of the Governing Council of Sayer Group Holding for supporting this idea and helping to continuously develop it."



## FAREWELL DINNER FOR LEBANESE AMBASSADOR AT JW MARRIOTT

**T**he Lebanese Embassy in Kuwait held an extravagant dinner to bid farewell to departing Ambassador Dr Khodr Helwe, Ambassador of Lebanon to Kuwait.

The event took place at the prestigious 'Al-Jahra' Ballroom at JW Marriott Kuwait and was attended by a huge number of Ambassadors and members of the Diplomatic Corps in Kuwait.

The dinner was kicked off by a short speech by Engineer. Hanna Chalhoub, in which he thanked, on behalf of all the Lebanese community in Kuwait, His Excellency Ambassador Dr Khodr Helwe for his great role in building great relationships with the entire diplomatic corps in the country, and his hard work to ensure a thriving relation between Lebanon and Kuwait. Other speeches included the Jordanian Ambassador to Kuwait Mohammad Al-Kayed and Manaf Al-Hajri, the CEO of the Financial Centre.



## AL-THURAYA CITY APPOINTS NEW CULINARY DIRECTOR

**C**rowne Plaza Kuwait Al-Thuraya City and Holiday Inn Kuwait Al-Thuraya City appointed this month Alexander Kooijman as Culinary Director of both hotels. The Dutch-born chef arrived in Kuwait in December 2015 with the initial assignment of leading the Crowne Plaza's culinary team and launching the hotel's new signature restaurant, Silk.



In his new role at Al-Thuraya City, Chef Kooijman is responsible for 140 staff working at nine different restaurants and cafes, including Japanese restaurant Sakura and Lebanese restaurant Ayam Zaman.

Commenting on the appointment, InterContinental Hotels Group Area General Manager Ramy Haykal said: "Alexander will help us in elevating both hotels' food and beverage portfolios and ensuring that the culinary team positions Al-Thuraya City's restaurants and outside catering as the best in Kuwait."

Chef Kooijman has more than 20 years of hospitality industry experience. His culinary career began as an apprentice at the two Michelin starred Ciel Bleu Restaurant in Amsterdam. He has since worked at restaurant and hotel properties around the world: Switzerland, Brazil, Germany, the UK and the US, where he most recently spent four and a half years in Orlando.

## ABK CARDHOLDERS GET 25% DISCOUNT FOR BOOKINGS AT JUMEIRAH HOTELS

**A**l-Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) recently announced a new and exciting offer for its Visa cardholders, for bookings made at Jumeirah Hotels and Resorts, where Visa debit, credit and prepaid cardholders are eligible for a 25 percent discount on bookings made prior to 30 April 2016, in Kuwait, Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Maldives.

To enjoy this offer ABK Visa cardholders must reserve a minimum of three nights for any time between now and 30 September 2016. Bookings must be made with an ABK Visa card and are valid through [www.jumeirah.com/visaoffers](http://www.jumeirah.com/visaoffers) using the PromoCode VISASUMMER. The offer entails a variety of benefits that include a complimentary buffet breakfast, exclusive beach access, complimentary access to the kids club and high speed WiFi for the full duration of the stay.

ABK continuously seeks to present its customers with value added and benefits, while offering a unique experience when banking with ABK. For more information on Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait please visit [www.eahli.com](http://www.eahli.com) or contact an ABK representative via 'Ahlan Ahli' at 18998999.





NCCAL's director Ali Al-Youha and Palestinian Ambassador Rami Tahboub open the Palestinian Cultural Exhibition.— Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Siham Abu Ghazaleh is seen during the tour with Ali Al-Youha and Ambassador Rami Tahboub.

# PALESTINIAN CULTURAL CENTER HOLDS 44TH ANNUAL EXHIBITION

IN COOPERATION WITH PALESTINIAN EMBASSY

By Faten Omar

Under the auspices of the Secretary General of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) Ali Al-Youha, the Palestinian Cultural Center in cooperation with the Embassy of Palestine in Kuwait held its 44th exhibition yesterday at the Kuwaiti Women's Culture and Social Society in Khaldiya. "This exhibition shows the world how strong the relationship is between Kuwaitis and Palestinians, where they opened their doors for the Palestinian

exhibition to serve the Palestinian cause," Palestinian Ambassador Rami Tahboub said. Youha expressed his happiness for sponsoring the Palestinian exhibition. "This exhibition shows us how the Palestinians are trying to protect their heritage and culture. I am happy that this exhibition is not only a regular one but also serves people in need in Palestine, whether they need healthcare or financial help," he said. "I enjoyed the handmade crafts made by passion with a lot of details to tell the story of Palestine," he added. Siham Abu Ghazaleh, head of the

Palestinian cultural committee of the Palestinian Cultural Center, said: "The Palestine culture exhibition is proud that it is still going strong. Our exhibition includes several beautiful handmade works by 550 women and girls in Palestinian camps. The exhibition aims to preserve the rich heritage and culture of Palestine, help empower women and their families in refugee camps become economically independent and sustain needy Palestinians in their homeland," She added that the proceeds of this exhibition are for the students of Gaza to

get their educational right. The exhibition also focuses on the movement of boycotting Israeli products. She called on people to support Palestine by supporting the exhibition, attend a Palestinian folklore "dabkah" dance on Thursday at 6:30 pm and taste or buy traditional Palestinian food such as thyme, sumac, baked goods and other dishes. The show includes a large collection of traditional handmade cross-stitch fabrics as well as pottery from Hebron and posters and books about Palestine in English and Arabic. It aspires to reaffirm the

Palestinian national identity by its handicrafts and supports education and families. The Palestinian Culture Center is a non-profit organization that was established in Jordan in 1993. The exhibition at the Kuwaiti Women's Culture and Social Society in Khaldiya will run for four days from Monday, April 25 through Thursday, April 28. It is open to the public from 10 am to 1:30 pm and 4:30 pm to 8:30 pm.







# CLASSIFIEDS



## KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (21/04/2016 TO 27/04/2016)

SHARQIA-1	Time	FAN- Hindi	Time
THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR	12:30 PM	SARRAINODU - Telugu	9:30 PM
CRISTIANO RONALDO: WORLD AT HIS FEET	2:45 PM	SARRAINODU - Telugu	3:30 PM
THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR	4:15 PM	SARRAINODU - Telugu	6:30 PM
THE ONES BELOW	6:30 PM	FAN- Hindi	9:30 PM
CRISTIANO RONALDO: WORLD AT HIS FEET	8:30 PM		12:30 AM
THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR	10:00 PM		
THE ONES BELOW	12:15 AM		
SHARQIA-2	Time	MUHALAB-3	Time
THE JUNGLE BOOK	12:45 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK	1:00 PM
SARRAINODU - Telugu	2:00 PM	SARRAINODU - Telugu	1:30 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK	3:00 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK	3:30 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK	5:15 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK	5:45 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK	7:30 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK	8:00 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK	10:00 PM	THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR	10:15 PM
THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR	12:15 AM		12:30 AM
SHARQIA-3	Time	FANAR-1	Time
CRISTIANO RONALDO: WORLD AT HIS FEET	12:00 PM	THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR	12:30 PM
CRISTIANO RONALDO: WORLD AT HIS FEET	1:30 PM	THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR	2:45 PM
CRIMINAL	3:00 PM	CRISTIANO RONALDO: WORLD AT HIS FEET	5:00 PM
CRISTIANO RONALDO: WORLD AT HIS FEET	5:15 PM	THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR	6:45 PM
FAN- Hindi	6:45 PM	CRISTIANO RONALDO: WORLD AT HIS FEET	9:00 PM
FAN- Hindi	9:45 PM	THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR	10:30 PM
SARRAINODU - Telugu	3:30 PM		12:45 AM
SARRAINODU - Telugu	6:45 PM	FANAR-2	Time
SARRAINODU - Telugu	9:45 PM	FAN- Hindi	12:30 PM
CRIMINAL	12:45 AM	FAN- Hindi	3:30 PM
MUHALAB-1	Time	FAN- Hindi	6:30 PM
THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR	12:30 PM	FAN- Hindi	9:30 PM
THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR	2:45 PM	SARRAINODU - Telugu	3:30 PM
THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR	5:00 PM	SARRAINODU - Telugu	6:30 PM
CRISTIANO RONALDO: WORLD AT HIS FEET	7:15 PM	SARRAINODU - Telugu	9:30 PM
CRISTIANO RONALDO: WORLD AT HIS FEET	8:45 PM	CRIMINAL	12:30 AM
THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR	10:30 PM	FANAR-3	Time
NO FRI+MON		DEMOLITION	12:00 PM
SARRAINODU - Telugu	10:30 PM	THE ONES BELOW	2:15 PM
MUHALAB-2	Time	DEMOLITION	4:00 PM
FAN- Hindi	12:30 PM	THE ONES BELOW	6:15 PM
KUNG FU PANDA 3	1:30 PM	DEMOLITION	8:00 PM
FAN- Hindi	3:30 PM	THE ONES BELOW	10:15 PM
FAN- Hindi	6:30 PM	DEMOLITION	12:15 AM
		FANAR-4	Time
		THE JUNGLE BOOK	12:15 PM

### 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)**

**Balveni** Dadala daughter of Dadala Pullaiah and Dadala Nagarathamma bearing an Indian Passport No. G0613666 and having an address D.No 2-13-3, Plot No. 10/2 Reddy buildings Venkat Nagar Kakinada, east Godavari Dt, Andhra Pradesh, India, had embraced Islam and changed the name as Ayesha. **(C 5167)**

**25-4-2016**  
**I, Ali Akbar** Husaini Bangaliwala, holder of Indian Passport No. M3187871, address: Temba, Mohammediyapura, Sagwara, Dungarpur 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, Dungarpur, 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**

## EMBASSY OF INDIA KUWAIT

### Contract for cleaning of Embassy of India premises

Embassy of India, Kuwait invites bids by 9th May, 2016 for awarding AMC for cleaning of its premises.

#### 2. Scope of work:

(i) **Hours:** Sunday to Thursday from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. (with 1 hour lunch break) with 1 supervisor plus 8 janitors. Friday and Saturday, 4 janitors from 6 a.m. to 12 p.m. (with 1/2 hour break).

(ii) **Workscope :** The Embassy has four floors plus surrounding area, car park and backyard. Pick up litter and sweep (daily) and wash (weekly) surrounding area, car park, backyard and iron security gates. Marble floors, sweep (daily), machine wash and scrub (weekly) and polish (monthly). Carpeted floors to be vacuumed (daily). Toilets, kitchen/pantries at all floors cleaning/disinfect (daily). Lift and lobby, staircases and railings, wooden doors and furniture sweep and mop/clean/dust (daily). Windows glasses, clean from inside (daily) from outside (monthly). The company will provide cleaning material and disinfectants, toilet rolls, liquid soaps etc.

3. The Embassy will be open for inspection and discussion with **Mr. Sanjeev Saklani, Attache (Admn) (Tel: 22513498)** from 25th April to 8th May, 2016.

4. Interested companies should have at least 5 years' experience in similar work with government and/or major organizations in Kuwait. The offer should include company profile and experience.

5. All offers should be in a sealed cover marked "**Offer for contract for cleaning of Indian Embassy premises - To be opened by addressee only**" and addressed to the "Head of Chancery", Embassy of India, Daeya, Diplomatic Enclave, Arabian Gulf Street, Safat 13015, Kuwait.

The offer must be delivered at the Embassy on or before **1200 hrs on 8th May, 2016**.

Head of Chancery  
Embassy of India, Kuwait  
13th April, 2016

### PRAYER TIMINGS

Fajr:	03:47
Shorook	05:10
Duhr:	11:46
Asr:	15:21
Maghrib:	18:21
Isha:	19:43

### REQUIRED

**Muslim Indian Cook**  
For a Kuwaiti family  
Minimum 5 years experience  
Tel: 97554010

### BUSINESS IN OMAN

We Are Providing  
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Business Partner,  
Document Clearing.  
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Email: Info@Eigllcoman.Com

Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page ([www.kuwait-airport.com.kw](http://www.kuwait-airport.com.kw))

## In case you are not travelling, your proper cancellation of bookings will help other passengers to use seats



Arrival Flights on Tuesday 26/4/2016				Departure Flights on Tuesday 26/4/2016			
Airlines	Ft	Route	Time	Airlines	Ft	Route	Time
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	AIC	976	Goa/Chennai	00:05
MSC	415	Sohag	00:10	BBC	144	Chittagong/Dhaka	00:10
JZR	239	Amman	00:20	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:25
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	MSR	615	Cairo	00:30
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55	FDB	072	Dubai	00:30
KKK	6506	Istanbul	00:55	MSC	404	Asyut	00:55
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	KLM	411	Amsterdam	00:55
QTR	1086	Doha	01:15	MSC	416	Sohag	01:05
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20	THY	773	Istanbul	01:40
MNB	603	ADA	01:20	DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:00
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:40	THY	765	Istanbul	02:45
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	02:45
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:45	PGT	859	Istanbul	02:55
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	KAC	783	Jeddah	03:30
KAC	418	Manila	02:15	UAE	854	Dubai	03:45
UAE	853	Dubai	02:25	OMA	644	Muscat	04:00
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	KKK	6505	Istanbul	04:05
FDB	067	Dubai	03:15	FDB	068	Dubai	04:05
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:10
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:15	MSR	613	Cairo	04:15
QTR	1076	Doha	03:25	QTR	1077	Doha	04:35
KAC	544	Cairo	03:40	LMU	5111	Cairo	05:00
LMU	5101	Cairo	04:00	JZR	560	Sohag	05:00
THY	6376	Istanbul	05:05	MNB	604	Istanbul	05:20
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	RJA	643	Amman	06:25
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	QTR	1087	Doha	06:30
PAL	668	Manila/Dubai	06:25	THY	6376	Dubai/Istanbul	06:35
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	06:30	THY	771	Istanbul	06:45
BAW	157	London	06:40	GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50
FDB	5061	Dubai	07:15	FDB	070	Dubai	07:05
KAC	382	Delhi	07:30	JZR	165	Dubai	07:15
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	07:35	FDB	5062	Dubai	07:55
KAC	206	Islamabad	07:40	BAW	156	London	08:25
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50	FDB	054	Dubai	08:30
SVA	512	Riyadh	07:50	KAC	171	Frankfurt	08:40
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	SVA	513	Riyadh	08:50
KAC	354	BLR	08:00	KAC	513	Tehran	09:15
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:15	KAC	671	Dubai	09:30
KAC	352	Kochi	08:20	KAC	787	Jeddah	09:30
KAC	362	Colombo	08:20	KAC	619	Doha	09:30
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:45
KAC	784	Jeddah	08:50	UAE	856	Dubai	09:50
KAC	284	Dhaka	09:00	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:00
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:05	KAC	101	London/New York	10:00
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	FDB	056	Dubai	10:40
QTR	1070	Doha	09:30	IRA	674	Lar	10:40
IRA	675	Lar	09:40	QTR	1071	Doha	10:45
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	KAC	501	Beirut	11:00
UAE	873	Dubai	10:40	KAC	561	Amman	11:20
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	KAC	679	Muscat	11:25
MEA	404	Beirut	11:00	KAC	165	Rome/Paris	11:25
JZR	561	Sohag	11:25	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:35
RBG	553	Alexandria	11:30	MEA	405	Beirut	12:00
JZR	164	Dubai	11:50	KAC	541	Cairo	12:05
NIA	151	Cairo	12:20	UAE	874	Dubai	12:10
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25	RBG	554	Alexandria	12:10
MSC	401	Alexandria	12:30	JZR	776	Jeddah	12:15
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	JZR	324	Al Najaf	12:50
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	KAC	785	Jeddah	13:00
KAC	620	Doha	13:10	FDB	076	Dubai	13:10
IRC	6507	Shiraz	13:35	JZR	176	Dubai	13:10
KAC	514	Tehran	13:45	NIA	152	Cairo	13:20
FBA	831	Al Najaf	13:50	MSC	402	Alexandria	13:30
QTR	1078	Doha	14:05	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
KAC	672	Dubai	14:05	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
				IRC	6507	Shiraz	14:20

**DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION**



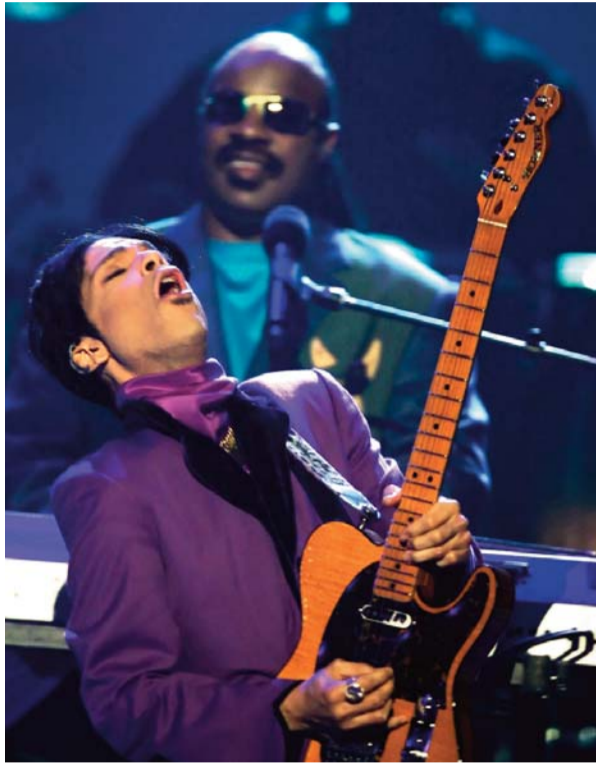


# Elizabeth Olsen: I don't have desire to be famous

The 'Avengers: Age of Ultron' star insists she never signed up to be an actress for the fame or the money and admits it felt like such a "cliche" when she shared her dreams of entering the film industry. She said: "I wanted to be an actress, but felt it was such a cliché. I thought if I could make it more of a pretentious theatre experience, I

could justify it. But celebrity and fame are so odd to me, I just don't have any desire for that at all." The 27-year-old actress also insists she doesn't conform to any beauty ideals and would never care enough to figure out a healthy way of becoming "actress thin". She added to The Sunday Times Style magazine: "It's not like I'm super-confident but I exer-

cise a lot because I've always been a dancer and an athlete. I think I'm a pretty thin person, but I'm definitely not actress thin, that's a whole other world! I don't know how to do that healthily. And I don't think I care to figure it out."



## Prince stayed awake for six days before his death

The legendary singer passed away aged 57 at his Paisley Park estate in Minnesota on Thursday, and his brother-in-law has revealed the 'Purple Rain' hitmaker didn't sleep for "154 hours straight" before he was found dead in his lift. Maurice Phillips, who is married to Prince's sister Tyka Nelson, said: "I was with him just last weekend. He worked 154 hours straight. He was a good brother-in-law." However, detectives have been told Prince was hooked on sleep-inducing painkillers. A report claimed Prince overdosed on the painkiller Percocet that he was taking for a chronic hip problem six days before his death. But it is now claimed that taking the prescription drug could actually keep users awake in extreme cases if it is mixed with other medication. Police are still investigating his death but do not believe he committed suicide. A police source told the Daily Mirror newspaper: "Prince's medical history is at the top of detectives' list when it comes to cause of his death." A private funeral service is due to be held for the late star in Chanhassan, which is home to Paisley Park, in early May.



## Kylie will restock her Cosmetics range next week

Kylie Jenner is set to "restock" her Kylie Cosmetics range next week. The 18-year-old entrepreneur - who has built up her beauty empire over two years - has announced she is set to have another full supply of her Lip Kit By Kylie products, which will include her "glosses", metallic shades and matte lipstick with lip liner duo, in the coming days following the sell-out success of the products. Kylie shared the news on her Twitter account, writing: "Next lip kit restock is next week, updates are on my app." The restock comes ahead of the Kylie Cosmetics e-store launching a redesigned version of her makeup range, which will see amendments made to the matte "formula" and modifications to the wand. The 'Keeping Up with the Kardashians' star recently shared a video, which was broadcast over her Snapchat, to the beauty brand's Instagram account to showcase the updated alterations to her products. In the footage, Kylie said: "This will be ready just in time for the next launch, so you will only be seeing these from now on." And with talks of a replenished stock comes the perfect time to make an update to her sales website, which the brunette beauty has admitted she has been working on since the e-store has continually crashed on customers due to the volume of traffic from people desperate to snap up her products. Kylie previously revealed: "I'm going to change our holding page and find an alternative that still keeps my site up and running."

## Thorne cried over acne problem

Bella Thorne cried over her acne problem "every night". The 18-year-old actress has admitted she wept constantly "for months" over her skin problem, which left her feeling "self-conscious" about her appearance during her childhood and she remains insecure now. Speaking openly to InStyle magazine about her beauty battle with dermatitis, the 'Duff' star said: "I cried every night for months. It sounds silly to say that I cared so much about my face, but when you're a young girl, it takes a toll on your self-esteem. It's unbelievable how people looked at me differently because I had pimples. I'm still self-conscious about it." Meanwhile, the red headed beauty revealed that despite her down days her coping mechanism is to laugh and not dwell on any negative issues in her life. The former Disney star explained: "Friends have told me I'm a good person to have around when they are going through a tough time because I find a way to make them laugh, which is the biggest compliment. "You have to take a deep breath, realize that whatever is stressing you out is not the end of the world, and trust that you'll move on." Bella is currently the ambassador for the skincare brand Neutrogena.



## Carice Van Houten on Game of Thrones twist

Carice Van Houten spent six hours in make-up ahead of Game of Thrones' shock twist. Fans who tuned into the premiere of the HBO drama's sixth season were stunned to discover the 39-year-old actress' alter ego Melisandre, aka The Red Woman, is actually a frail old crone, and the Dutch star admits it took a lot of work for her to convincingly look so "ancient". She said: "I did six hours of make-up. It's not just one face that they glue on you. But it's worth it because of what you look like after. It was quite nice, it was like a zen practice for me, I quite enjoyed it. "I need music. I can't do it without. I have very eclectic taste, from jazz to reggae to indie rock, pop, a lot." While Carice - who is expecting her first child with partner Guy Pearce - enjoyed having the make-up put on, she couldn't wait to shed her disguise once filming was over. She added: "It's funny because you can sit there for six hours and it's fine but once it's over you just want to rip it off. Then, that hour to take it off, that's really long. You feel like, 'Just get it off me!'" The actress estimates her character's actual age to be "200-300", and producers brought in an 80-year-old body double for when she was standing nude in front of a mirror after taking off her seemingly-magical choker. Carice said of her double: "[She was] this lovely lady from Ireland. She was really sweet." The reveal even came as a surprise to Carice's co-stars. Isaac Hempstead Wright, who plays Bran Stark, recalled: "I was on set one day in my trailer, I could hear Carice outside. "I could just hear her voice, so I went, 'Oh hi Carice,' so she opened the trailer door and I went, 'Aaah! Oh! How are you doing?' It was very funny. It was really funny. It was so well done."



## Schilling feels liberated going makeup free

Taylor Schilling found wearing no makeup "liberating". The 31-year-old 'Orange is the New Black' actress "prefers" being bare-faced, although her role as prisoner Piper Chapman in the Netflix series sees her adorn more beauty products to give the illusion of being make-up free on set. Speaking about the behind the scenes preparation and her aesthetic preference to PEOPLE magazine, Taylor - who won the 2013 Satellite Award for Best Actress in a Television Series - Musical or Comedy - said: "I think it's very liberating to [play a character who doesn't wear makeup]. "It does take time to get Piper [ready] - it takes far more makeup than you would imagine for me to look like I'm wearing absolutely no makeup. And Piper doesn't have as much access to makeup, so she's sort of the default setting - she doesn't really have a choice. "But for me, I prefer to be bare as much as possible." The blonde beauty has also revealed her daily routine is minimal and she relies heavily on natural products and sun protection. She explained: "My beauty routine is very simple, but what's most important to me is keeping the products that are natural and simple ... I just wash my face and put on moisturizer and sunscreen and I'm good to go. "Having skin that's healthy is sort of a baseline. The time I've spent in the makeup chairs, I've come to really appreciate taking care of my skin in a way that I may not have had I not had my job."



## Lady Gaga praises innovator prince

Lady Gaga thinks Prince has gone to "innovate in heaven". The 'Poker Face' hitmaker has paid tribute to the iconic star - who was found dead at his Paisley Park estate on Thursday - for "sharing his soul so deeply" and thanked the 'Gold' hitmaker for choosing to lead a life in public in order for people to share his "gift". She wrote on Instagram: "I tend to believe that when we die our souls hover for at least a moment if not longer before they either rest or are recycled into the consciousness of an already living being or maybe a newborn baby. "Isn't it amazing Prince shared his soul with us so deeply before his death, and now after we will be replenished endlessly by both his legacy and all that he still has to give from the beyond. "Thank you for sharing your life with us Prince. Giving up your anonymity because you felt compelled to share your gift. We learned so much. You just found God early, he needed you upstairs to innovate in heaven." Meanwhile, staunch anti-royalist Morrissey has hailed Prince as "the royal

that people love" while hitting out at Britain's Queen Elizabeth, who turned 90 on the same day the singer passed away. He wrote on website True To You: "Prince, who made something of his life as opposed to having fortune handed to him, is far more 'royal' than Elizabeth 2, and he will be mourned far more than she, for she could never make herself loveable, no matter how many paid and promoted non-stories flood the newspapers of the world. "The laughing gulls of Buckingham Palace will never allow you to forget who wields the stick. And, of course, we know very well what gulls tend to do on the people below. "Prince is the royal that people love, whereas Elizabeth 2 was thrust on the people who have never been asked whether or not they want her.(sic)" The animal rights campaigner also bemoaned the fact that little has been mentioned about Prince being vegan or "a strong advocate of the abolition of the abattoir".





## French and Khloe are 'best friends'

The 31-year-old rapper has admitted the pair - who ended their two year relationship last year - share a "special relationship", which sees French Montana credit the 'Kocktails with Khloe' host as one of his closest pals. Speaking to PEOPLE magazine about his relationship with the 31-year-old TV personality, he said: "We're gonna be friends forever, me and Khloe. "We've got a special kind of relationship. That's one of my best friends." However, the 'Strong Looks Better Naked' author claimed she dated the musician because she felt lonely following her split from her estranged husband Lamar Odom in 2014. She previously explained: "It's nothing

against French. I just think I don't want a boyfriend. "I jumped into something because I was just lonely and destructive. But now I'm like, I just want to be alone." Meanwhile, it has been reported Khloe has reconciled her romance with French. A source said: "Khloe and French Montana are still hooking up but keeping it totally under the radar. "She's still into French, but she wants to keep it no strings attached. Khloe knows French is a player and doesn't want to get involved with him in that way again right now."



## Teigen defends night out with Legend

Chrissy Teigen and John Legend have "p\*\*\*\*ed" people off. The 30-year-old model took to social media yesterday to defend herself from "passive aggressive" comments she received following an evening out with her 37-year-old husband in Los Angeles on Saturday. The mother of one - who welcomed new born Luna Simone Stephens into the world last week - took to twitter to slam accusations she shouldn't have gone out without her baby, which she screenshot and posted on her account. She captioned the post: "I went to dinner. People are pissed. Good morning!" The star also tweeted some of the comments she received, she wrote: "never wanted to leave my daughter, I love her, BUT THAT'S JUST ME" - the passive aggressiveness is real! Meanwhile, the 'Lip Sync Battle' co-host and the 'Ordinary People' hitmaker are planning to give their daughter a younger brother one day. Speaking previously about expanding her brood, Chrissy said: "A boy will come along. We'll get there too, so it's not like we really have to pick. "But he definitely is very lucky to have a little girl. And this girl is going to be so completely lucky to have John as her papa - it's crazy!"

## Ricky Gervais wants to host the Oscars

The 54-year-old English comedian - who has hosted the Golden Globes four times previously - has admitted he would accept the offer to present the annual awards ceremony on March 4, 2017 if he was asked, although he thinks the opportunity will "never" arise. Speaking to E! News about fronting the star-studded bash in the future, the 'Special Correspondents' actor said: "I would if they said I could say what I wanted, but they would never say that." However, 'The Office' actor revealed he fears he would disappoint viewers if he was to take over the reins for the Academy Awards. He explained:

"I don't want to ruin their lovely night." Meanwhile, the funny man revealed people question whether he enjoyed his hosting duties at the star-studded events, which saw him drinking on stage at this year's Golden Globes Awards. He said: "People think I don't enjoy it. I love it. I love going up there and saying what I want but it is stressful. It's quite stressful because you gotta work. I do work a little bit. "It's funny because I feel like I get it out of my system and then when it comes around like this time I said no because I was just too busy, but they persuaded me. But I do enjoy it every time I do it. It's always fun."



## Dianna Agron wanted a 'riskier' role

Dianna Agron wanted a "riskier" role, according to director Natalia Leite. The 29-year-old American actress accepted the role in 'Bare', which sees her play a stripper, because she wanted to shed the cheerleader stereotype she gained from starring as Quinn Fabray in 'Glee' for six years, and experiment with other acting roles. Speaking to Refinery29.com about casting the blonde beauty for the role, the screenwriter for the production said: "I think she was in the right place for it. I think she had been doing 'Glee' for so many years and - as happens to any actors that are on a TV show for so long - you kind of just get typecast, you get put in this box of 'Oh, she's the cheerleader from Glee, the cute blonde girl! "She has a lot more layers to her than that, so she wanted a role that was riskier and that was challenging her acting. "I think 'Bare' came along just at the right time." Natalia admitted Dianna's talent and brave work ethic whilst filming the romantic drama surprised her. She explained: "Dianna blew my mind. She showed up the night before our first day of shooting, at like 9pm, and we had to be at 7am shooting the first scene the next morning. And I told her, "I really want you to get into this character fast." So we went to the house of one of the strippers who actually worked at the club - because she had a bunch of wigs and outfits. Her name's Kelly and she made up Dianna to look... different from Dianna. And she went into the club on a night that nobody knew we were there and pretended to be one of the girls. "She was so fearless."



## 50 cent's son is 'smarter' than him

The 40-year-old rapper is surprised by Davian's multiple talents, which led him share a string of photographs of his third child on his social media, including a positive performance note he received from his teacher. The 'In Da Club' hitmaker took to Instagram with a picture of an email he received, which read: "I am emailing you to give you an update in reference to Davian's behavior as well as his test scores. We are overly satisfied with Davian's behavioral development as well as classroom improvement. As we've discussed previously, Davian is one of if not our top student for the entire fifth grade. He excels academically and performs well above what is expected for his grade level. Upon review, Davian obtained a perfect score on the citywide ELA English exam. We have not received the math scores back as of yet. He is the only child to receive a perfect score on that particular exam. He has been more focused in the daily classroom processes as well as maintained level green on the classroom behavior chart. Upon speaking with the school guidance counselor Ms Harvel we would like to recommend Davian to the Hunter College Summer Intensive Program. It's a program offered to some of the city's highest scoring students grades 5-10. We think Davian would be a perfect candidate for this." The father of three, Marquise, 18, Sire, three, and Davian, captioned the upload: "I JUST GOT THIS, DAMN I NEVER DID This good, This kid is

smarter than me !!! I'm a get Big Floyd to give him some hands (sic)." 50's - real name Curtis Jackson - outburst was followed by a modeling shot of Davian to further highlight his all-round talents. He wrote: "This is Davian doing his, I'm cooler than my dad look. Talking about meet me at Red Stix. LMAO (sic)". In another upload he shared an image of him alongside a teary Davian, which he captioned: "My life is full of surprises, this little guy is my son DAVIAN. He started crying, I was thinking why you crying i gotta pay for this thing LMAO (sic)."



## Swinton felt Bowie's presence 'everywhere'

Tilda Swinton felt David Bowie's presence "everywhere". The 55-year-old actress, who starred in the 'Starman' hitmaker's 'The Stars (Are Out Tonight)' music video in 2013, admitted she could sense the late musician's aura during the filming of 'A Bigger Splash', which sees her play rock star Marianne Lane. Speaking to The New York post about the uncanny feeling at the premiere of her film 'A Bigger Splash', the blonde haired beauty said: "[David] Bowie is everywhere, always and everything." Meanwhile, the award winning star - who received the Richard Harris Award by the British Independent Film Awards in 2005 for her outstanding to the British film industry - has decided she is going to work more now her 18-year-old twin children Honor and Xavier are older. Speaking previously she explained: "In the past few years I have been engaged with things in my own life, like having children and not wanting to be away from home for eight months. These are the things that make you decide what to do." Tilda can currently be seen in the Italian-French erotic-thriller film directed by Luca Guadagnino, which sees her and co-stars Matthias Schoenaerts, Ralph Fiennes and Dakota Johnson on vacation on a Sicilian island.



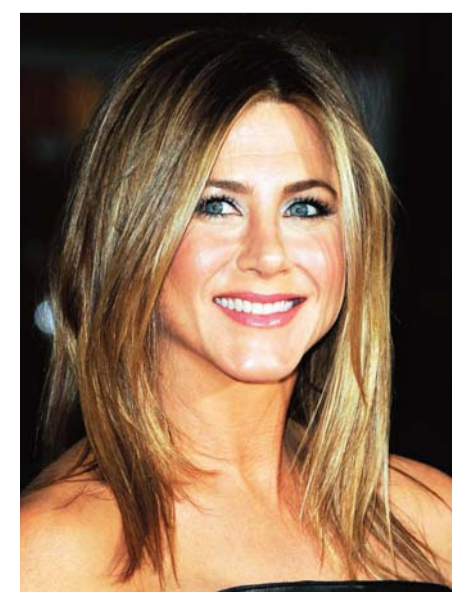
## Future compared fans to Ciara

Future compared unenthusiastic fans to Ciara. The 32-year-old rapper - who was engaged to the '1,2 Step' hitmaker for one year after the singer called it off in 2014 - associated his audience to his ex-fiancee and upcoming artist Designer during his performance at Onongdafa Community College in Syracuse, New York, on Thursday night. The 'Honest' hitmaker took to the stage to criticize viewers. He said: "Y'all must be Ciara or Designer fans or something." Future's outburst comes after Ciara filed a \$15million defamation lawsuit in February after he was criticizing the songstress for her music on social media. And last week Future filed a counter suit stating his former lover's reputation wouldn't be damaged because she doesn't have a great status, although he admitted her fan base is "reasonably large". Meanwhile, Ciara would love to give her 23-month-old son Future - who she had with Future - a brother or sister. Speaking previously she said: "I love kids. I definitely want to have more kids. Of course when the timing is right, I have a lot of things I gotta go do. I have some work to do. The key to life, and to success in life is perfect timing. It's all about doing things at the right time. I look forward to doing that again."



## Aniston was taught feminism by Steinem

Jennifer Aniston was taught feminism by Gloria Steinem. The 47-year-old actress - who starred in the long running 'Friends' series as Rachel Green for 10 years - has admitted she learned about female empowerment from watching the 82-year-old's documentary over eight times. Speaking to PEOPLE magazine about her education and the Ms. magazine co-founder's influence on her, Jennifer said: "She's [Gloria] taught me about feminism. "There was a time when I was like, "I'm not quite sure I understand what this is? And she's like, "It's very simple: it's just about equality. That's all it is." "She's just taught me - have you seen her HBO documentary? I've seen it like eight times. She's just a very beautiful, strong woman. "I've always thought Gloria is quite stunning for many, many reasons besides her exterior." Jennifer has revealed her feminist outlook lets her see beauty as something internal rather than the aesthetic exterior. Speaking previously about the definition of beauty, she said: "Really learning to love every single thing about yourself. And also realizing that it's not just clothes and what's happening [on the outside]. There's so much more that's beautiful in a human being." Meanwhile, the fair-haired beauty - who was crowned the World's Most



## 'Game of Thrones' season six opener ends months of suspense

It fantasy TV show "Game of Thrones" returned for its season six premiere Sunday appearing to answer to one of the most hotly-debated questions in modern television history: "Is Jon Snow dead?" As well as revealing the fate of the brooding Lord Commander of the Night's Watch—which AFP will not spoil for fans who have not yet caught up—the writers hit viewers with a huge curve ball that had them rushing to social media to voice their shock.

On Twitter #GameOfThrones was the top trending hashtag worldwide for several hours before and after the HBO premier at 9:00pm on the US east coast. Fans speculated whether the season opener's title, "The Red Woman," indicated that the Red Priestess Melisandre, played by Carice van Houten, would have a hand in bringing Snow back to life after he was stabbed by his mutinous underlings. Instead, the title was a reference to a big reveal in the final moments of the episode.

"Almost that time!" tweeted Houston Texans offensive tackle and "Thrones" fans Duane Brown as the episode was about to begin, before adding around an hour later: "What. The. Hell?" British conservative columnist and novelist James Delingpole complained that he was "slightly upset that there was nothing in #GameofThrones episode one

that really upset me." "Back to the good ol' Sunday night ritual of sitting quietly for an hour and then suddenly yelling out 'OOOOOOOO,'" tweeted New York-based fan Alex Lauer. "Game of Thrones" tells the story of noble families vying for control of the Iron Throne, all the while keeping one eye on the "White Walkers" leading hordes of the undead toward an invasion from the North.

### Vengeance

The multiple Emmy-winning show and AMC's "The Walking Dead" have been hailed by analysts as examples of how cliffhangers can elevate already hotly-anticipated TV episodes into global media "events." While "The Walking Dead" will still be working off Robert Kirkman's comic when it returns in the autumn, season six of "Game of Thrones" has moved beyond George R.R. Martin's

"A Song of Ice and Fire" novels. "The Red Woman" picked up where the season five finale left off, with Sansa and Theon on the run from the Boltons, Snow's body not yet cold, and Daenerys facing the Dothraki horde that picked her up at the end of season five.

Everyone involved in the production had insisted Snow is definitely, irreversibly dead but conversation among fans has focused on how, rather than whether, he will be resurrected. Elsewhere in the fictional land of Westeros there was plenty of blood, with Ellaria Sand and co-conspirators killing Prince Doran and his heir Trystane, while in King's Landing, Cersei mourned her murdered daughter, another victim of the Sand Snakes.

Back at the Wall, Castle Black was in disarray with members of the Night's Watch still loyal to Snow preparing bloody vengeance. "Fans may have worried that the show might suffer by straying from Martin's source material, but judging by the confidence of the premiere, those fears appear to be unfounded," wrote Laura Prudom of weekly entertainment magazine Variety.

### 'Swagger'

"Whether the producers feel liberated by the chance to go off book a little more or by their record Emmy haul, 'Thrones' certainly seems to have found its swagger in this dense, decisive



## Brian Stokes Mitchell returns to Broadway in 'magical' show

Brian Stokes Mitchell jokingly sings a bluesy rendition of "Stairway to Heaven" by the time he reaches his dressing room on the fourth steep floor of the Music Box Theatre on Broadway. "And she's BUY-ing a stairway to HEA-ven," he warbled between some huffs and puffs, still managing a wide smile despite the challenging climb. At the top, he's a gracious host: "You want anything? Food? Water? Oxygen?"

The flights are punishing once, much less the estimated 10 times a day he and his fellow actors must endure. "I think we may climb a few Mount Everests by the time the show is over," he said, preparing to eat dinner. Mitchell, 58, finds himself in the same theater where he made his Broadway debut in 1988, when his dressing room was on the second floor. He's up with the stars now, and his new show explores the groundbreaking 95-year-old musical "Shuffle Along."



In this Oct 5, 2009, file photo, actor Brian Stokes Mitchell attends the 2009 National Arts Awards presented by Americans for the Arts in New York. — AP

### 'Shuffle Along'

That musical was one of the first Broadway shows starring, written and directed by African-Americans. Director and writer George C Wolfe has reframed the new one as a musical about the making of a musical. Mitchell, who plays co-book writer F.E. Miller, is part of an astonishing collection of Broadway stars including Audra McDonald, Billy Porter, Brandon Victor Dixon and Joshua Henry, plus a talented ensemble of young people.

"It is the most amazing company maybe that I've ever worked with and I've worked with some amazing companies," said Mitchell.

## Ivory Coast to host all-night tribute to rumba king Papa Wemba

Ivory Coast will host an all-night concert tribute this week to Congolese rumba star Papa Wemba, who died after collapsing on stage during a festival in Abidjan, organizers said yesterday. Family members led by the artist's widow Marie Rose, known as Maman Amazone, arrived in the Ivory Coast to prepare to repatriate Papa Wemba's body to his homeland, where Culture Minister Banza Makalaly described his death as "a great loss for music."



In this file photo dated Tuesday, Nov 17, 2004, Congolese pop star Papa Wemba is hoisted by supporters as he leaves the courthouse in Bobigny near Paris. — AP

"Like I say, there's not a turd in the punch bowl." Then he laughs: "You sure you don't want some chicken?" The show is the first time Mitchell has pulled on his tap shoes since he appeared in "Jelly's Last Jam" in the early 1990s, having replaced Gregory Hines as Jelly Roll Morton. Back then, Savion Glover was his co-star; now he's choreographing.

"I would lose 5 pounds in water weight each time doing that show. After that show, I retired my tap shoes. I said, 'You know what? I'm going to leave those to the people who really, really do this well,'" he said. When he got the call about the new "Shuffle Along," Mitchell worried what a quarter-century had done to his abilities. He also wondered how his Achilles tendon, which had popped 10 years ago, would handle the new stress. "What I found out is my feet are still pretty good but my brain is slow. Especially watching these kids do it," he said. "I mean, I was never able to pick it up as fast as they are, especially now."

### Supportive and generous

Mitchell won a Tony for "Kiss Me Kate" and got nods for "Man of La Mancha," "Ragtime" and "King Hedley II." He's adored on Broadway for his warmth and his stories, lending his talent to all kinds of causes and leading The Actor's Fund since 2004. Jonathan Kent, who directed Mitchell in "Man of La Mancha," said he leaned on his star's experience during the white knuckle ride of helming his first Broadway musical. "He was so wonderfully supportive and generous. I think of him with such admiration and fondness," said Kent. "He's a supreme craftsman, too. I learnt so much from working with him." Mitchell took a step back from Broadway while his son, Ellington - with his wife, Allyson Tucker - was growing up. He did concerts instead, giving him the freedom to make his own hours. Now his son is 12.

"He doesn't need me quite in the same way that he did. It was just time to do a Broadway show. I put it out there in the universe. I said, 'You know, I think it's time to do another Broadway show.' And literally two weeks later is when George called me. Ask and ye shall receive." So despite the hike up four flights of stairs, Mitchell said he's happier than he's been in a long time, in a company of professionals telling a key story of Broadway's past. "When I did 'Ragtime' it was a company like that. There was a sense that something very magical was going on. If you're lucky, you maybe get one magical show in your life," he said. "Well, here's another magical show." — AP

Papa Wemba, one of the biggest names in African music for the past 40 years, died after falling ill on Sunday during a performance at the Urban Music Festival of Anoumabo (FEMUA). He was 66. The festival organizers said a "big artistic wake" would be held from Wednesday evening to dawn in a tribute to the larger than life musician known as the "king of Congolese rumba" who fused Cuban and African rhythms. "More than 100 national and international singers and musicians will succeed each other on stage from 9 pm until dawn," FEMA said in a statement.

The cause of Papa Wemba's death is not yet known, although he was said to have suffered health problems for some years and a journalist reportedly noted he was unwell on Sunday. The team of six people who flew in Monday from the capital of the Democratic Republic of Congo included the governor of Papa Wemba's native Sankuru region, Ulungu Lukatu Berthold, as well as family, a festival promoter told AFP. The small delegation was due to make arrangements following the sudden death at a meeting also to be attended by the DRC's ambassador to Ivory Coast, who had cut short a trip to Mali, Ivorian musician and festival promoter Salif Traore, known as A'Salfo, told AFP. — AFP

## 'Me and Mrs Jones' singer Billy Paul dead at age 80

Billy Paul, a jazz and soul singer best known for the No. 1 hit ballad and "Philadelphia Soul" classic "Me and Mrs Jones," died Sunday. Paul, whose career spanned for more than 60 years, died at his home in Blackwood, New Jersey, his co-manager, Beverly Gay, told The Associated Press. Paul, 80, had been diagnosed recently with pancreatic cancer, Gay said. Known by his beard and large glasses, Paul was one of many singers who found success with the writing and producing team of Kenneth Gamble and Leon Huff, whose Philadelphia International Records also released music by the O'Jays, Harold Melvin & the Blue Notes, and Lou Rawls.

"Me and Mrs Jones" was an extramarital confession and a characteristic Gamble and Huff production, setting Paul's thick tenor against a lush and sensuous arrangement. Many fans best remember the moment when Paul's otherwise subtle vocals jump as they reach the title words, stretching out "Me" and "And" into multiple syllables and repeating "Mrs Jones, Mrs Jones, Mrs Jones." (Paul himself was married to the same woman for decades). Paul's voice made him "one of the great artists to come out of Philly and to be celebrated worldwide," Gamble and Huff said in a statement late Sunday.

"Our proudest moment with Billy was the recording of the salacious smash 'Me and Mrs. Jones.' In our view, it is one of the greatest love songs ever recorded," they said. The song was one of the top singles of 1972 and brought Paul a Grammy the following year for best male rhythm 'n blues performance, with runners-up including Ray Charles and Curtis Mayfield. Paul remained identified with the song for the rest of his life. Paul continued to perform live until he fell ill and his manager said he had been lining up numerous appearances at the time of his death. Among his favorites in concert was a cover of Prince's "Purple Rain." (Prince died last Thursday).

### Music shop

He was born Paul Williams but later agreed to

his manager's suggestion that he change his name to Billy Paul to avoid confusion with songwriter Paul Williams and other musicians with the same name. A Philadelphia native, he sang much his life, performing with such jazz stars as Charlie Parker and Dinah Washington and being featured on a handful of singles while still in his teens. Paul was drafted into the military in his early 20s, and found himself on the same base in Germany with a cou-

ple of famous show business names, Elvis Presley and Gary Crosby, Bing Crosby's son.



In this Feb 6, 2008, file photo, Leon A Huff, cofounder and vice chairman of Philadelphia International Records, left, singer Billy Paul, center, and Kenneth Gamble, arrive at 'A Special Evening of Conversation Insight and Music' in Los Angeles. — AP

ple of famous show business names, Elvis Presley and Gary Crosby, Bing Crosby's son.

"We said we're going to start a band, so we didn't have to do any hard work in the service," he told bluesandsoul.com in 2015. "We tried to get Elvis to join but he wanted to be a jeep driver. So me and Gary Crosby, we started it and called ourselves the Jazz Blues Symphony Band." By the mid-1960s, the Beatles had inspired him to incorporate more rhythm 'n blues into his singing and he had found a new home for his recordings after meeting Gamble at a Philadelphia music shop. His early

albums with Gamble and Huff, including "Ebony Woman" and "Going East," sold modestly, before "Me and Mrs Jones" briefly made him a superstar. Paul faced numerous obstacles following his biggest hit. Radio stations resisted his more socially conscious follow-up song, "Am I Black Enough for You" and the Rev. Jesse Jackson was among those who objected to the explicit "Let's Make a Baby." Years later, Paul sued Gamble and Huff and other industry officials over unpaid royalties and was awarded \$500,000 by a Los Angeles jury in 2003. Paul is survived by his wife, Blanche Williams, with whom he had two children. Although he endured many difficult moments with Gamble and Huff, he would look back on those years as a lost golden age. "It was like a family full of music," he told bluesandsoul.com. "It was like music round the clock, you know. And I reminisce and I still wish those days were here." — AP



In this image released by Disney, Mowgli, portrayed by Neel Sethi, right, and Baloo the bear, voiced by Bill Murray, appear in a scene from 'The Jungle Book'. — AP



In this image released by Universal Pictures, Jessica Chastain, left, and Charlize Theron appear in a scene from 'Huntsman: Winter's War'. — AP

## 'Huntsman' sequel misfires; 'Jungle Book' reigns

"The Jungle Book" remained king of the box office in its second weekend in theaters, beating new opener "The Huntsman: Winter's War" by around \$40 million, according to comScore estimates Sunday. Disney's live-action/CG spectacle is proving to be a true all-audience success story. With a PG-rating and solid word of mouth, it fell only 41 percent in weekend two, earning \$60.8 million and bumping its domestic total to \$191.5 million in just 10 days in theaters.

The spectacular and somewhat unexpected hold of "The Jungle Book" overshadowed the debut of "The Huntsman: Winter's War," which, despite its high-wattage cast of Chris Hemsworth, Charlize Theron, Emily Blunt and Jessica Chastain, had a somewhat lackluster \$20.1 million bow. The movie cost \$115 million to produce and is a follow-up to the 2012 fairy tale fantasy "Snow White and the Huntsman," this time focused on Hemsworth's character. The first film was budgeted at \$170 million, earned \$56.2 million in its debut and went on to gross \$396.6 million worldwide.

There are a number of factors that may have contributed to the uninspiring performance of the sequel, one of which is the absence of original star Kristen Stewart, comScore senior analyst Paul

Dergarabedian noted. "Snow White and the Huntsman" launched in June 2012 - right in between the releases of the final two "Twilight" films. "She was a key reason for the opening of that first film," Dergarabedian said. "That was going to be a tough act to follow."

"The Huntsman" also failed to impress critics and is hovering around 17 percent on Rotten Tomatoes. Opening weekend audiences, however, gave the film a more promising B+ CinemaScore. "I would have liked more people to go see ours, but I certainly wouldn't call it a flop either," said Nick Carpou, Universal's president of domestic distribution. "The final chapter of this one has not been written, but with a B+ CinemaScore and the audience appeal that it has, I think there's a chance we're going to play out a bit better than that word (flop) would indicate."

"Barbershop: The Next Cut" landed in third place with \$10.8 million in its second weekend in theaters. "Zootopia" and "The Boss" rounded out the top five with \$6.6 million and \$6.1 million, respectively. But this weekend, up 29.3 percent from last year, is all about "The Jungle Book." Dergarabedian noted that it could actually help jumpstart the summer movie season too. The year is already up 9.2

percent, and now the big "Jungle Book" audiences are being exposed to all of the trailers for the upcoming season that kicks off with the launch of "Captain America: Civil War" in the first week of May.

"Just like 'Furious 7' last year, 'The Jungle Book' is providing a great lead-in for a really big summer movie season," Dergarabedian said. Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at US and Canadian theaters, according to comScore. Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday are also included.

1. "The Jungle Book," \$60.8 million.
2. "The Huntsman: Winter's War," \$20.1 million.
3. "Barbershop: The Next Cut," \$10.8 million.
4. "Zootopia," \$6.6 million.
5. "The Boss," \$6.1 million
6. "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice," \$5.5 million
7. "Criminal," \$3.1 million.
8. "My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2," \$2.1 million.
9. "Compadres," \$1.4 million.
10. "A Hologram for the King," \$1.2 million. — AP



A general view shows a room at the palace of Sultan Ali Dinar, the region's last sultan who ruled between 1891 and 1916, in the center of Darfur's El-Fasher. — AFP photos



A general view shows artifacts at the palace of Sultan Ali Dinar.



Sudanese men look at the broadswords belonging to the lieutenants of Sultan Ali Dinar.

# Sudan palace museum recalls restive Darfur's royal past



A general view shows the palace of Sultan Ali Dinar.



A man shows a decorated door at the palace of Sultan Ali Dinar.



Artifacts are on display at the palace of Sultan Ali Dinar.



A general view shows the palace of Sultan Ali Dinar.

**T**ucked between palm trees and verdant lawns in the center of Darfur's El Fasher, the palace of the restive Sudanese region's last sultan has become a rare focus of pride, 100 years after his death. Silver swords, antique rifles, richly coloured robes and even the throne from which autocrat Sultan Ali Dinar ruled Darfur's vast expanses between 1891 and 1916 line the walls of the palace museum.

Marginalized and underdeveloped since Dinar's fall, the western Darfur region descended into bloody conflict in 2003 with millions of people forced to flee their homes, leaving the museum as one of the few traces of a rich past. "The museum is a source of pride for all the tribes of Darfur," said Eslam Abaker, an El-Fasher resident relaxing on the lawn in front of the palace. "I came to see it first a year-and-a-half ago, but I have come back many times," the 25-year-old said.

Cases display the silver coins minted as the region's own currency, intricately decorated broadswords belonging to the sultan's lieutenants and Dinar's gold-painted throne. Dinar was the last of the Keira dynasty of sultans to rule the region as absolute monarchs, controlling their subjects and raising revenue via an elaborate feudal system. Hailing from the Fur ethnic group (Darfur means "domain of the Fur" in Arabic), Dinar's reign came to an end in 1916 when he backed the Ottoman Empire at the height of the First World War. Sudan's British and Egyptian rulers sent troops to crush his rebellion, chancing on his camp in November that year and shooting him dead in the ensuing melee, before absorbing Darfur into Sudan.

#### Past overshadowed by war

Dinar's descendants still live in El-Fasher—one even bears his title—but they can only imagine the power he wielded. "When I go into the museum I get a strange feeling," said Abdelrahman Tijani Dinar, a great-grandson of the sultan. The sprightly 73-year-old lives in El-Fasher not far from the palace and grew up hearing stories of his illustrious ancestor. "I try to build up a picture of the sultan through the exhibits and through oral accounts," he added proudly. But the region's heritage has been overshadowed by its dark recent past. Ethnic minority insurgents in 2003 rebelled against President Omar Al-Bashir, complaining that the region

was being politically and economically marginalized by the Arab-dominated Khartoum government. The single Darfur that Dinar ruled was split into three states in 1994 with another two added in 2012, and last week the region's conflict-weary residents voted on whether to return to a single region despite international criticism and a rebel boycott of the referendum. Darfur has long been neglected by successive Khartoum governments, a root cause of the current conflict, and the museum was created four decades ago at the behest of a local official. "The museum was established in 1976 at the suggestion of Darfur Governor Al-Tayeb Murdi to commemorate the sultan and protect his heritage," its director Abdelrahman Sadig said. After a grand opening by then-president Jaafar Al-Nimeiri in 1977, the number of daily visitors to the museum has since slowed to a trickle.

#### 'Heritage of all Darfur'

Like much else in Darfur, the palace has suffered years of neglect. Its gardens, although lush and frequented by groups of students and residents chatting and relaxing, are overgrown and poorly maintained, with some annexes to the palace in serious disrepair. In the exhibition itself, little explanation is given of the sultanate's four-century history or the artefacts on display. Relaxing on the palace lawns with friends, student Amna Abdullah said she felt the palace was in need of greater funding from the government.

"Sultan Ali Dinar is a man who fought English colonialism to his death—he deserves more than a museum," she said. Darfur's colonial rulers left 60 years ago when Sudan became independent but its problems did not end, with the region now in the 13th year of the insurgency that the United Nations says has killed at least 300,000 people.

Despite the palace's condition and the less savory aspects of Ali Dinar's rule—his autocratic style, for example—his great-grandson also suggested the sultanate has become the focus of a certain pride for all Darfuris. "What is not shown in the museum is that he has become the heritage of all people from Darfur, whatever their tribe," Abdelrahman Tijani Dinar said. — AFP



Swords and a gun are on display at the palace of Sultan Ali Dinar.



A man looks at the gold-painted throne of Sultan Ali Dinar.



A general view shows a room at the palace of Sultan Ali Dinar.



A man stands next to drums at the palace of Sultan Ali Dinar.



Swords are on display at the palace of Sultan Ali Dinar.

# Lifestyle

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Sudan palace-museum recalls restive Darfur's royal past

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A woman visits the 'Rain Room' exhibition by the artists' collective Random International, bathed in purple light in honor of music icon Prince, at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) in Los Angeles. — AFP

## Near White House, Washington punk spirit still resonates



Rich Gutteriez (center) of the band Busted Outlook from California, performs in Damaged City Fest at All Souls Unitarian Church in Washington. — AFP photos



Rich Gutteriez (white tee) of the band Busted Outlook from California, performs in Damaged City Fest.

Office workers in suits and high heels heading home for the weekend cross paths in the streets of the US capital with a crowd sporting worn jeans, leather jackets and dyed hair. Just a 10-minute drive from the White House, outside a Unitarian church, sounds of furious guitar chords and pounding drums escape from a concert-part of the Damaged City Fest, celebrating Washington's lesser-known status as the epicenter of hardcore punk.

"Hardcore" became popular in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Known for its raw, frenetic sound and socially conscious lyrics, the genre still inspires fans and musicians today. "We're in the industry of the government. Everyone works on Capitol Hill (in Congress) around here and this is kind of a breath of fresh air from all of this, all this politics," said Rael Griffin, a 19-year-old university student and Washington native. "I feel like I'm part of history right now. Some of my favorite bands are Minor Threat and Bad Brains, those are the guys that were like pioneers of DC punk music."

### Precursors of grunge

Washington is not usually considered a rock music destination, overshadowed by New York just a few hours' drive away. Undaunted, a handful of local teens fascinated by punk started the first hardcore bands. As the genre took off, the musicians didn't wait for record companies to notice them, organizing their own concerts and self-producing albums—no small feat in the pre-Internet era. That do-it-yourself spirit paved the way for the explosion of grunge. Former Nirvana drummer Dave Grohl, who grew up in the Washington suburbs, got his start with local hardcore band Scream.

"The reason why I got into Nirvana was because they liked Scream. And so they came to see Scream play and they saw me play and they're like, 'Man, if we could get a drummer like that, we'd be set,'" Grohl said in the documentary "Salad Days," about the early punk scene in Washington. Ian MacKaye, former singer of Minor Threat and Washington post-punk band Fugazi, said an early Minor Threat record carried the label "Putting DC on the map." "It was a joke because what map in our world is DC not on?" he asked. "But in a way it was also very true. We created something different."

### Invisible

History played a big role in shaping the city's music scene. Following the assassination of civil

rights leader Martin Luther King in 1968 in Memphis, Tennessee, race riots in Washington drove many white residents from the city center to the suburbs. Ten years later, "downtown was a place where (musicians) could do whatever they wanted and it didn't cost a lot, a lot of the early venues where the people played were just in desolate parts of town," said Georgetown University music professor Benjamin Harbert.

MacKaye agreed. "The music industry, they didn't see us. The federal government, the DC

serve them because they were not old enough to drink legally.

### Having a blast

Mark Andersen, a co-founder of the group, helps to organize Damaged City Fest, reaching out to venues where young fans can attend shows. "It keeps hardcore and punk in accessible places and then also keeps hardcore and punk headed in a healthy direction," said Nick Candela, a Damaged City Fest co-organizer. Washington's



Ian MacKaye, founder of Dischord Records and former member of Fugazi, an American post-hardcore band that formed in Washington, DC in 1987, poses in his office.

police, they didn't see us, they had much bigger problems than some punk rock kids," he said. "Our friends thought we were ridiculous. We were invisible. So we swarmed, it just kept going." Because many of the Washington musicians and fans were young teens, they had to fight to negotiate all ages concerts. From there, an offshoot called "Straight Edge"—named after a Minor Threat song and rejecting drugs, alcohol and tobacco—was born. The city's hardcore punk scene grew from shows at venues like churches and community centers, or bars that marked the fans with a large X on the hand so bartenders knew not to

punk and hardcore fans show a distinct sense of responsibility and political activism, turning away from the nihilism often associated with the genre. "The DC punk rock scene to me means doing whatever you want. I don't like people telling me what to do," said Griffin, the young Washington fan. "It's having a good time, but you also got to be respectful of people. It's not about breaking someone's nose, it's about having a blast." — AFP

## London's V&A Museum draws flak over sketching underwear ban

Critics yesterday accused London's iconic Victoria & Albert Museum of compromising its role as a source of inspiration for artists after forbidding visitors from sketching exhibits from its new underwear show. The world's largest museum of decorative arts and design, which houses over 4.5 million objects, said it had erected signs forbidding photography and sketching due to "temporary loan restrictions" imposed by contributors to "Undressed: A Brief History of Underwear". Rachel Campbell-Johnston, chief art critic of The Times, said yesterday that the ban was "like telling a reader to go to a library but

telling them they can't read the book." Twitter user Phil Dean posted: "As a dedicated Sketcher I find this ruling completely unfathomable." The 164-year-old museum stressed on its own Twitter account that the ban only applied to some temporary exhibitions, and that "we continue to support and encourage sketching in our seven miles of permanent galleries". A spokesman for the gallery had earlier told the Guardian newspaper that the restrictions—first introduced for its 2013 David Bowie exhibition—were to prevent congestion at busy shows, but later clarified that it was also due to loan conditions.

The show, which opened April 16, explores three centuries of underwear in Europe, focusing on Britain's relationship with its most intimate garments through more than 200 pieces. The ban also applies to the "Botticelli Reimagined" exhibition which contains around 50 paintings by the Italian Renaissance master, as well as works by the many artists who were inspired by him. — AFP



A gallery assistant poses with a design included in 'Undressed: A Brief History of Underwear' exhibition which tells the story of underwear design from the 18th century to present day, and runs from 16 April to 12 March 2017.—AFP