

**New airport terminal building has unique design**



**Ambitious Saudi reforms up against 'vested interests'**



**Egypt looks to avert water crisis driven by demand, waste**



**Without Ronaldo, Madrid hold City in Champions League**



## FINAL NOD TO HIGHER POWER, WATER CHARGES FOR EXPATS

NEW TARIFFS TO TAKE EFFECT AFTER 15 MONTHS



Min 21°  
Max 41°  
High Tide 03:33 & 14:05  
Low Tide 08:46 & 21:33



150 FILS  
NO: 16857  
40 PAGES

### TALKS PROGRESS AFTER AMIR MEETS YEMEN FOES

**KUWAIT:** The UN special envoy to Yemen said yesterday that warring parties have agreed to a framework for talks that will open the way for extensive negotiations to end the conflict. The announcement came after HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah met with the two delegations separately and urged them to reach a peaceful solution. It also came a day after the UN Security Council urged all sides in the negotiations to be constructive.

"We heard from the Amir of Kuwait clear assurances with regards to supporting the political process to reach a settlement," said Mohammed Abdulsalam, head of the Houthis delegation. The Amir warned that war can only lead to more devastation and bloodshed, Abdulsalam wrote on Facebook. A source close to the government delegation said Sheikh Sabah "urged the two sides to reach a political settlement." HH the Amir also received the UN envoy Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed.

The two delegations "agreed to an agenda for negotiations which is a framework for discussing security, economic and political issues," Ould Cheikh Ahmed told a press conference later. He said "comprehensive negotiations" would start today in line with UN Security Council resolution 2216, which is seen as a basis for any peace plan. It states that the rebels must withdraw from seized territories and disarm before talks can progress.

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**KUWAIT:** HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah meets UN special envoy to Yemen Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed yesterday. — KUNA

By B Izzak

**KUWAIT:** The National Assembly yesterday overwhelmingly passed a law allowing the government to hike electricity and water charges for expatriates after completely excluding Kuwaiti citizens. But the application of the new charges will not take effect before Sept 2017, according to the law which states that it will be applied on apartment buildings after 15 months of its publication in the official gazette.

Forty-eight MPs, including ministers, voted in favor of the law, while eight lawmakers opposed it. This is the second and final vote on the law as the first reading was approved two weeks ago. The law was passed after clearing the last hurdle of adding Kuwaitis residing in apartments to their counterparts living in villas to the exemption list. The law states that Kuwaiti families living in apartment buildings are exempted unless they have other houses. The exemption applies to only one house. A number of MPs called for exempting several houses for those Kuwaitis who are married to more than one wife, but the Assembly rejected the motion.

According to the law, the hike in electricity and water tariffs applies to apartment buildings (expatriates only), the commercial sector, industrial and agricultural sectors and government offices. It applies after one year on



Ahmad Al-Jassar

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### SAUDIS, KUWAIT STRUGGLE TO RESTART KHAFJI

News

in brief

#### Qatar to let domestic fuel prices fluctuate

**DOHA:** OPEC member Qatar announced yesterday that it will liberalize petrol and diesel prices amid concerns over the state budget with the fall of global oil prices. The change will come into force from May and prices will fluctuate each month, Mishaal Al-Thani, chairman of a commission to study fuel prices, said in a statement. The overhaul of the domestic market will see future prices determined by global and regional factors as well as costs linked to fuel production and distribution, he said. The price changes would also aim "to raise the efficiency of energy use in the state and to increase consumer awareness", he added. However this would not "necessarily" mean higher prices for consumers, assured Thani. Qatar pushed petrol prices up by 30 percent in January.

#### Greenland HK launches \$8bn fund with Kuwait

**HONG KONG:** Greenland Hong Kong Holdings Ltd has signed a deal to set up an US\$8 billion real estate fund with Kuwait Strategic Investor and to take a stake in a luxury New York City development, it said yesterday. Greenland Hong Kong, the subsidiary of China's state-backed Greenland Group, said it would issue 459,005,021 convertible preferred shares to Kuwait Strategic Investor's Al Waseet International. Conversion of the shares would make Kuwait Strategic Investor the second-biggest shareholder in Greenland Hong Kong. In exchange for the shares, Greenland Hong Kong would acquire a 41 percent effective interest in the luxury Project Lane real estate development in New York City.

**DUBAI/RIYADH:** Kuwait and Saudi Arabia appear no closer to restarting their jointly operated Khafji oilfield, industry sources said, despite Kuwait saying the sides had agreed to ramp up output after an 18-month shutdown. Any delay in the restart of the Neutral Zone field that produced 280,000 to 300,000 barrels per day (bpd) before environmental problems forced its closure in Oct 2014 will be seen as a boost to global oil markets struggling to shake off a glut that has sent prices diving over the past two years.

Kuwait's acting oil minister said on

March 29 that Kuwait had agreed with neighboring Saudi Arabia to resume production at the field. Riyadh has yet to confirm that announcement, and Saudi-based industry sources say there has been no breakthrough in talks to resolve what has become a political sticking point between the two Gulf OPEC allies. "There has been no change in the situation so far in Khafji," one Saudi oil industry source said. Another source said: "Talks are still going on to resolve the issue ... Hopefully it will be (resolved) soon."

Continued on Page 13



**DUBAI:** An Emirati visitor gets off a ten-seater driverless car after a test run during the second MENA Transport Congress Exhibition yesterday. — AP

### DUBAI TO PROMOTE DRIVERLESS VEHICLES

**DUBAI:** Dubai will introduce legislation to promote the use of driverless vehicles and invite companies to propose automated transport systems for the emirate, the government said on Monday. The fast-growing city state, which has about 2.5 million permanent residents, aims to make 25 percent of its transport - both public and private - driverless by 2030.

That should save 22 billion dirhams (\$6 billion) in annual costs through greater efficiency and fewer accidents, Dubai ruler Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum said. The government will focus on innovations such as autonomous buses and taxis, it said. It did not give details of the legislation or its plans to introduce new transport systems. — Reuters



**DUBAI:** An Emirati man walks past the Trump Hotels stand at the Arabian Travel Market exhibition yesterday. — AP

### DUBAI TOURISM FORUM HAS SURPRISING NAME: TRUMP

**DUBAI:** Tucked away behind stands at a Mideast tourism conference this week is a surprising name: Trump. Trump Hotels, the brand bearing the last name of Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump, sits near luxury brands like the Armani Hotel and the Palazzo Versace at the Arabian Travel Market exhibition being held in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates. Trump, who has long sought access to the oil-rich markets of the Middle East, has caused consternation and sparked condemnation across the region over his comments on Islam and his December proposal to temporarily ban Muslims from entering America.

Marcos Torres, the global sales director for Europe, the Middle East and Africa for Trump Hotels, declined to discuss any of the politics surrounding Trump. However, Torres told AP yesterday that business-to-business relationships

between the hotel chain and others at the conference remained strong. "We've had a business-friendship with the people in this hall right now for many years. That hasn't changed. It's still the same," he said. "It's nice to just hear (that) our business partners are even encouraging. ... They emphasize they will continue to keep supporting us."

Other business relationships in the Arabian Gulf have suffered in recent months for the Trump brand. In December, the Dubai-based Landmark Group said it would pull all Trump home decor products at its 180 Lifestyle stores in the region as it "values and respects the sentiments of its customers". Trump also has a deal with real-estate company Damac Properties to license his name and image for a housing project and two golf courses in Dubai for an undisclosed sum. — AP

### SAUDI ARABIA PLANS TO WELCOME TOURISTS

**DUBAI:** Saudi Arabia has plans to issue select visas to welcome tens of thousands of tourists a year as part of a sweeping national reform plan aimed at showcasing the country's rich heritage, including pre-Islamic sites, and encouraging Saudis to spend some of their tourist money at home. A day after Saudi Arabia outlined its Vision 2030 plan to wean itself off dependence on oil, a top Saudi prince told AP how the country plans to develop its tourism industry over the coming years.

Prince Sultan bin Salman, who is head of the Saudi Commission for Tourism and National Heritage and the oldest living son of King Salman, said that while the country will be opening up, it will not be "totally open for everybody to just show up and



Prince Sultan bin Salman

come in". "It is open for people that are doing business, for people working in Saudi Arabia, investing in Saudi Arabia, and people who are visiting for special purposes. And now it will be open for tourism again on a selected basis," he said at the Arabian Travel

Market exhibition in Dubai.

The religiously conservative country currently does not issue tourist visas, though it ran a pilot program between 2006 and 2010 welcoming around 25,000 visitors annually to see Saudi Arabia's ancient archaeological sites and vast landscapes of mountains, coastline, valleys, volcanoes and deserts. No date has been set for when tourist visas will be issued again.

Though Saudi Arabia may seem an unlikely destination for a holiday, it boasts regions where Christian and Jewish communities once thrived, historic forts, a stunning Red Sea coastline and a diverse culture molded by ancient trade and pilgrimage routes.

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KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah and the Central Tenders Committee officials. — Amiri Diwan photos



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with the outgoing Albanian Ambassador to Kuwait Kutim Morina.

## AMIR, CROWN PRINCE MEET TENDERS COMMITTEE STAFF

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah welcomed Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah at

Bayan Palace yesterday. The Minister introduced to His Highness the Head of the Central Tenders Committee (CTC) Abdullah Saud Al-Abdulrazzaq, his deputy Faisal Humoud Al-

Muzain and committee members retired general Fahad bin Fahad, Mishary Al-Blaihis, Abdulaziz Al-Samhan and Janan Boushehri. Sheikh Mohammad later introduced the CTC

officials to His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir received the outgoing Albanian Ambassador to Kuwait

Kutim Morina. Earlier yesterday, His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Crown Prince separately received His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. —KUNA



Parliament speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem and Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Bader Al-Essa are pictured with the graduates. — KUNA photos

## HUMANS MAIN PILLAR FOR DEVELOPMENT: MINISTER

KUWAIT: Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Bader Al-Essa said humans were the main pillar for development, and the driving force for economic growth. "The educated human being is the driving force of economic growth," Essa said while addressing the graduation ceremony of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training's (PAAET) 2014-15 academic year, held Monday under patronage of parliament

speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem. He said PAAET contributed greatly to development of the country, and was looking forward to increase its role even further. He cited PAAET's recent contracts to construct new buildings to increase capacity for additional 15, 000 students. PAAET, is also keen on providing scholarships for its teaching staff coupled with creating suitable education environment, Essa said. Director General of PAAET Dr Ahmad Al-

Thari said PAAET aimed at enabling the students to acquire good amount of culture, technical knowledge and practical skills that would help the graduate find job easily. He said PAAET's KD-400-million expansion plans would boost capacity to 80,000 students. Athari said PAAET has recently signed an accreditation agreement with the Paris academy so the PAAET graduates' certificate match European standards.—KUNA



KUWAIT: Parliament speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem and Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Bader Al-Essa attend the graduation ceremony of the PAAET 2014-15 academic year.



Parliament speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem, Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Bader Al-Essa and other officials cut the ceremony's cake.



A graduate is honored by the parliament's speaker during the ceremony.



Marzouq Al-Ghanem honors a graduate.

## KHARAFI'S QURAN COMPETITION HONORS 143 WINNERS

KUWAIT: The 19th session of the annual Mohammed Abdul Mohsin Al-Kharafi Quran competition honored 143 winners on Monday. Up to 2020 people joined the competition this year. Talking to reporters on the sidelines of the honoring ceremony, businessman Hussam Al-Kharafi underlined the significance of such contests to instill love of Quran in the hearts of the young, and push them to

memorize it for its great effect on elevating ethics. Kuwaitis, and expats from 45 countries, from all ages, took part in the competition, including the Kuwait Blind Association, Kuwait Disabled Sport Club and the Kuwait Deaf Club, he said.

A former chairman of the Kuwait Society of Engineers, Kharafi said that his uncle Jassem Al-Kharafi started the competition in 1997,

and that the family is keen on continuing it. Last Tuesday, the competition honored 105 female winners, out of 2,000 who took part. The competition was established in 1997 upon an initiative from late National Assembly speaker Jassem Al-Kharafi, then officials at the Quran House were in charge of it, in cooperation with some official and private institutions. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Ambassador of South Africa to Kuwait Mzolisla Bona celebrated his country's national day during a ceremony held Monday night at the Salwa Al-Sabah Hall. Government officials, diplomats and other dignitaries attended the event. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

## STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR BONA ON SOUTH AFRICA WEEK

KUWAIT: South Africa marks today 22 years since the dawn of Freedom and Democracy on 27 April 1994. In celebration of this milestone, the South African Embassy hosts a South Africa week from 25-28 April. The purpose of the South Africa week is to highlight South Africa's achievements and the road ahead, to strengthen relations and partnerships with Kuwait, present trade and investment opportunities, and to promote the attractive and abundant tourism destinations and experiences in South Africa.

The South Africa Week kicked off with the South African National Day celebration on 25 April, followed by a food festival, food tasting and food products promotions in partnership with the Western Cape Fine Foods Initiative and major retailers in

Kuwait from 26-28 April. A South African Chef will visit Kuwait to prepare South African cuisines for the food festival and food tasting events. On 26 April, the Embassy will host a food festival at the Marina Hotel for Invited Guests from the food and hospitality industry, Kuwait travel trade, and the media. The Embassy and the Western Cape Fine Foods Initiative will also have food tasting and food products promotion events at Mishref Cooperative today and the LuLu Hypermarket tomorrow from 18:00 to 23:00. We invite the Kuwait community to visit Mishref Cooperative and LuLu Hypermarket for a taste of South Africa and to see the high quality and affordable South African food products. The mission looks forward to a successful South Africa week in partnership with all Kuwait





**KUWAIT:** Information Minister and Youth Affairs Minister Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah (left), Minister of Justice and Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Yaqoub Al-Sane take part in a parliament session at the National Assembly in Kuwait City yesterday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

## GOVT HAS DRAFT LAW TO DEVELOP SPORTS: MINISTER

**KUWAIT:** The government has a draft law in place on developing Kuwaiti sports which will be soon be submitted to the National Assembly for discussion and voting, said Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah.

On the halt in the national sports scene, the minister said during yesterday's National Assembly session that "the government from day one tried not to have sport activities disrupted and it sent a delegation to the Swiss city of Lausanne to explain there that local rules and regulations do not conflict with international rules and regulations."

He stressed that many contacts with countries have been made to explain Kuwait's position regarding sports activities in the country, a position that affirms that Kuwaiti sports rules and regulations and laws do not conflict with international ones.

He expressed hope that there would be a swift lifting of the halt in Kuwaiti sports in international arenas, noting

that the Kuwaiti constitution pays great attention to issues close to the hearts of the youth, since about 70 percent of Kuwaitis are young people below the age of 34.

He referred to a message that UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon had sent to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah in which the UN chief said "Kuwait is a paragon of care for the youth in the region."

### Sports irregularities

Meanwhile, the National Assembly has asked its youth and sports committee to look into financial irregularities committed by some sports bodies during the period from early October 2015 to late March 2016. The committee will use the help of the Public Authority for Sports and State Audit Bureau to do this job. The assembly also approved a request to invite the Supreme Council for Women and Kuwait University's Women Research Center to attend a meeting to discuss several issues pertinent to family and women. — KUNA

## KUWAIT URGES THWARTING ISRAELI HEGEMONY OVER GOLAN HEIGHTS

**JEDDAH:** Kuwait yesterday urged the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) and the international community to thwart Israeli attempts at changing the legal and demographic status of occupied Syrian Golan Heights.

At an extraordinary meeting of the executive council of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Kuwait's permanent representative to OIC and General Consul in Jeddah, Saleh Al-Sagobi, indicated in the meeting OIC's rejection and repudiation of the step taken by the Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu to hold a cabinet meeting in occupied Golan Heights.

Sagobi slammed Netanyahu's statement that "Israel will not withdraw from Golan Heights and that the latter will stay under its control forever." The Kuwaiti official underscored that the Golan Heights are occupied

Syrian land in line with resolutions taken to that effect by the UN, the Arab League, and OIC. He said Kuwait affirms the need to abide by the Fourth Geneva Convention for 1949 to protect the Syrians in the Golan Heights from Israeli aggression and maltreatment. On the question of Palestine, he said the meeting yesterday reiterated the obligation of the international community to save the peace talks from falling further behind and to thwart the construction of more Israeli settlements on occupied Palestinian land. He stressed that Kuwait would spare no efforts to work with members of the OIC to ensure a just peace in Palestine and to allow the Syrian people to exercise their right to their land in the Golan Heights. Yesterday's executive committee meeting was held upon the request of Kuwait which chairs the current session of OIC. — KUNA

# CABINET MINISTER TOUTS SAUDI DEPUTY CROWN PRINCE'S APPROACH

**KUWAIT:** Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah yesterday expressed appreciation for the positive approach adopted by Saudi Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who is in charge of the direct discourse, openness and transparency in tackling significant issues.

He added that the vision announced by the Saudi prince reflected farsightedness that indicates a safe and prosperous future for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and its people. He hailed this comprehensive vision as involving all sectors and institutions and embodying genuine participation

between the State and people as well as relying on human development as the basis for building a new promising future and sustainable development.

### Good model

Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah said the success of the Saudi Prince's vision would surely mark a good model for brotherly countries to seek to build a broad economic base with diversified sources and participation by the private sector.

He also considered that the kingdom's continuing successes and achievements clearly reflect serious and fervent work, wisdom and sincere commitment to noble

values and principles pursued by the kingdom's policy under the leadership of Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Naif and Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

The Kuwaiti minister concluded by saying that the GCC member states, which face several political and economic challenges, have proved their capability of maintaining their economic positions, of overcoming their problems and of ensuring their stability, social security and progress. He wished Saudi Arabia continuing progress, prosperity and stability under its wise leadership. — KUNA



**Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah**

## NEW TERMINAL BUILDING HAS UNIQUE DESIGN

**KUWAIT:** A report released by 'New Kuwait', a government-run website that provides details about major development projects, announced the beginning of a project to design, construct, execute, furnish and maintain the new terminal at Kuwait International Airport. The new terminal is due to be built over an area of 6.8 sq km, making it one of the largest regional projects and airports, providing utmost passenger comfort levels as well as setting a new environmental dimension for building other airports. With its effective and practical design, the new airport will solve the problem of overcrowding the current airport suffering from.

The report added that the new terminal was designed to serve 13 million passengers a year with a futuristic vision selecting the location so that it would allow future expansion to serve 25 million passengers using the same terminal in addition to other developments that would allow serving 50 million passengers annually.

Notably, the new terminal's brilliant design and architecture are environment-friendly and thus it will be the first worldwide to provide a thermal mass with its concrete structure, in addition to a huge, single roof canopy punctuated by glazed openings that filter daylight while deflecting direct solar radiation to make use of solar

power. The terminal has a trefoil plan, comprising three symmetrical wings of departure gates. Each facade spans 1.2 km and all extend from a dramatic 25-m-high central space. The terminal balances the enclosure of this vast area with a design that is highly legible at a human scale to reflect a bright image about Kuwait's progress and prosperity. The new terminal also includes two fully-equipped transit hotels with direct access to it to facilitate passenger movement. It also includes a dignitaries' hall plus special lounges for first class and business class passengers. It also includes 30-51 F-Type gates and multi-floor parking places for 5,000 vehicles.



## OIL PRICES TO SLIP TO 'BACKWARDATION'

**KUWAIT:** Oil prices are expected to slip from a state of 'contango', a situation where future price is higher than the spot price, into a phase of 'backwardation', where the future price is below the spot price, an oil analyst said yesterday. 'Contango' is an indicator of a weak market, whereas 'backwardation' signifies a more robust one with higher demand, Mohammad Al-Shatti said.

When the future price of oil is below the spot price, "it is an indicator of equilibrium in the market," Shatti noted, predicting that the transition could take place during the period from October to December 2016.

Moreover, Al-Shatti revealed that prices of Brent Crude Oil have dropped during the first quarter of the year, to \$34 per barrel (pb) from \$44 pb during the fourth quarter of 2015, a decrease equivalent to \$10 pb.

Shatti also predicted that there appears to be no resurgence of oil prices in sight, saying that oil production will continue to dwindle during 2016. The analyst pointed to a significant reduction in oil production in the United States, which could further push the oil market away from a state of balance and stability.

Shatti also noted that the US Energy Information Administration is predicting a drop in US oil production from 9.18 million barrels per day in January 2016 to 8.22 million barrels per day in December of this year.

Meanwhile, Shatti also predicted further drops in oil production in non-OPEC nations, saying that such a slump in production will continue well into the year 2017. The ongoing year could be the most dismal in terms of net profits, with next year being slightly more lucrative, he added. —KUNA



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# NATIONAL GUARD HOSTS SEMINAR TO 'UNIFY CRISIS MANAGEMENT VISIONS'



**KUWAIT:** Kuwait National Guard Undersecretary Hashim Al-Rifai speaks during the seminar. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

By Faten Omar

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait National Guard (KNG) is keen to respond to emergencies and crises and support important services at a time of necessity as one of its responsibilities, KNG Undersecretary Lieutenant General Hashim Al-Rifai confirmed. He was speaking yesterday at Regency Hotel during a seminar titled 'Managing crises and disasters in Kuwait and the role of the National Guard'. The two-day event is held under the auspices of the Deputy Chief of the National Guard Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and with participation of the Arab Open University (AOU).

Rifai added that the seminar aimed to unify visions during crises and disasters and develop plans for the crisis management system. He stressed the importance



Officials attend the seminar.

of efforts to maintain the security of Kuwait, especially over the circumstances in the region. He explained that KNG's initiative to hold this seminar reflects its strategic approach, which puts the security of Kuwait at the forefront of its priorities, pointing to the societal role and willingness to cooperate with authorities in the management of crises and disasters.

### Effective plans

President of Arab Open University Moudhi Al-Humoud said that crisis management plans of all kinds, especially those on a national scale, need to be ready to effectively face repeated or large and emerging crises. Humoud noted that the effective method to manage a crisis is to create a team ready to act anytime, make a decision to deal with the crisis seriously, review the

steps and procedures of the team responsible, encourage the team after the end of the crisis and review the lessons learned.

KNG's legal adviser Dr Abdulwahab Al-Roumi said the most important functions of Kuwait as a state of institutions is to protect its citizens' lives and property from disasters and crises. "We need to have integration plans to control and coordinate procedures and efforts, achieving a high degree of effectiveness," he said. Referring to the draft law prepared by him that is included in the seminar's recommendations aimed to gather all stakeholders to manage and cope with disasters and crises before they occur, during and after the fact. He noted that the law provides for the provision of strategic dimension and the legal cover for all decisions issued by the higher authorities in Kuwait.



Abdelwahab Al-Roumi



Moudhi Al-Humoud

## THE PARIS AGREEMENT

In my view



By Labeed Abdal

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It is considered a growing threat that a record number of countries - up to 175 - signed the historic Paris agreement about climate change in order to save the planet and ensure protecting it against global warming. It is actually a major sign indicating that the entire world, including major and small countries, unanimously agreed to share utilizing Earth's resources and cut emissions from their factories, which have been altering the average world temperature.

In an unprecedented unified action in the 71-year-history of the UN, world leaders and government representatives lined up during the UN general assembly meeting to sign this historic agreement, setting a new world record for any international treaty endorsement process done in one day, which emphasizes the world's

**Global efforts must be combined to stop international temperature rises, especially since 2015 was the hottest on Earth.**

awareness of the need to stop emissions of greenhouse gases and protect the ozone layer to maintain an acceptable average world temperature.

Commenting on the event, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon stressed that countries set a world record of the number of countries signing that treaty on one day and considered this step as beneficial to both current and future generations. He added that on Earth Day, around 90 percent of the world's countries including major ones like China and US and smaller island ones that had always abstained from voting on a lot of issues, like the Maldives and Fiji, signed the treaty.

Global efforts must be combined to stop international temperature rises, especially since 2015 was the hottest on Earth since the late 19th century because of the differences between advanced and developing countries in terms of funding, technology and industries.

Things are very often judged according to a certain country's weight and value and regional groups in the UN have always called for reforming the UN membership and voting system. So, in view of this unprecedented agreement on one issue, there is great hope that the world will agree on further ones, namely those about international peace and security that have already been delayed for long!

## FORMER MP'S CITIZENSHIP WITHDRAWAL CASE ADJOURNED

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** The court of cassation yesterday adjourned a case filed to challenge a decision to withdraw the citizenship of former MP Abdullah Al-Barghash and his family members. The case was postponed to May 17 to allow Barghash to file a request to change the judge that Barghash argued with. The argument started when Barghash insisted on defending himself, and ended when he was escorted out of the courtroom by security guards. Notably, the administrative appeal court had rejected the case because of lack of jurisdiction, while the first instance court annulled the citizenship withdrawal decision and ordered compensating Barghash KD 5,000. In other news, the criminal court yesterday sentenced two people to death, a third to life in prison and a fourth to 10 years in prison over charges of murdering a young man inside a shopping mall.

### Co-ops workers

Workers in co-operative societies will only be allowed to transfer to other co-ops, according to a new decision made by the Manpower Public Authority. They were added to a list of activities that includes shepherding, fishing, farming and for industries in which workers are only allowed to transfer to employers in the same activity. This came following a recent administrative decision to amend the previous decision number 642/2015 pertaining with the condition of transferring workers to other employers, the authority's Public Relations Director and official spokesperson Aseel Al-Mezayad said.

## POLICEMEN STOP BY RESTAURANT WHILE TRANSPORTING INMATES KABD MURDER RUMORS REFUTED

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** The Interior Ministry's Relations and Security Information Department said policemen from the reform establishment were disciplined for stopping in front of a Riqqa restaurant while transporting prison inmates. The department statement said that an image on social media showed a police patrol vehicle parked in front of a restaurant with inmates inside. The inmates were on their way to be taken to a hospital for medical checkups.

### Rumors denied

In another statement, the department denied reports on social media about a girl who was allegedly murdered in Kabd. It said that rumors that a mentally-disturbed citizen had kidnapped a child in front of a co-op society then raped and killed her are totally untrue. The department said there was no such case reported in the past few days and no one came forward to tell about the disappearance or kidnapping of their child.

### Unlicensed firearm

Weapons detectives arrested a citizen for trading in drugs and possession of an unlicensed firearm. Director of the Search and Investigations Department Lt Col Hamad Al-Ajmi and his assistant Lt Col Nasser Al-Wuhaib set up an ambush to catch him, but he rammed the detectives' cars during his attempt to escape, and was chased and caught in Abdullah Al-Salem. He had three kilograms of drugs and an unlicensed weapon. He was sent to concerned authorities. Meanwhile, in a separate case, detectives arrested a citizen with a machinegun and found unlicensed ammunition in his house.

### Sponsor threatened

Police brought an Ethiopian man under control after he threatened his sponsor with an axe in Salmi. A dispute took place between the sponsor and his employee, and when police arrived, the latter attempted to attack them with the axe.

### Domestic violence

A bedoon (stateless) girl in Jahra told police that her father beat her and took her phone as well as money. Police are investigating. Meanwhile, Farwaniya police freed a family detained by their ex-convict son who threatened to kill them due to a financial dispute. The son was arrested in an abnormal condition.

## MUNICIPALITY OFFICIAL LAUDS NEW GCC WEBSITE

**DOHA:** A Gulf municipal website that was launched yesterday will prove instrumental to unifying Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) municipal work, Deputy Director General of Kuwait's Municipality Abdullah Assad Amadi said.

In comments after heading a Kuwaiti delegation to the ninth Gulf Municipal Works Conference, Amadi said that the website would facilitate municipal work, giving Gulf citizens easier access to municipal services. The website provides a slew of pivotal studies on municipal affairs, in addition to a comprehensive database of Gulf municipal work, Amadi noted.

Moreover, Amadi said that the website also serves as a forum for which to exchange municipal information amongst GCC nations. Kuwait's municipality values its participation in the conference, given the magnitude of the event, which is a testament to the unity of Gulf nations, he added.

The Deputy Director General of Kuwait's municipality underscored the importance of municipal work to sustained development, saying that a planned GCC municipal prize is in the works, as an incentive for Gulf nations to work towards more progress. The three-day conference, which kicked off yesterday, witnessed the launch of a website on Gulf municipal information. Amadi, along with a number of Kuwaiti municipal officials, made up Kuwait's delegation to the conference. — KUNA



Firearms and drugs arrested with a man in Abdullah Al-Salem yesterday.



An unlicensed machinegun found with a man who was arrested yesterday.



Flames come out of an apartment in Salmiya yesterday.



A firefighter tackles a blaze in Salmiya yesterday.

### Thefts

In Hawally, three owners of beauty shops complained of thefts in their stores. One told police that KD 15 was stolen from her shop, so police went there and lifted fingerprints. Meanwhile, another person who owns a shop in seaside Shaab told them KD 250 was stolen from a safe, while the third owner in Hawally said KD 36 was stolen.

### No injuries in fires

A fire broke out in a Salmiya building yesterday. Firemen from the South Salmiya Fire Station responded, and managed to put out the fire after evacuating the building. The fire had started in a fourth floor apartment, and the flames spread to the balcony of a fifth floor apartment. No injuries were reported. Meanwhile, a fire broke out in a Salwa house, prompting response from the South Salmiya and Mishref fire stations. The fire, which started at the second floor, was extinguished and no injuries were reported. In the meantime, firemen tackled a blaze at a Kheitan house, while Jahra firemen put out a blaze reported in a Saad Al-Abdullah home. No injuries were reported in both cases. Separately, firemen rescued a number of people who were trapped inside an elevator that malfunctioned in Mangaf.

### Accident

A tanker truck loaded with combustible material collided with a truck on Seventh Ring Road near Abdallah Al-Mubarak. Firefighters headed to the accident's site and dealt with the situation. No injuries were reported.



**KUWAIT:** The Kuwait Autism Center held a two-week training course for a delegation consisting of representatives from autism centers in Albania recently. It came following a request made by Liri Berisha, President of the Albanian Children Foundation and the wife of Sali Berisha, the former President of Albania.



In Brief

**KOC CONFIRMS CONTRACT LEGITIMACY**

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) said yesterday that the decision of the public prosecutor on April 20 to close the investigation on its contract with Shell Global confirms the contract's legitimacy. The prosecutor's decision refutes any suspicion of illegal activities regarding the contract, KOC said in a statement. The Company's significant achievements, supported by Shell Global experts, are conclusive evidence to move forward in order to achieve the goals of its strategic plan to increase sustainable oil production capacity to reach \$650.3 million bp in 2020, the statement noted. — KUNA



**ZIMBABWE SPEAKER ARRIVES IN KUWAIT**

**KUWAIT:** Speaker of Zimbabwe's House of Representatives Jacob Mudenda and his accompanying delegation arrived in Kuwait yesterday for a several-day official visit to the country. He was welcomed by Head of the Mission of Honor MP Faisal Al-Shaya and Zimbabwean Ambassador to Kuwait Mark Marongwe. During his stay in Kuwait, Zimbabwe's parliamentary delegation is expected to meet with National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem and other senior officials. — KUNA



**AID DISPATCHED TO IRAQ**

**KUWAIT:** The second aid dispatch to the displaced families in Iraq was distributed, Kuwaiti Consulate General in Basra announced yesterday. Consul General Youssef Ashour Al-Sabbagh said that the dispatch was distributed to 247 displaced families in Iraq to alleviate their suffering; more than 3,500 families will also benefit from additional aid packages, including food and medicine, in the next few days. The aid campaign comes in line with a \$200 million grant announced by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to support the displaced Iraqis. — KUNA



Photo

of the day



**KUWAIT:** Flowers blooming at a public park in Shuwaikh. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

**'KUWAIT KEEN ON ACHIEVING ENVIRONMENT SUSTAINABILITY'**

**KUWAIT:** The State of Kuwait is keen to enact legislations and laws, and set programs and plans aiming to preserve and rehabilitate environment for achieving sustainability, said Director General of the Environment Public Authority (EPA) Sheikh Abdullah Ahmad Al-Sabah.

Sheikh Abdullah made the statement on Monday while inaugurating a workshop on 'environment legislations' held under the auspices of Acting Prime Minister, Foreign Minister and Chairman of Supreme Environment Council Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

The three-day workshop, co-organized by EPA, Ministry of Interior, the United Nations Environment Programmes (UNEP) and International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), includes seven sessions on several issues and topics, Sheikh Abdullah said.

**Environment action**

The environment law number 42/2014 which was amended in 2015 was enacted to embody an ambition aiming to develop environment action, with the aim of an optimal use of resources, he noted. He lauded efforts exerted by officers of EPA, indicating that the environment police in Kuwait is the first experiment in GCC member states. He pointed out that the EPA prioritizes developing control systems, implementing environment laws, promoting national capabilities and providing necessary training courses.

Meanwhile, Acting Assistant Undersecretary for Public Security Affairs and Director General of the Capital Security

Directorate Major General Ibrahim Al-Tarrah said that the Ministry of Interior represented in environment police department supports strongly sustainable development, preserves environment resources and pays attention to environment system. He stressed the 'unlimited' support of the ministry for the environment police and training courses provided to its personnel on the latest developments so as to ensure achieving excellent performance.

**Strategic partnership**

UNEP's Director of the Regional Office for West Asia (ROWA) Iyad Abumoghli affirmed in a similar speech the importance of strategic partnership with Kuwait, saying that UNEP is ready for providing expertise and advice to contribute to building Kuwait's capabilities. He noted that Kuwait is a leading country on the Gulf, regional and Arab levels which signed the Paris Climate Change Agreement (PCCA). He said the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly to be hosted by Kenya on May 23-27 will discuss the direction of global environmental policy and international resolutions governing the environment action for decades.

Kuwait took part in the signing ceremony of the PCCA in New York on April 23, in the presence of 175 countries. His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, the representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, signed the agreement. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** Director General of the Environment Public Authority (EPA) Sheikh Abdullah Ahmad Al-Sabah (center) attends the workshop. — KUNA

**IICO CARRIED OUT RELIEF PROJECTS OVER LAST TWO YEARS: OFFICIAL**

**KUWAIT:** The Kuwait-based International Islamic Charitable Organization (IICO) has carried out several humanitarian and relief projects in some Muslim countries over the last two years, ISCO's head of Media and Public Relations Department Salah Al-Jassem said. Jassem made the press statement at the IICO general assembly's meeting, adding that the organization carries out many projects across the globe through its offices in about 12 countries.

These offices could implement several humanitarian and relief projects in the remote areas, and the most populated and poorest cities, he noted.

Over the last two years, IICO managed to carry out major relief projects in Syria, Yemen, Indonesia, Pakistan, Somalia and Eastern Sudan, as well as Turkey, Jordan and Lebanon, the Syria's neighboring countries, he said. — KUNA

**KUWAIT PARTICIPATES IN ARABIAN TRAVEL MARKET**

**DUBAI:** The Kuwaiti pavilion at the Arabian Travel Market (ATM) 2016 is 'distinguished' and reflects a civilized image of the country, said Kuwait Consul General in Dubai and UAE's Northern Emirates Theyab Al-Rashidi. He made the statement on Monday while visiting the pavilion, adding that it highlights Kuwait's tourist aspects, cultural heritage and the latest developments of hotels and resorts.

He sees the market as a chance for attracting visitors to brief them on Kuwait's cultural and tourist destinations. He lauded the developed level of the event, noting that Dubai brought together those who are interested in tourism sector globally under one roof to help them share expertise and ideas on this sector. He

thanked all Kuwaitis tasked with designing and organizing the pavilion.

Kuwait National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters and the tourism sector at the Ministry of Information are representing Kuwait at the exhibition. The pavilion at the exhibition showcases a number of hotels, owned by Kuwaitis, travel and tourism companies as well as individuals with some handicraft vocations. The annual business-to-business (B2B) exhibition showcases over 2,800 products and destinations from around the world to over 26,000 buyers and travel trade visitors across 4 days at the Dubai International Convention and Exhibition Centre (DICEC). — KUNA

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Al-Anbaa

WHAT IS GOING ON?

By Nermin Al-Houti

One may lag behind in following new social media software, including Snapchat, Instagram or other apps for several reasons, the most important of which is lack of time. And from here and there comes our focus today through our words "What is going on". I was listening to a radio program while driving, when the owner of the "Shino Fe" (What is Going On) account was being interviewed. The talk was about the importance of that account for youth who have new ideas they have implemented through small business projects, and the account's support for them through free advertisement, until the majority of Kuwaiti society waits for "Shino Fe" to see the production of Kuwait's future.

The dialogue was over, and my thinking went into the imaginations of those youth, who worked so hard without any help from anyone. They exerted the effort and innovated and found in "Shino Fe" an outlet to get their ideas to the society.

I heard over the radio during the interview that many officials invited the account's owner and spoke to him, but what was the result of the talk? I think nothing. Here is where our lines start, through which we send a message to some officials who spoke with the account owner and lauded his idea and support of Kuwait youth. Why do not turn that account into a private media channel that sheds light on the efforts of our children and adopts their ideas to deliver them to the concerned authorities to adopt the small businesses and become development projects for the state?

Kuwait has many media channels, so why not designate a program that has all what is new for those projects? Why do we limit things to projects opening only? The idea is very simple, as through the person who created the "Shino Fe" account, he can turn it into a radio and television program to follow youth projects and talk to them about how to handle their products, how to get them and how to reach them.

In this case, the state would have supported those youth and their ideas would have appeared through ads and the media, and will not be limited. Also follow them after finishing them to develop their ideas and push them, so the result will be that we are among productive countries in the future.

— Translated by Kuwait Times

IDS OF BACHELORS IN PRIVATE RESIDENCE REVOKED

**KUWAIT:** The Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) plans to revoke thousands of civil IDs that belong to expatriate bachelors who live in private residence areas (houses) in violation of the law. This move follows cabinet instructions with regards to fighting the phenomenon of housing bachelors in houses. PACI Director General MUSAED AL-ASOUSI said that the authority began blocking the files of real estate where bachelors are in model and private housing areas around Kuwait. A civil ID will be revoked until the holder change his residence.

"There are thousands of bachelors in private residence areas according to the addresses on their IDs, which is contrary to the procedures followed by PACI at the instructions of the cabinet to fight this phenomena," Asousi said.

He urged violators to adjust their status and avoid living in 'model areas'. He also asked real estate owners not to rent for bachelors to avoid having the files of their real estate blocked or facing legal action. — Al-Rai

TABLETS COLLECTED FROM STUDENTS FOR MAINTENANCE

**KUWAIT:** The Ministry of Education started collecting tablets it had provided to public school students from 12th graders, Director of the Information Technology Systems Department Huda Al-Mutairi announced. The devices will undergo maintenance and then distributed to 10th grade students next year, she added. Meanwhile, ministry sources said that schools began collecting tablets from expatriate teachers who plan to travel at the end of the school year. In other news, the Education Ministry formed three committees to interview candidates for promotion to educational supervisory posts in special Education Ministry schools for 2016/2017. Interviews began Monday for school manager, assistant manager, head of department in Mary the Coptic Secondary School in Hawally School Zone. — Al-Rai



Al-Anbaa

THOSE SHAKING IN PLACE

By Saleh Al-Shayegi

On the occasion of building a new tower in Dubai that will be higher than the Burj Khalifa, which is 828 meters tall and the world's highest tower, board chairman of Emaar that owns the project, Mohammed Al-Abbar, said: "We do realize the political, economic and security situations prevailing worldwide and are skeptical that the world might face some crises, but such precautions should not stop us from going on working and building. We are carrying on with development plans despite all fears and concerns about the future because this is one of the secrets of success."

I believe that Abbar himself is another secret of success because those with too many fears are always hesitant and preoccupied with worries and concerns that control and cripple them. Time will go past with all its sorrows and joys, while such people remain fixed in place without moving forward an inch, and would never lift a single rock, build a wall or a roof.

Such people are absolutely unfit for leadership or for coming forward to the front rows where they would be consulted. It is those who walk through landmines with

brave, reasonable and surefooted steps who are considered alive and well-aware that they are not safe, but still had to do their best to achieve security and cross those mined fields safely.

This was exactly what Abbar expressed in his talk. He does know that paths to the near future are not lined with roses and do not smell like flowers and jasmine. Nevertheless, as a builder of his country, he had to overcome doubts and fears and show enough courage and determination to courageously start work regardless of any fears or doubts, no matter how big they are.

Many countries have only stood by watching and crippled by fear and doubts waiting for clouds to disperse and crises to be over with the excuse of maintaining their people's gains, without realizing that crises, problems and wars are but integral parts of this life and that they will never be over. Accordingly, these countries will remain the same and unchanged forever, while only the courageous and daring ones build higher, leaving others 'shaking in place'!

— Translated by Kuwait Times



VIVA RECOGNIZED AS BEST CONTACT CENTER, NETWORK EXPERIENCE

**KUWAIT:** VIVA, Kuwait's fastest-growing and most developed telecom operator, is pleased to announce that it has been recognized as 'Best Contact Center Experience' and 'Best Network Experience.' These awards of exceptional performance were presented to representatives of VIVA at the conference held in UAE in Dubai city on April 11 organized by the 'International Quality and Productivity Center.'

Abdulmohsen Al-Zamel, Customer Experience Senior Manager at VIVA commenting on this occasion:

"Fulfilling our customers' needs is our priority at VIVA, thus we strive to provide the telecom market with the latest technologies that helps us to reach our goals and meet our customers' expectations and keep them up-to-date. In addition, to enhance our employees' efficiencies through training courses and providing them with the right tools to accomplish their work with less time and high quality."

On the other hand, Yousef Yahya Al-Gahtani, Network Performance Manager at VIVA said: "The telecom providers have a common challenge

concerning shifting to a center focusing on customer. We at VIVA, are in the process to apply a specialized program for customer experience management, in cooperation with professionals from Huawei, as we succeed at VIVA to build the required capabilities to serve our customers, better and faster."

In addition, VIVA reached the finals amid the best three-telecom companies for the category 'Most Innovative Use of Technology to Improve the CE' and for the category 'Best CEM Culture Transformation Program'.

Crime

Report

Wife accuses husband of stealing teddy bear

**KUWAIT:** A citizen in Mishref filed a complaint against her husband, accusing him of stealing her teddy bear. Police issued a warrant for his arrest.

Ex-husband charged

A female citizen accused her ex-husband of stealing the furniture from her Nugra apartment, while he claimed it was his as he paid for it. Both were sent for questioning to determine who is saying the truth. The citizen told police that while she was away, her ex-husband entered her flat with a copy of the key, and the harris (janitor) saw him removing the furniture.

Fugitives arrested

Policemen arrested a man who attempted to escape from a checkpoint in Sabah Al-Ahmad and was found wanted for forgery cases. The Egyptian man ran away after he handed his ID, but was chased and caught. Meanwhile, a citizen who drove his car at high speed was arrested and found wanted to serve a 7-year-jail sentence, so he was sent to concerned authorities.

Woman mugged

A female citizen sought the help of police when a man she knows beat her in a parking lot and robbed KD 500 from her. He also took her mobile phone. A security source said the victim gave them details of the suspect, who was found wanted for three felonies. The case was sent to detectives to arrest the suspect. — Al-Rai

850 DEPORTEES RECORDED

**KUWAIT:** Upon the arrival of the first batch of new electronic passports, a team from the information technology department at the Interior Ministry visited Kuwait International Airport to discuss the mechanism of installing electronic reader devices in preparation of handing out the e-passports scheduled for June for certain groups including diplomats, students abroad and patients treated abroad and their companions, as IATA has given Kuwait until the end of this year to do so.

Meanwhile, security sources at the information technology center said the lists of deportees from the country include 850 deportees sent back on administrative, judicial and on health grounds. It announced that 10-digit fingerprint machines will be used at the airport.

Security sources at the information technology center said the e-readers are linked to two important databases - the first is of citizens' information when departing or arriving, which can read the passport chip and determine whether the data is correct, and the other is of those wanted by various state departments such as detectives, state security, criminal detectives, investigations and prosecution.

Sources said the project includes the installation of electronic gates for citizens connected to the e-reader, so the citizen's data at the time of departure and entry are automatically entered in the computer and the gate opens automatically, letting travelers pass through. But if a person is wanted, a red sign appears and will prevent the gate from opening, and the person will be directed to the department wanting him. — Al-Rai

OIL UNIONS, GOVT STILL DISAGREE ON RAISES

**KUWAIT:** A meeting held between oil unions' representatives and a governmental committee lasted until late hours of Monday evening due to continued disputes over employees' annual salary increase, Government sources said. Deputy Premier, Finance Minister and Acting Finance Minister Anas Al-Saleh, as well as Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) CEO Nizar Al-Adsani attended the meeting. The sources said KPC is holding to its stance to reduce the annual raise on the basic salary to 5 percent, while the unions wants it to remain at 7.5 percent. In case no agreement is reached then the issue will be sent to Fatwa and Legislation Department, according to the sources. — Al-Qabas

MPs DEMAND LAW FOR FOREIGN LOANS

**KUWAIT:** A number of MPs intend to propose a bill that requires the government to receive the parliament's approval prior to giving any foreign loans, aids or grants to any government around the world, with the exception of relief aids. This comes in reaction to the government's economic reform plan, well-informed parliamentary sources said, adding on that regard that a number of MPs started bringing up some bills that previous parliaments could not pass.

A considerable number of MPs have been coordinating together to file the proposal, the sources said, noting that it need. Further, the sources pointed out that the same proposal was made at previous parliaments but was never discussed. "Eleven MPs support this proposal so far," stressed the sources. — Al-Anbaa

BLOGGER ACQUITTED OF SLANDERING FOR LACK OF LEGISLATION

**KUWAIT:** In a ruling that highlighted the need to pass new legislations that can legally incriminate such felonies and set proper penalties for them, the criminal court acquitted a blogger who was referred by the state security to court over charges of slandering Saudi Arabia on his Twitter account and noted that 'tweets' could not be considered real threats that would subject Kuwait to war or cutting political relations with other countries.

The court acquitted blogger Faisal Badi in a case filed by the state security department accusing him of slandering Saudi Arabia through tweets he posted on his Twitter account over grounds that "these tweets are slanderous phrases from an individual of no official status, who does not represent a considerable group in Kuwait and who does not even hold Kuwaiti citizenship," the court argued, adding that these tweets were "mere vulgar phrases that do not even pose any true hostilities that would endanger Kuwait, lead to wars or cut or sever diplomatic ties with Saudi Arabia or even undermine both countries' bilateral relations". — Al-Rai



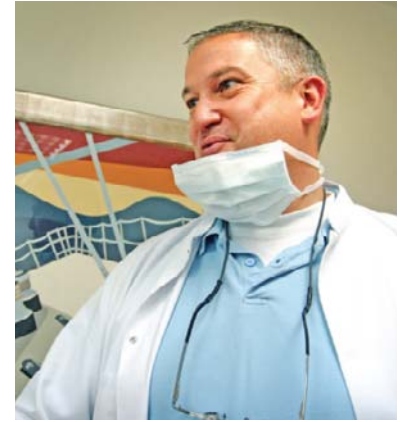
As part of its community service activities, the Commercial Bank of Kuwait's (CBK) Assistant General Manager for Public Relations and Media Amani Al-Wera recently visited Capital Governor retired general Thabet Al-Muhanna at his office. The visit is meant to offer CBK support and sponsorship to many of the activities organized by the governorate.

UNKNOWN PERSONS DISCONNECT SAWABER COMPLEX UTILITIES

**KUWAIT:** It seems some unknown hands were responsible for disconnecting power and other public services provided to residential apartments at Sawaber Complex, said informed source, noting that both the Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW) and the finance ministry's expropriation department denied responsibility for the disconnection and 'wondered' who might be responsible for such actions to force owners to take the price the government has offered and evict the buildings.

Responding to many inquiries made by the owners, the expropriation department stressed that it was only responsible for financial matters. MEW also denied responsibility, and, thus they both exchanged accusations. On their part, the owners stressed that spending 25 days without any public services would never make them change their minds and leave the building by force. The owners also wondered why lawmakers have kept silent about their sufferings. "Nothing will make us evict to turn the area into a commercial one by using illegal pressure," said the owners. — Al-Qabas





**Court jails 'dentist of horror' 8 years**

**TURKISH PRESIDENT CHASES HIS CRITICS AT HOME AND ABROAD**

**IS TRAINED 9-YEAR-OLD TO 'BATTLE INFIDELS'**  
 SCARRED YAZIDI BOYS ESCAPE COMBAT TRAINING

**QADIYA:** When nine-year-old Murad got the chance to flee from Islamic State - the group that repeatedly raped his mother and slaughtered or enslaved thousands from his Yazidi minority - he hesitated. So powerful was the indoctrination during his 20-month captivity in Iraq and Syria that the boy told his mother he wanted to stay at the camp where Islamic State had trained him to kill "infidels", including his own people.

Now in the relative safety of Kurdish-controlled territory, Murad's mother told Reuters how she had struggled to persuade her son - like other Yazidi boys being prepared for battle - to escape earlier this month with her and his little brother. "My son's brain was changed and most of the kids were saying to their families 'Go, we will stay,'" she said, declining to give her name. "Until the last moment before we left, my son was saying 'I will not come with you.'" Yazidi boys appear to be part of broader efforts by Islamic State to create a new generation of fighters loyal to the group's ideology and inured to its extreme violence. The training often leaves them scarred, even after returning home.

Islamic State, known by its opponents in Arabic as Daesh, captured Murad, his mother and brother in August 2014 at their village near the Iraqi town of Sinjar. During that offensive, the radical Sunni Muslim group massacred, enslaved and raped thousands of Yazidis, whom they consider to be devil-worshippers. The United States launched air strikes against the militants partly to save the survivors and last month said the attacks on Yazidis, whose faith combines elements of Christianity, Zoroastrianism and Islam, and other groups amounted to genocide.

More than a third of the 5,000 Yazidis captured in 2014 have escaped or been smuggled out, but activists say hundreds of boys are still held. Dressed in a long brown skirt and matching headscarf, the mother described how Murad had finally agreed to escape, allowing people smug-



**KILIS, Turkey: People mourn during a funeral in Kilis, a day after rockets hit the border town. Five rockets fired into Turkey from an area of Syria controlled by the Islamic State group hit the border town of Kilis, killing one person and wounding 26. — AFP**

glers to spirit the family by a convoluted route to a refugee camp near the northern Iraqi city of Duhok where they are living now. Murad, wearing a jersey of the Spanish football club Real Madrid, sat with his mother on the floor of a spartan trailer in al-Qadiya camp, twiddling his thumbs and resisting answering questions.

Most of the time Murad's mother managed to

stay with her two sons as Islamic State shuffled them around cities and towns in its "caliphate" spanning the borders of Iraq and Syria.

These included its de-facto capitals Mosul and Raqqa, as well as the ancient city of Palmyra which has since fallen to Syrian government forces. "They were teaching the children how to fight and go to war to battle the infidels," the

mother said, adding that those to be killed included Shiite Muslims, the Peshmerga forces of Iraqi Kurdistan and the Syrian Kurdish YPG militia. Islamic State dressed the boys in the same long robes they wore, and trained them how to use guns and knives. "They were assessing them for how well they had learned to fight. Daesh then showed the families videos of killing.

Among them they saw their sons also taking part." Islamic State also forced Murad to pray, study the Quran and sit through extremist religious lessons, according to his mother, who said she had been beaten as well as raped by at least 14 men.

**Taught to hate**

A 16-year-old boy taken from the same village south of Sinjar recounted similar treatment. He spent two months in a religious school where Islamic State taught its ultra-hardline ideology which labels most outsiders as infidels and has been denounced by senior Muslim authorities. "They told us, 'You are Yazidis and you are infidels. We want to convert you to the true religion so you can go to heaven,'" said the teenager, who withheld his name and wrapped his head in a scarf, fearing retribution against his brother and father still under Islamic State rule.

The teenager said he was made to work in a sweatshop with other boys, sewing military clothes for the fighters. Around 750 other children have escaped in recent months but a few thousand more remain missing, according to Yazidi activists Khairy Ali Ibrahim and Fasel Kate Hasoo, who document crimes against their community. Twenty-five children who escaped from Islamic State training camps have since passed through Qadiya, 10 km (6 miles) south of the Turkish border, but only six remain, they said. The rest have sought refuge in Europe, joining the wave of migrants fleeing conflict across the region.

Murad's family escaped when the fighter who had "purchased" his mother left the house where she and the boys were staying to get food. Put in contact with the people smugglers by a friend, they spent the night at a safe house before a nine-hour journey by motorbike to territory held by Syrian Kurds. After three nights in the town of Kobani on the Turkish border, they made their way to Iraqi Kurdistan. — Reuters

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## THOUSANDS OF IRAQIS ANSWER SADR'S CALL TO PROTEST



**BAGHDAD:** Iraqi supporters of the Sadrist movement hold national flags and shout slogans during a demonstration to press for reforms yesterday at Baghdad's Tahrir Square. — AFP

**BAGHDAD:** Thousands of supporters of powerful Shiite cleric Moqtada Al-Sadr answered his call to demonstrate in Baghdad yesterday to pressure the Iraqi government to move forward with stalled reforms. Iraq has been hit by weeks of political turmoil surrounding Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi's efforts to replace the cabinet of party-affiliated ministers with a government of technocrats.

The proposed changes have been opposed by powerful political parties that rely on control of ministries for patronage and funds, and parliament has repeatedly failed to vote on a new cabinet list. The demonstrators, many of them carrying Iraqi flags, marched from Tahrir Square in central Baghdad to an entrance to the heavily-fortified Green Zone, where the government is headquartered, chanting that politicians "are all thieves."

"Our participation in the demonstration aims to reject this government for being sectarian," protester Abu Ali Al-Zaidi said. Key government posts have for years been shared out based on political and sectarian

quotas, a practice demonstrators have called to end. The government "did not bring the country and Iraqis anything but poverty and killing," said Zaidi, who travelled from Maysan province in southern Iraq to take part in the protest. "All Iraqis must protest to reject this government, which failed in all fields," said Abu Mohammed Al-Sudani, a demonstrator from Baghdad.

### Paralyzed parliament

"The political quotas and the parties that control everything are the reason for the failure of the government," said Sudani, who carried an Iraqi flag. Sadr, the scion of a powerful clerical family who in earlier years raised a rebellion against US-led forces and commanded a feared militia, called for a mass demonstration in Baghdad yesterday to pressure the government to carry out reforms.

The protest came on the same day that parliament speaker Salim Al-Juburi was seeking to hold a session to vote on a new cabinet. Parliament has been paralyzed for

weeks by the dispute over the cabinet, with MPs holding a sit-in, brawling in the chamber, seeking to sack the speaker and repeatedly failing to move forward on the issue of new ministers. Abadi called a week ago for parliament to put aside its differences and do its job, saying he hoped for a vote on a new cabinet within days-something that has yet to take place.

Abadi called in February for "fundamental" change to the cabinet so that it includes "professional and technocratic figures and academics". That kicked off the latest chapter in a months-long saga of Abadi proposing various reforms that parties and politicians with interests in the existing system have sought to delay or undermine. The political crisis comes as Iraqi forces battle to regain more ground from the Islamic State group, and both the United Nations and Washington have warned that it could undermine the fight against the jihadists. Iraq has also been hit hard by the plummeting price of oil, revenues from which account for the vast majority of government funds. — AFP

## IRAN AND RUSSIA MOVE CLOSER BUT THEIR ALLIANCE HAS LIMITS

### MOSCOW WEIGHS BENEFITS OF ARMS SALES TO IRAN

**DUBAI:** When Iran took delivery of the first parts of an advanced Russian air defense system this month, it paraded the anti-aircraft missile launchers sent by Moscow to mark Army Day. Tehran had cause to celebrate: The Kremlin's decision a year ago to press ahead with the stalled sale of the S-300 system was the first clear evidence of a growing partnership between Russia and Iran that has since turned the tide in Syria's civil war and is testing US influence in the Middle East.

But the delay in implementation of the deal also points to the limitations of a relationship that is forged from a convergence of interests rather than a shared worldview, with Iran's leadership divided over ideology and Russia showing signs of reluctance to let the alliance develop much more,

sell the S-300 system to Iran in 2007 but froze the deal in 2010 after sanctions were imposed on Tehran over its nuclear program. Moscow lifted the self-imposed ban in April last year as Iran and world powers got closer to the deal that led eventually to the nuclear-related sanctions being lifted in exchange for Tehran curbing its atomic program.

Russia is now weighing the financial and diplomatic benefits of arms sales to Tehran against the risk of upsetting other countries including Saudi Arabia, the United States and Israel, or seeing Iran become too powerful. "There is a military-economic aspect to this alliance which is beneficial to both sides," said Maziar Behrooz, associate professor of Mideast and Islamic history at San Francisco State University, who has studied Iran's relationship with

Bashar Al-Assad. Iran had already deployed its Revolutionary Guards (IRGC), who had rallied Assad's troops to check the opposition's momentum. But it took Russian air power to break the stalemate and give Assad the upper hand.

Militarily, the two powers proved complementary. Iran brought disciplined ground troops who worked well with their local allies, while Russia provided the first-rate air power that Iran and Assad lack. Diplomatically, the joint operations have made Tehran and Moscow central to any discussion about the regional security architecture. That is important for Putin as he has sought to shore up alliances in the region and increase Moscow's influence since Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi, a Russian ally, was killed.

How well Moscow will fare when it comes to winning lucrative business contracts now the nuclear-related sanctions have been lifted is less clear. There is little sign so far of Russian companies making new inroads into Iran. This is partly for ideological reasons. The Iranian establishment is divided, with President Hassan Rouhani's faction more interested in trading with the West than struggling against it, even if many U.S. policies are still condemned. Russia has little incentive to join the mostly Shiite "Axis of Resistance" to Western interests in the region which is championed by the more conservative Iranian faction as this could ruin its relationships with other Middle Eastern powers such as Israel, Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

### Secret meetings

Russia's first big intervention in the Middle East since the Cold War followed months of secret meetings in Moscow between Putin and Iranian officials, including IRGC commanders and Ali Akbar Velayati, foreign policy advisor to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. A close and exclusive alliance with Russia would suit Khamenei, Iran's most powerful figure, who has blamed Western influence for Iran's troubles and pushed hard to implement his "Look East" policy.

But it runs contrary to the policy of Iran's government, led by Rouhani and Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, who have courted Western delegations on an almost weekly basis since the nuclear deal was reached with world powers last July. The Western-educated Rouhani is less inclined towards Russia and has an uneasy relationship with Putin. Last November, during his first visit to Tehran in eight years, Putin went straight from the airport to meet Khamenei, rather than seeing Rouhani first as most visitors do. — Reuters



**MOSCOW:** Russian President Vladimir Putin enters a hall before a meeting with his Uzbek counterpart at the Kremlin in Moscow yesterday. — AFP

according to diplomats, officials and analysts interviewed by Reuters. Some Iranian officials want a strategic alliance, a much deeper relationship than now. But the Kremlin refers only to ongoing cooperation with a new dimension because of the conflict in Syria, in which both back Damascus.

"We are continuously developing friendly relations with Iran, but we cannot really talk about a new paradigm in our relations," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said last month. Russia agreed to

Russia. "But on a geopolitical level, Iran and Russia can only form a tactical short-term alliance, not a strategic one. I think the ideological differences between the two are just too deep."

### Backing for Damascus

The relationship, long cordial, appeared to reach a new level last September when Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered a military intervention in Syria in support of Iran's ally, President



**IDOMENI:** Refugees queue for food at a makeshift camp for migrants and refugees at the Greek-Macedonian border near the village of Idomeni. The United States has offered its backing for a NATO naval operation off Libya in support of a controversial Italian plan to close the Western Mediterranean migrant route to Europe. — AFP

## OBAMA AND EUROPEAN ALLIES EYE LIBYA MARITIME MISSION

**WASHINGTON:** President Barack Obama's challenge that Europe unite and shoulder more of the burden for its own security might soon be answered, in part, by a military mission off the Libyan coast. "Europe has sometimes been complacent about its own defense." That was the staggeringly blunt criticism from Obama on Monday in Hanover, the last stop on a valedictory visit to Britain and Germany as he prepares to leave office.

It came in a speech that was part admonishment, part plea for Europeans who are increasingly skittish about the European Union to recognize what continental unity has achieved. The EU, Obama argued, had helped shepherd the continent from the horrors of war to a level of prosperity unparalleled in history. The fact that Obama felt the need to cheerlead for European integration was itself implied criticism of the continent's leaders.

Why had Angela Merkel, Francois Hollande, David Cameron or Matteo Renzi been unwilling or unable to make the case themselves? How could the crisis get so acute that Britain could be on the verge of voting to leave the union? Obama's speech was in some ways a culmination of seven years of his frustration about global "free-

loaders," who depend on US security and in his administration's view draw the United States into costly endeavors that are not always vital to national security.

But in talks later that day, Obama and the leaders of Germany, France, Britain and Italy, discussed one concrete measure that could ameliorate some of the strategic threats facing the EU, and perhaps go a little way to answering the US president's complaints. The measure was a maritime mission off the coast of Libya that is laden with geostrategic significance. The crux of Obama's concern for Europe can be found in a refugee crisis that has been something of a perfect storm for the European project.

A wave of migrants from the continent's south and east has caused a severe humanitarian crisis, killing untold numbers, challenging leaders' moral standing and leaving responders struggling to cope. It has also raised the specter of the Islamic State using migrant flows as cover to deploy militants plotting Paris- and Brussels-style attacks on Europe's shores. All of this has fueled European populist and far-right movements that often oppose integration and sow social instability. Russia's alleged involvement in funding such groups in Europe has long worried Washington. — AFP

## TURKEY TO USE US ROCKET SYSTEM IN FIGHT AGAINST IS

**ANKARA:** Turkey has struck a deal with the United States to deploy American light multiple rocket launchers on its border with Syria to combat the Islamic State group, according to the foreign ministry. The High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) "will be deployed on the Turkish border in May as part of an agreement" with Washington, Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said in an interview published yesterday. The system is being brought in "so we will be able to hit Daesh targets more effectively," he told the Haberturk newspaper, using an acronym for IS.

Turkey, a member of US-led coalition against the IS group, has increased its strikes in Syria after a series of deadly attacks on its soil blamed on the jihadists. Ankara also allows US jets to use its air base in southern Turkey for air bombardments on the extremist group. In recent weeks, the Turkish border town of Kilis has come under frequent rocket attack from Syria, prompting the army to respond with howitzer fire. The rockets fired from IS-held territory into Turkey have killed 17 people and wounded 61 since January 18, sparking protests in a town already under pressure as the only place where Syrian refugees are now outnumbered Turkish locals. Cavusoglu said HIMARS would allow Turkey to hit IS positions within a 90-kilometre (56 mile) range, while Turkish artillery has a more limited range of 40 kilometers.

### Extra drones

The aim is to gain control of the so-called Manbij Gap, a backdoor border route favored by IS for smuggling jihadists into and out of Syria. Turkey wants to establish a safe zone in the 98 kilometer stretch between Manbij and the border in which to shelter Syrian refugees, the foreign minister said. Ankara has long pressed for the creation of safe zones in the war-torn country. German Chancellor Angela Merkel this weekend said the zones were "of the utmost immediate importance also in our negotiations for a ceasefire" in Syria.

But Washington is set against the idea, saying it would require a no-fly zone, something that could lead to conflicts with Russian planes flying over Syria. "As a practical matter, sadly, it is very difficult to see how it would operate short of us essentially being willing to militarily take over a big chunk of that country," US President Barack Obama said during a visit to Germany at the weekend. Turkey's cabinet on Monday discussed additional measures to protect the border town of Kilis from rocket fire, with Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu saying Ankara would increase its military presence there and bring in extra drones. "With additional drones, the border will be monitored and attacks will be known beforehand and stopped," he told parliament on Tuesday. "We will respond immediately to those who launch attacks against Turkey," he said. "Every step will be taken." — AFP

## TURKISH PRESIDENT CHASES HIS CRITICS AT HOME AND ABROAD

**ISTANBUL:** Ebru Umar was sleeping in her summer residence on Turkey's Aegean coast when police arrived at her door and took her away for questioning about two of her tweets that were deemed offensive to Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. The Dutch-Turkish journalist, a columnist for The Netherlands' Metro newspaper, was released the next day but has been barred from leaving Turkey as authorities continue to investigate whether she should be charged for insulting the Turkish leader. "I thought it was a joke," said Umar, who tweets so frequently she

wasn't even clear which of her missives caused offense. "I saw three police stations in one night. It's stupid. This is just intimidation."

Umar is not alone. There are nearly 2,000 cases open in Turkey against individuals, including celebrities and schoolchildren, accused of insulting the president, whose zero tolerance for criticism is the subject of a growing litany of zingers in Western mainstream media and comedy shows. Turkey's independent media landscape is rapidly shrinking as a result of government-sanctioned takeovers and forced closure. Journalists

have lost their jobs for critical tweets and retweets. Others are on trial on charges ranging from espionage to making terrorism propaganda. Gag orders are common.

### Backtracked

Erdogan, who became Turkey's first directly elected president in 2014 after serving 11 years as prime minister, was once hailed as a reformist. In the eyes of supporters, he had done more than any other leader in advancing Turkey's bid to join the European Union, injected new life into the economy and came closest to resolving a decades-long conflict with Kurdish militants. But as he has consolidated power with successive electoral victories, the Turkish leader has backtracked on many of the EU-oriented reforms and is taking increasingly drastic measures to safeguard his reputation, which has taken a hit with a corruption scandal ensnaring people close to him in 2013 and with his progressively authoritarian style of governing.

The judiciary has been a key instrument in the crackdown on dissent, with Erdogan prosecuting critics not only at home but also abroad. Press freedom defenders say Erdogan himself triggered this downward spiral. The Turkish president has advocated loosening the legal definitions of "terror" and "terrorism" to include anyone - including journalists, legislators and scholars - who voices support for "terrorism." Turkey's war on terrorism encompasses three fronts.

While being part of the international coalition against the Islamic State group, Ankara has domestic foes of equal concern - Kurdish militants waging a renewed insurgency in the southeast and loyalists of a U.S.-based cleric opposed to Erdogan, who are not known to have used violence at all.

### Get a life! Get a skin!

Umar is one of many journalists - local and foreign - facing problems for tackling such issues critically or using social media in a manner that offends the authorities. "You can't investigate people for doing their job," Umar said. "If people feel offended, it's their problem. Get a life! Get a skin!" In a recent column, Umar lambasted an appeal sent by Turkey's consulate in Rotterdam urging Turks in the Netherlands to report cases of people insulting Turkey or its leader. Her case is one of many to strain EU-Turkey relations, but concern over freedom of expression is only one of the issues shaping the way Turkey and EU countries deal with each other. German Chancellor Angela Merkel triggered an uproar when, on the basis of an archaic law that criminalizes insulting foreign heads of state, she allowed prosecutors to consider charging a German comedian who mocked Erdogan in a profanity-packed poem. "I am very glad America doesn't have a similar law or I would be in a maximum-security prison right now," British comedian John Oliver, the host of HBO's Last Week Tonight, joked. — AP



**KUSADASI:** Dutch-Turkish journalist Ebru Umar, a columnist for The Netherlands' Metro newspaper, has been barred from leaving Turkey as authorities continue to investigate whether she should be charged for two of her tweets that were deemed offensive to Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. — AP



## US AGENCIES SPLIT OVER FINGERPRINTING PARENTS OF CHILD MIGRANTS

**WASHINGTON:** US immigration enforcement officers are proposing that fingerprints be taken from all people claiming custody of children who have entered the United States illegally without an adult relative, a measure

that opponents said could keep thousands of families apart. As a new wave of unaccompanied Central American children pours across the US-Mexico border, the proposal underscores the sometimes conflicting goals

of federal agencies in dealing with undocumented immigrants, a volatile issue on the presidential campaign trail.

Officials at the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), which is ultimately responsible for finding housing for migrant children, told Reuters they have no plans to change fingerprinting policy. They said the proposal-made by US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials in an internal memo seen by Reuters-would delay family reunions and infringe upon the parent-child relationship.

"One of our goals is to place children with an appropriate sponsor as promptly as we can safely do so. And so any delay for placing the child with their parent is time that we're keeping a parent and child separated," said Bobbie Gregg, deputy director for children's services at HHS's office of refugee resettlement. The memo by ICE officials, drafted in response to a February Senate hearing, proposes expanding fingerprinting, now limited to non-parents, to include parents.

### Verify the identities

ICE says that would allow fingerprints to be checked against an FBI database of crim-

nals to verify the identities of people who say they are parents while ensuring that children do not go to parents who have criminal histories. The proposal is preliminary and could change. It was unclear whether it would ultimately win the backing of the White House. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) - which oversees ICE and the Justice Department advise HHS on its practices and have a role in enforcing overall immigration policy. The White House declined to comment on the proposal.

Asked about the documents that describe the fingerprinting proposal, a Homeland Security spokeswoman said the agency does not discuss internal deliberations. Neither ICE nor HHS would comment on whether they have had discussions on the proposal. From January 2014 to April 2015, more than 31,000 parents claimed children who entered the United States from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, according to a study by the Government Accountability Office (GAO), a congressional watchdog unit. They made up 60 percent of those who claimed children, with most of the rest claimed by other relatives. Only 161 non-relative sponsors claimed children.

US authorities are required to find housing for illegal immigrant minors while they await a trial to determine whether they will be deported, a process that can take years. Under current law, people who appear at child migrant holding facilities saying they are parents must show the child's birth certificate to prove the relationship. If that is not available, the parent and child must undergo a DNA test. Immigration advocates say the ICE proposal would discourage parents from sending for their children and claiming them, fearing that ICE would use fingerprinting to trace undocumented immigrants for possible deportation.

"It could keep parents away from their children if they think it is going to land them in a lock-up somewhere," said David Leopold, a Cleveland lawyer who formerly headed the American Immigration Lawyers Association. The ICE officials also said in the memo that the agency supports expanding immigration-status checks to all sponsors, including parents. ICE acknowledged that conducting immigration checks on parents claiming children could "reduce the likelihood that sponsors would come forward to take custody of children." — Reuters



**MICHIGAN:** Nedal Tamer stands outside a house he is renovating in Dearborn, Mich. Tamer feels that, as a supporter of Donald Trump's bid for the presidency, he is in the minority among Muslim Americans. He's comfortable with his position, yet a little confounded that he doesn't have more company. A small number of Muslims find comfort, not concern, in Trump's strong stance on immigrants - seeing it as proof he could better contain extremists than other candidates. — AP

## US 'INCREMENTALISM' IN ANTI-IS FIGHT SLAMMED

**WASHINGTON:** When the clock ticks down on Barack Obama's presidency, five years will have passed since he officially pulled US combat forces from Iraq. But little by little, American troops are returning thanks to the Islamic State group and their hold over parts of the region. On Monday, Obama said another 250 special forces and support personnel would go to northern Syria, augmenting the 50 or so commandos already training local militias there.

Last week, Defense Secretary Ashton Carter said another 217 US forces would go to Iraq as advisors, pushing the official total count in that country to 4,087. Critics say such "creeping incrementalism" in the counter-IS fight is too little, too late. "The deployment of 250 additional US military forces to Syria is a welcome development, but one that is long overdue and ultimately insufficient," said Senator John McCain, a Republican critic of Obama's war plans.

"Another reluctant step down the dangerous road of gradual escalation will not undo the damage in Syria to which this administration has borne passive witness," he added. The IS group emerged in Iraq and Syria in 2014 amid political chaos across the region, fueled by the Syrian civil war, in which more than 270,000 people have been killed. Obama-elected on a promise of pulling US troops from Iraq and Afghanistan-does not want to plunge the United States into another ground war in the Muslim world.

### Training local forces

While the troop presence in Iraq is tiny

compared to the height of the Iraq War, when the United States had nearly 160,000 in-country troops during the "surge," it tests Obama's pledge. The Syria plan is to train Kurdish and Syrian Arab forces to expel the IS group. In Iraq, US advisors are working with the Iraqi security forces. US advisors are not in front-line combat roles, and the Obama administration says it is not committing combat troops, even though US forces have already engaged in limited combat and two American military personnel have been killed in Iraq.

"You are not going to see an American battalion going into battle, but you will see advisors in the middle of battles," Patrick Skinner, a former CIA case officer now with The Soufan Group consultancy, told AFP. He predicted that even the relatively modest goal of training locals to fight the IS group in Syria will fail, given that country's chaos. "It never works. Training and advising your way out of a civil war has never, ever worked," he said.

"It didn't work when we had unlimited resources and money in Iraq and Afghanistan. Now we are going to try to do it in the middle of a raging civil war where we don't even have an ally." Republican Congressman Mac Thornberry believes Obama is hindering the Pentagon as it fights the IS group. "The description of creeping incrementalism is exactly right," Thornberry told defense reporters last week. "When you do that, that gives a chance for the enemy to adjust, for their narrative to continue to expand, and it makes it harder to ultimately be successful, and it dispirits your allies." — AFP



Photo shows residents walking to a banana farm's irrigation channel to collect water near Leveque - a community where a group of deaf people relocated after the 2010 earthquake in Cabaret, Haiti. — AP

## SLAYING OF THREE DEAF WOMEN IN HAITI HIGHLIGHTS VULNERABILITY

TONGUES CUT OUT IN APPARENT ACT OF RITUALISTIC SAVAGERY

**LEVEQUE:** The three friends had spent the day stocking up on food in the Haitian capital when they left for their village, setting off on the 20-mile trip home by foot because the minibuses known as tap-taps weren't running after a bridge collapse. Their bodies were found the next morning in a ditch along the way. They had been beaten, stabbed and burned, and relatives who identified them in a morgue said their tongues were cut out in an apparent act of ritualistic savagery.

### Cultural prejudices

The women's family and friends suspect they were targeted because they were deaf in a country where experts say a pervasive stigma isolates people with disabilities such as deafness and can spark superstitions leading to horrific cruelty. Disabled women and girls are particularly vulnerable. Due to cultural prejudices and the weakness of the justice system, past crimes against disabled citizens have been largely ignored. But the slayings of Jesula Gelin, Vanessa Previl and Monique Vincent have galvanized Haitians with disabilities and prompted rare public protests by their advocacy groups.

Outrage is particularly acute in the village of Leveque, where the women lived in a community of 168 homes established by U.S. religious organizations for deaf people displaced by the 2010 earthquake. Gelin's husband, Micheler Castor, now struggles there to raise their six kids alone. "I can't understand it," Castor, also deaf, said in sign language of his 29-year-old wife's killing. "She served the Lord and was a good wife and mother." Advocates for the disabled in Haiti say they hope what happened can chip away at the obstacles to justice and social inclusion faced by these most vulnerable citizens of the hemisphere's poorest nation.

Around the globe, treatment of the disabled varies widely from country to country, but discrimination and barriers to inclusion are commonplace. Those problems are most severe in the developing world, where the World Health Organization says 80 percent of disabled people live. "This case is very important. The disabled have made advances in Haiti, but there's still far, far too much stigma and impunity," Michel Pean, a blind activist who was Haiti's first secretary of state for the integration of disabled people.

With pressure from that government agency, police have arrested three members of a family suspected of murdering the deaf women. Investigators say two women and a man are in custody, while the two men who are the main suspects are still being sought. "We won't rest until we get them all," said Jentullon Joel, police commander in Cabaret, where the women were butchered in a cinderblock house off the main road. The three women often prayed together, sold rice and popcorn in their community and regularly went to Port-au-Prince to buy supplies. Gelin and her two unmarried neighbors, both in their 20s, might have stayed overnight in the capital if they had known the bridge was out. But as darkness fell, they tried walking home instead.

### Lougawou

Neighbors around the Cabaret property where they were killed said they didn't hear any commotion that night. Associated Press journalists found the house locked from the outside, a skinny dog growling in the yard. Joel said one suspect told investigators that the deaf women were killed by her husband because the family feared that they were werewolf-type creatures called "lougawou," their disabilities the product of a hex. Nicole Phillips, a human rights lawyer representing the victims' families, said the trio only felt safe approaching the house in Cabaret that night because one of the deaf women was apparently a distant relation of a person who lived there.

There's another suspected superstitious motive that detectives are investigating. Some soothsayers claim they can mystically increase chances at winning bets at ubiquitous Haitian lotteries if they are brought body parts like tongues from fresh corpses. "I believe they picked them to cut their tongues to play the lottery," Castor signed in his tiny home, shaking his head beneath a poster of

the Ten Commandments and holding a well-worn family photo showing his wife. Whatever the motive, the killings have left many shocked and shamed in Haiti, where advocates estimate that roughly 10 percent of the population, or about 1 million people, have some disability.

### The 'cocobe'

Although life has never been easy for Haiti's disabled, the 2010 earthquake that toppled buildings across Port-au-Prince and surrounding areas increased awareness and empathy for amputees as it greatly expanded the disabled ranks with those who lost limbs. There has been some progress making more public buildings accessible to disabled people and strengthening rehabilitation therapy. But some Haitians believe other disabilities are contagious or caused by a hex. Those who are deaf, blind, or developmentally or mentally disabled are still marginalized and face neglect and abuse. They are routinely called "cocobe" - a Haitian Creole insult that implies they are worthless. — AP



**WILKES-BARRE:** Republican presidential candidate, Donald Trump takes the stage during a campaign rally in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. — AP

## CLINTON, TRUMP LOOK TO DOMINATE KEY PRIMARIES

**WASHINGTON:** Five US states began voting yesterday at a critical juncture in the presidential race, with Hillary Clinton seeking a knockout against Bernie Sanders and Republican Donald Trump confident of extending his lead despite rivals joining forces against him. A very strong showing in primaries in Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania and Rhode Island would put former secretary of state Clinton on the cusp of Democratic victory, a monumental step in her quest to become the nation's first female commander in chief.

"I don't have the nomination yet," she said in an MSNBC town hall event in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania's largest city, on the eve of the vote. "We're going to work really hard until the polls close tomorrow." Trump too was traveling the primary landscape in an intensifying effort to surpass the threshold of 1,237 delegates needed to lock down the role of 2016 Republican flag bearer. But his rivals Ted Cruz and John Kasich controversially have joined forces to thwart the frontrunner, unveiling a late play that allows them to essentially go one on one against Trump in key upcoming states.

According to the surprise deal, Kasich will forego campaigning in Indiana, which votes May 3, and Cruz will return the favor later in New Mexico and Oregon to try to deprive Trump of victories there. Yesterday's voting began at 6:00 am (1000 GMT) in Connecticut and one hour later in the other states. In Rhode Island, it was beginning at various times, as early as 7:00 am. Polls across all five states close at 8 pm (0000 GMT today). Trump is favored to win all five states, while Sanders, whose grass-roots campaign has done well against the Clinton juggernaut, is seen as mounting a last-gasp effort. "We are running as hard as we can to win this thing," Sanders said Monday.

### 'Pathetic' plan

News of the Cruz-Kasich deal sent Trump over the top, as he assailed the pair for engaging in what he said was a desperate strategy, which he described as collusion. "You know if you collude in business, or you collude in the stock market, they put you in jail," Trump boomed in Warwick, Rhode Island. "But in politics, because it's a rigged system, because it's a corrupt enterprise, in politics you're allowed to collude." The partnership "shows how weak they are," Trump said. "It shows how pathetic they are." Cruz told potential voters in Indiana Monday that the deal would give them "a straight and direct choice between our campaign and Donald Trump." Indiana is a winner-take-all state where a Trump loss would make it much harder for him to reach the winning delegate threshold. Kasich's campaign said the aim was to open the July nominating convention in Cleveland so that a unifying figure other than Trump can emerge as the candidate.

The Ohioan insists he is the only one who could beat Clinton. But his remarks suggested the alliance with Cruz was already fraying. "I've never told them not to vote for me" in Indiana, he told reporters at a Philadelphia diner. "They ought to vote for me." "What's the big deal?" he added. According to a recent CBS poll, Trump leads Indiana with 40 percent of likely Republican voters, compared to 35 percent for Cruz and 20 percent for Kasich. The new-found allies acknowledge their only hope of success lies in blocking Trump from reaching 1,237 delegates before the convention. If he falls short, Trump runs the risk that his delegates, who are bound to vote for him in only the first round of balloting, will desert him in subsequent rounds. — AFP

## FOCUS SHIFTS TO BULLYING AFTER THE WISCONSIN PROM SHOOTING

**ANTIGO:** Wisconsin Gov Scott Walker on Monday called for a discussion on how to deal with bullying in schools after friends of a gunman who wounded two people outside a high school prom said the 18-year-old had been bullied. Authorities have not revealed a motive for the shooting outside Antigo High School in northern Wisconsin and declined to comment Monday on whether bullying may have been a factor. Police fatally shot former student Jakob E. Wagner after he opened fire on students outside the school Saturday night, authorities say.

Wagner's mother, Lorrie Wagner, told The Associated Press that her son "wasn't a monster." "If anything, I hope it shines light on bullying and how deeply it affects people," she said, before ending the interview. Former classmate Dakotta Mills, who said he had known Wagner since sixth grade, told The Associated Press that he had "some rough spots now and then" and that he had witnessed him being bullied. Another former classmate, Emily Fisher, told the Wausau Daily Herald that students ganged up on Wagner and called him names, in part because of poor hygiene. The bullying started in middle school, Fisher said, and continued through high school.

Walker, a Republican, said authorities should address bullying and mental health, as well as teaching students how to resolve disagreements peacefully rather than impose new limits on firearms. He said that if there were a ban on rifles in Wisconsin, "you wouldn't have hunting here." At a news conference Monday, authorities

said they couldn't confirm that Wagner had been taunted by fellow students or say whether it was a possible motive in the shooting. "I can't get into the specifics on that," Antigo Police Chief Eric Roller. He added, "That's still part of the investigation." However, Roller said it didn't appear that the victims had been specifically targeted.

The state Department of Justice has taken over the case because it involves a police shooting. Agency spokesman Johnny Koremenos said in an email that it was too early to offer a motive or provide other details of the investigation. Roller said the officers' response "saved lives by stopping the threat" in that the suspect "didn't end up inside a building that was full of prom-goers." Wagner arrived on a bicycle armed with a rifle and opened fire as two couples were leaving the dance, Roller said. One 18-year-old male student was struck in the leg and a bullet grazed his date's thigh. The other couple wasn't struck. Two officers were stationed in front of the school and one quickly shot the gunman.

The couple who wasn't shot helped the 18-year-old male victim by wrapping a necktie around his leg as a tourniquet to stanch the bleeding, Roller said. The victim's family requested privacy, but said in a statement that their son was doing well after a long surgery. They thanked everyone who helped and asked that people "pray for the family of Jakob Wagner." "As much as we are struggling through this event, we cannot imagine the grief they are experiencing at this time," the statement read. — AP



## UKRAINE MARKS 30 YEARS SINCE CHERNOBYL CATASTROPHE

**CHERNOBYL:** Ukrainians held candlelit vigils yesterday to mark 30 years since the world's worst nuclear accident at Chernobyl spewed radiation across Europe and left several thousand people dead or dying. Church bells rang and mourners lit candles and laid flowers at the site's memorial as the clock turned 1.23 am—the exact moment when the plant's reactor number four exploded and changed the fate of a generation living across the former Soviet Union.

"There was crying and screaming," local pensioner Maria Urupa said as she recalled the terror that struck locals as they watched poisonous clouds of radiation waft in from Chernobyl. At least 30 people were killed on site and several thousand more are feared to have died from the radiation fallout in one of the world's worst man-made disasters, which forced a global rethink about the wisdom of relying on atomic fuel. The exact number of dead remains a subject of intense debate because the Soviet authorities kept most of the information about Chernobyl under wraps.

More than 200 tons of uranium remain inside the crippled reactor that spattered radiation across three quarters of Europe after a botched safety test that the communist authorities did their best to cover up. Lingering fears of new leaks occurring should the ageing concrete structure covering the toxins collapse have prompted an international push to fund the construction of a giant new arch that could keep the site safe for at least a century. International donors on Monday pledged an additional 87.5 million euros (\$99 million) towards building a larger storage

facility for spent nuclear fuel that could allay Ukrainian fears.

### 'They told us nothing'

The plant's reactor exploded on April 26 and burned for 10 days in a disaster that horrified the world but which locals only heard about through rumors and tidbits from jammed Western radio broadcasts. The Communist Party kept to its steadfast tradition of saying nothing or even lying in order to keep the public from learning of a tragedy that could tarnish the image of the Cold War-era superpower. And it took them a day-and-a-half to evacuate the 48,000 inhabitants from the nearby town of Pripyat.

International suspicions were only raised on April 28 after Sweden detected an unexplained rise in its own radiation levels. Communist Party Secretary General Mikhail Gorbachev-winner of the 1990 Nobel Peace Prize for championing democratic and economic reforms did not publicly admit the disaster until May 14. Soviet television did its best in the meantime to convince people their nation was being subjected to a slanderous foreign propaganda campaign.

"As you can see, the enormous destruction about which Western media keep endlessly talking about is not there," said one black-and-white news clip that showed scenes from the plant shortly after the meltdown. "Nobody told us anything. There was only silence," local resident Yevgeny Markevich recalled in an interview with AFP. But the authorities did relocate 116,000 people that year from the 30-kilometre exclusion zone that still surrounds the now-dormant plant. — AFP



**KIEV:** A relative of a Chernobyl victim lays flowers at the photos near the monument erected in memory of the victims of the Chernobyl explosion in Ukraine's capital Kiev yesterday. Ukraine marks the 30th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, which spread radiation over much of northern Europe. — AP

## FRENCH COURT JAILS 'DENTIST OF HORROR' FOR EIGHT YEARS

### DUTCH DENTIST 'GUILTY OF MUTILATION'

**LYON:** A French court yesterday sentenced a Dutch dentist to eight years in jail for deliberately mangling his patients' mouths in a case which saw him dubbed "the dentist of horror". Jacobus van Nierop, 51, went on trial in March for ripping out healthy teeth and leaving dozens of patients with injuries including broken jaws, recurrent abscesses and septicaemia in the small central town of Chateau-Chinon. He was found guilty of the charge of "mutilation" as well as premeditated violence and fraud over claims that he tried to rip off patients and insurance companies.

The court in the central town of Nevers also banned him from practicing as a dentist and fined him 10,500 euros (\$11,900). During the trial, prosecutor Lucile Jaillon-Bru said Van Nierop had carried out "useless and painful procedures" on about 100 patients with the aim of having them reimbursed by medical insurance schemes. She said he took "pleasure at causing pain" to his patients. Van Nierop, who called himself Mark, was hired by a head-hunter and was initially welcomed by locals into an area which was lacking in medical services. Giving evidence in court, a neighbor recalled the arrival of a smiley, larger-than-life character, with a "big 4x4, a big dog, a big cigar".

### 'Gushing blood'

But by 2011, the authorities were starting to question some of his accounting practices, and patients were starting to compare notes on his dentistry. The court heard nightmarish tales, including one from Sylviane Boulesteix, 65, who saw Van Nierop in March 2012 to have braces fitted. "He gave me seven or eight injections, and pulled out eight teeth in one go. I was gushing blood for three days," she said. Around 120 former patients joined a victims' group set up in early 2013. Prosecutors retained the charge of mutilation against 53 of the victims for the trial, while another 20 cases were filed under "premeditated violence". The court let Van Nierop off on charges against six patients and some fraud accusations. During the trial Van Nierop sat stony-faced, replying mostly only "no comment" to any questions.

He was not required to offer a plea under French law, but sought to deflect responsibility, saying he suffers from "psychological problems" including gender identity issues and suicidal tendencies. The trial heard conflicting expert opinion about Van Nierop's psychological state. One psychiatrist found he had "narcissistic tendencies" and was therefore incapable



**CHATEAU-CHINON:** Dutch dentist, Jacobus Van Nierop, is pictured in his dental office in Chateau-Chinon, France. A French court found a Dutch dentist guilty of assault and fraud Tuesday and sentenced him to eight years in prison. — AP

of making a moral judgment of his own actions. But another found he was "perfectly aware of what he was doing". Van Nierop was arrested in June 2013, but fled

France while awaiting trial. He was later tracked down to a small town in Canada, arrested and extradited first to the Netherlands and then to France. — AFP



**LUXEMBOURG:** This combination of pictures shows (left to right) French journalist Edouard Perrin, former employees at services firm PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), Raphael Halet and Antoine Deltour, at the courthouse in Luxembourg, for a trial over the so-called LuxLeaks scandal that exposed the country's huge tax breaks for major international companies - with the issue riding high after the recent Panama Papers revelations. — AFP

## LUXLEAKS WHISTLEBLOWERS GO ON TRIAL AMID PROTEST

**LUXEMBOURG:** Three men went on trial in Luxembourg yesterday accused of a huge document leak that exposed tax breaks for major global companies, in an issue brought sharply into focus by the Panama Papers scandal. Antoine Deltour and Raphael Halet, two former employees at services firm PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), and French journalist Edouard Perrin face charges over the theft of thousands of confidential files in the so-called LuxLeaks scandal. Around 50 supporters shouted "Thank you, Antoine, thank you Antoine!" as the defendants arrived at the courtroom in Luxembourg for the start of the trial, which is expected to last until May 4.

If found guilty, they face jail terms of up to 10 years. The eruption of the LuxLeaks affair in November 2014 exposed "sweetheart" deals that saved firms including Apple, IKEA and Pepsi billions of dollars in taxes while European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker was Luxembourg's prime minister. A series of global news outlets examined 28,000 pages of documents

obtained by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ), revealing the full scale of the tax breaks won by 340 companies. LuxLeaks was the biggest expose of its kind until this month's publication of the Panama Papers which revealed links between a number of international leaders and offshore shell companies that can be used to hide or launder wealth.

### 'I acted in public interest'

Former auditor Deltour, 31, told the court yesterday he "recognizes the substance" of the facts of the case while Halet, 40, and Perrin, 45, both dispute the charges. All three defendants are French. "I feel very calm, I acted in the public interest," Halet said as he arrived for the trial. Deltour is accused of stealing documents from the database of the accounting firm before he left in 2010, revealing business secrets, violation of professional secrets and money laundering. The documents later became the basis of a 2012 story by Perrin on state-owned France 2 television but it stayed under the interna-

tional radar until the LuxLeaks document dump.

Perrin is charged with being an accomplice in all the offences, while Halet who is accused of being behind a separate leak-faces the same charges as Deltour. The first witness, PwC internal auditor Anita Bouvy, told the court that investigators narrowed the leak down to Deltour, finding that he had accessed 2,669 documents in 29 minutes on the eve of his departure from the firm.

"Ninety-two documents per minute, it's just incredible," she told the court. "Only one person, Mr Antoine Deltour, had access to these documents without being able to justify the access to this data by his position." In his PwC personnel file, Deltour had mentioned his "frustration" because of the large amount of work he had, and had criticized working practices at PwC, Bouvy said. Ahead of the trial Deltour insisted he had no regrets. "At first I was just an anonymous source, and then I found myself at the front of the stage," Deltour said at his home in eastern France on the eve of the trial. — AFP

## DETENTION OF ASYLUM-SEEKERS ON PNG IS 'UNLAWFUL': COURT

**SYDNEY:** Australia's detention of asylum-seekers on Papua New Guinea's Manus Island is unconstitutional and illegal, a court ruled yesterday, prompting some refugee advocates to call for the camp to be shut down. Canberra has come under international criticism for sending asylum-seekers who attempt to enter the country by boat to remote processing centers on Manus or the tiny Pacific island of Nauru but said the finding would not change its policies.

Papua New Guinea's then opposition leader Belden Namah challenged the Manus arrangement in court, claiming it violated the rights of asylum-seekers. In its 34-page finding yesterday, Papua New Guinea's Supreme Court found that detaining asylum-seekers on the island was "contrary to their constitutional right of personal liberty". "The detention of the asylum-seekers on Manus Island in Papua New Guinea... is unconstitutional and illegal," it said. The court ordered the Australian and Papua New Guinean governments to "take all steps necessary to cease and prevent" the continued detention of the asylum-seekers and transferees on Manus.

It was not immediately clear how the ruling would impact the around 850 men held at the centre. Australian Immigration Minister Peter Dutton said the court's decision "does not alter Australia's border protection policies—they remain unchanged". "No one who attempts to travel to Australia illegally by boat will settle in Australia," he said in a statement. PNG's Immigration Minister Rimbink Pato told Fairfax Media he would make a statement after digesting the decision and obtaining legal advice.

### 'Stop the abuse'

Under a policy accepted by both sides of politics in Canberra, asylum-seekers found to be genuine refugees are denied resettlement in Australia. They are instead urged to return home or be resettled in PNG or Cambodia under a policy designed to stop people-smuggling boats. Australia has long defended its policy, saying it has prevented the deaths of asylum-seekers at sea and secured its borders.

Under the previous Labor government, at least 1,200 people died trying to reach Australia by boat between 2008 and 2013. Rights campaigners welcomed the court's decision, saying it was time for the Manus detention centre to be shut. "PNG's Supreme Court has recognized that detaining people who have committed no crime is wrong," said Elaine Pearson, director of Human Rights Watch in Australia. "For these men, their only 'mistake' was to try to seek sanctuary in Australia—that doesn't deserve years in limbo locked up in a remote island prison. It's time for the Manus detention centre to be closed once and for all."

GetUp! human rights campaigner Aurora Adams said some people had been detained for close to three years and needed to be brought to Australia. "It is time to stop the abuse of vulnerable people who only ask for safety and the opportunity to rebuild their lives," she said. "The moral case is clear, there is no justification for locking people in offshore prison camps indefinitely." The Australian Lawyers Alliance said the ruling could open the door to asylum-seekers making claims for damages for allegedly being falsely imprisoned. — AFP

## News

in brief

### 2 Armenian soldiers killed in Karabakh despite truce

**YEREVAN:** Two ethnic Armenian soldiers have been killed in a new upsurge in fighting between Azerbaijani forces and separatists from the breakaway region of Nagorno Karabakh, the separatist statelet said yesterday. "On the line of contact between Azerbaijani and Karabakh forces, the enemy violated a ceasefire 80 times using all types of artillery and armored vehicles," said the defense ministry of the breakaway region, claiming it had also inflicted casualties on Azerbaijani forces. A spokesman for Azerbaijan's defense ministry, Vagif Dyargakhly, said however that no one from his country had died. He said that Armenian forces had attacked the Azeri town of Terter and the village of Gapanly in the small hours of yesterday, using mortars, howitzers and multiple rocket launchers and that Azerbaijan had to retaliate by attacking the enemy's positions.

### Saudi Arabia executes Syrian murder convict

**RIYADH:** Saudi Arabia executed a Syrian murder convict yesterday, bringing to 87 the number of people put to death in the conservative kingdom this year. Ahmed Al-Ramadan was found guilty of stabbing and strangling to death a Saudi as the victim was leaving his home for dawn prayers, the interior ministry said, without specifying their relationship. Authorities carried out the death sentence in the Qassim region, northwest of Riyadh. Most people put to death in Saudi Arabia are beheaded with a sword. The executions so far this year include 47 for "terrorism" carried out in a single day on January 2. Murder and drug trafficking cases account for the majority of Saudi executions. Amnesty International said Saudi Arabia had the third highest number of people put to death last year, at least 158. That was far behind Pakistan, which put to death 326 people, and Saudi Arabia's regional rival Iran, which executed at least 977, said Amnesty, whose figures exclude secretive China.



**ANKARA:** Demonstrators fall onto the ground as Turkish policemen (left) disperse a protest of pro-secular Turks outside the Parliament in Ankara yesterday. — AFP

### Turkey police fire tear gas at constitution protesters

**ANKARA:** Turkish police yesterday fired tear gas to disperse demonstrators who had gathered outside parliament to protest a call for the country to adopt a religious constitution. Police broke up a group of more than 100 protesters, preventing them from making a press declaration outside the parliament in Ankara, an AFP photographer reported. The group chanted the slogan "Turkey will remain secular". A few protesters were detained by police, the photographer reported. Similar protests were also expected in other cities. Parliament speaker Ismail Kahraman said Monday the predominantly Muslim country "must have a religious constitution", adding to concerns of creeping Islamization under the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP). "Why should we be in a situation where we are in retreat from religion?" he said. But the head of parliament's constitution commission, AKP member Mustafa Sentop, said no discussions were under way to remove secularism from the constitution.

### India extends Italian marine's home leave

**NEW DELHI:** India's Supreme Court yesterday extended the home leave of an Italian marine accused of killing two fishermen, the latest episode in a legal battle that sparked a bitter diplomatic row. Massimiliano Latorre and his fellow marine Salvatore Girone are accused of shooting the fishermen while protecting an Italian oil tanker as part of an anti-piracy mission off India's southern Kerala coast in 2012. The incident, which is now subject to international arbitration, has badly strained relations between Rome and New Delhi. Both marines were barred from leaving India pending a trial, but Latorre was allowed to travel back to Italy in 2014 for medical treatment after he suffered a stroke. Yesterday India's highest court extended Latorre's permission to stay in Italy by five months, until September 30. Girone is living at Italy's embassy in New Delhi and remains barred from leaving India pending a resolution of the dispute.



## PRESSURE MOUNTS ON BANGLADESH AFTER CHILLING ATTACKS



**DHAKA:** The body of Bangladeshi activist Xulhaz Mannan lies in a morgue at a hospital in Dhaka yesterday. — AFP

**DHAKA:** Pressure mounted on Bangladesh yesterday after two leading gay rights activists were hacked to death, the latest in a series of chilling attacks on intellectuals, writers and religious minorities for which only a handful of people have been convicted. At least six men carrying machetes and guns entered an apartment building in Dhaka on Monday night and killed Xulhaz Mannan, editor of a magazine for the LGBT community, and fellow activist Mahub Toney. Rights groups said the latest killings and the murder on Saturday of a liberal university professor appeared to show the attackers were expanding their range of targets.

They demanded justice and greater protection for minority groups in the conservative Muslim nation. "The brutal killing today of an editor of an LGBT publication and his friend, days after a university professor was hacked to death, underscores the appalling lack of protection being afforded to a range of peaceful activists in the country," said Amnesty International's

South Asia director Champa Patel. "While the Bangladeshi authorities have failed to bring these violent groups to justice, the attackers have expanded their range of targets to now include a university professor and LGBTI activists."

US Secretary of State John Kerry condemned the killings of Toney and Mannan, who worked for the US government aid organization USAID. Both had received threats from Islamists over their championing of gay rights. "Deplore brutal murder of @USAID local staff member and another Bangladeshi advocate in Dhaka. Those responsible must be brought to justice," Kerry tweeted. In the last month alone, four people have been murdered in Bangladesh for their liberal or secular views, among them a 26-year-old online activist known for his anti-Islamist views.

Last year four secular bloggers and a publisher were hacked to death. A number of Christians, Hindus and Sufi, Ahmadi and Shiite Muslims have also been killed since last year in the officially secular but mainly

Sunni Muslim country. No one has yet been convicted over those deaths despite a number of arrests. Last year a Bangladesh court sentenced two students to death for the 2013 murder of Ahmed Rajib Haider, the first of a string of attacks targeting secular writers. Another five people were convicted on lesser charges related to Haider's death.

### Creating fear and hatred

The Islamic State group has claimed a number of the killings, most recently that of a professor hacked to death in the northwestern city of Rajshahi. A Bangladesh branch of Al-Qaeda has also said it was behind the murders of secular bloggers and writers. However the Bangladesh government rejects those claims and says home-grown Islamist groups are responsible. On Monday Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina blamed the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and its Islamist ally, Jamaat-e-Islami for the deaths of the two gay activists killed and accused them of trying to destabilise the country. — AFP

## DEVOUT HINDU WOMEN PROTEST IN INDIA AFTER DENIED HOLY DIP

**UJJAIN:** A group of devout Hindu women began burying their leader alive yesterday in protest at being denied permission to bathe in holy waters at the Kumbh Mela festival, in the latest battle for gender equality at India's religious sites. The female "sadhus", or holy women, dug a grave near the River Ganges after which Mahant Trikal Bhavanta, wearing a saffron robe and prayer beads, climbed in to be buried alive.

The protest was triggered after her "Pari Akhara" (Fairy Group) was prevented from taking a ritual dip in the holy waters of the River Ganges on Friday during the festival in central Ujjain city. Supporters threw fistfuls of dirt and petals on top of Bhavanta, burying her nearly waist-deep before police and district officials intervened. An akhara is a group of sadhus-reclusive ascetics or wandering monks-who renounce normal life and are widely respected for their holiness. India has more than a dozen such groups, all controlled by men.

Bhavanta has reportedly been facing discrimination since forming her all-women akhara in 2000. Believed to be the first such group in India's Hindu history, it has been criticized by male sadhus who claim it goes against age-old customs. An

AFP photographer at the scene yesterday said the leader was demanding to be given the same facilities as men during the festival's Shahi Snan, or royal bath, a mass purification ritual. "If a man can do something, then woman can also do it," she told the Hindustan Times newspaper last week. "They never want an independent akhara of women. The reason behind this is their male-dominated mentality... Their view towards women is parochial."

It comes weeks after a Hindu temple in western India lifted a centuries-old ban forbidding female devotees from entering, after a court said women had a fundamental right to worship following impassioned protests by activists. Bhavanta last week went on an indefinite fast and was admitted to a hospital after her group was denied permission for the dip on grounds that it was not officially recognized by the male-dominated akhara administration. "We have never asked the administration to recognize us. Just provide us some facilities," she told the English daily. The Kumbh Mela religious festival is held in Ujjain every 12 years, drawing legions of wandering holy men and women. Similar events are held every three years in other locations around India. — AFP



**ALLAHABAD:** Candidates, many barefoot and unable to afford running shoes, run to pass a fitness test during a recruitment drive for the Uttar Pradesh state police, in Allahabad, India yesterday. A state-wide recruitment process has recently been started to fill thousands of vacant police constable posts. — AP

## FROM FIELDS TO THE CLASSROOM: INDIA'S RAJASTHAN TRIES TO GET KIDS TO SCHOOL

### 'PARENTS DON'T REGARD SCHOOL AS ESSENTIAL'

**DUNGARPUR:** On the mud floor of a hut in Rajasthan's Dungarpur district, seven women and a man sit in a circle around three community workers. One of the community workers, marker in hand, asks why their children or grandchildren don't go to school regularly. At first, they are silent. Then one woman pipes up: "The kids keep asking for something or the other - pencils, notebooks, and if we don't get it for them, they don't go." The others murmur their assent. Another woman says: "There is work to be done at home. So they get late for school, or don't finish the schoolwork. But who'll do the housework then?" One by one, members of the group - four widows and an uncle among them - call out more reasons, which the community worker writes on a chart taped to the wall. He then gets them to brainstorm solutions.

The challenges of keeping children in the classroom faced by these parents in Rajasthan are seen across rural India. Children from India's lower caste communities may be the first in the family to attend school, and don't get much support at home. While education in state schools is free, there are still some expenses such as paying for uniforms or stationery. It also means losing a pair of hands to fetch water from the well or to tend to younger siblings. In the case of older children, it could mean forgoing an additional wage from working alongside the father on a construction site or in the fields.

### Low literacy

The challenge is greater in Dungarpur, one of the poorest districts in the state, where the average literacy rate is 58 percent, according to 2011 data. That compares with a national average of 74 per-

cent and the state average of 66 percent. "Parents don't regard school as essential - they will pull kids out of school during harvest time, or if there is work to be done at home," said Rukmini Roat, a teacher at a state primary school in Sasarpur village in the same district. "When the kids get pulled out frequently, they fall behind and then lose interest in studies, then it's hard for them to advance, so they drop out," said Roat, who is the sole teacher for the 47 students from grade one to five. This was the case with Pinki, who dropped out after the second grade to look after her younger brother when her parents took them to neighboring Gujarat state in search of work.

Last year, when the family came back to Dungarpur for a visit, the charity Save the Children intervened. Community workers counseled her mother to leave the children with their grandmother, so they could go to school. Pinki was re-enrolled in school, in the fourth grade, while her brother started in the first grade. "I like to study science and learn about the environment," said Pinki, a slight girl of about 10, who helps her grandmother with chores before she goes to school and when she returns. "I would like to study more and become a teacher," she said.

### Dropout rate

Pinki's progress is not typical of girls in rural Dungarpur, where the female literacy rate is about 44 percent, compared with the male literacy rate of 71 percent, according to 2011 census data. Enrolment in schools has risen since India enacted the landmark Right to Education Act in 2009, guaranteeing free and compulsory education till the age

of 14. Still, the dropout rate was almost 30 percent at the primary level in 2011. The rate is likely to be higher in rural Rajasthan, and may climb higher after the state issued an order last month that said only children from families classified as below the poverty line, and those from so-called backward castes and tribes, can apply to study in a private school under the education act.

The order would deny more than 300,000 children the right to free private-school education in the state, activists say. Children who drop out of school are likely to be sent to work. The International Labor Organization estimates there are 5.7 million child workers in India aged five to 17. More than half work in agriculture, and at least a quarter are in manufacturing, embroidering clothes, weaving carpets, making matchsticks or rolling beedi cigarettes. "The need is so acute that some families have no option but to send older children to work," said Anita Sharma of Save the Children. "But they also aren't aware that there are some government schemes that will give them some money, so they can at least send some kids to school," she said.

### Too many chores

This was the case with Jeeja, who lives with her widowed mother and siblings in Charwara village. After her father died, first her older brother, then Jeeja went to Gujarat to work in construction to help the family. A social worker, on realising Jeeja had dropped out of school, went to her home and talked to her mother. She helped her apply for a widow's pension and other benefits that together bring about 2,500 rupees (\$38) a month. — Reuters

## FIRE AT AN INDIAN MUSEUM DESTROYS RARE COLLECTIONS

**NEW DELHI:** A massive fire gutted a natural history museum in the Indian capital yesterday destroying rare specimens of flora and fauna, the Indian environment minister said. The blaze broke out overnight on the sixth floor of the building that houses the museum in central Delhi and rapidly engulfed the other floors, a fire official said. Thirty-five fire fighters battled for hours to extinguish the blaze and five of them were taken to hospital suffering smoke inhalation, a fire department official said.

Environment minister Prakash Javadekar said officials had yet to determine the full extent of the damage but

old collections had been destroyed. "This is a real loss. This loss cannot be counted in rupees. Some very old species of flora and fauna were there," Javadekar told reporters outside the museum, adding some were rare. He also ordered an immediate safety audit of the country's 34 major museums. The museum, inaugurated in 1978, contained preserved specimens of butterflies, frogs, snakes, lizards as well as mounted specimens of tigers and leopards. Fire accidents are common in hot summer months across India, with short circuits in dilapidated buildings often triggering blazes. — AFP



**NEW DELHI:** Delhi Fire officials put out a fire in the National Museum of Natural History in New Delhi, India yesterday. — AP

## ISLAMABAD URGED TO REIN IN TERRORISTS TARGETING INDIA

**NEW DELHI:** India yesterday asked Pakistan to rein in terrorist groups operating from its soil and targeting India, expressing dissatisfaction with action taken so far against suspects of an attack on an Indian air force base in January. During a meeting with visiting Pakistani Foreign Secretary Aizaz Ahmed Chaudhry in New Delhi, India said it emphasized the need for early and visible progress on investigation into the attack that killed seven Indian soldiers and disrupted peace talks between the two nations over Kashmir and other issues. India's Foreign Secretary S Jaishankar "clearly conveyed that Pakistan cannot be in denial on the impact of terrorism on the bilateral relationship. Terrorist groups based in Pakistan targeting India must not be allowed to operate with impunity," India's External Affairs Ministry said.

Pakistan says it has arrested several suspects belonging to Jaish-e-Mohammad, a militant group and detained its leader as part of its investigation. India wants Pakistan to quickly prosecute them. Last month, Pakistan sent five investigators to India to probe the attack. India appears to be evaluating Pakistan's response before it sends Jaishankar to Pakistan to resume the peace talks. Yesterday, a statement by the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi made no mention

of the progress made in investigating the attack. Instead, it said Chaudhry urged for an early renewal of dialogue between the two sides over Kashmir.

Chaudhry also took up with his Indian counterpart the recent capture of an Indian spy, Kulbhushan Jadhav, in Pakistan and expressed serious concern over the Indian intelligence agency, called the Research and Analysis Wing, and its "involvement in subversive activities in Baluchistan and Karachi," the statement said. India's External Affairs Ministry demanded immediate consular access to Jadhav, a former Indian naval officer. It accused Pakistan of abducting him without giving any details. Jadhav runs a business in Iran. The meeting between Indian and Pakistani officials came on the sidelines of a conference in the Indian capital for bringing peace and stability to Afghanistan.

India, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, China, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Russia and Saudi Arabia are among the countries participating in the Heart of Asia-istanbul Process initiative, which was launched in 2011 to promote Afghan peace efforts. Since their independence from Britain in 1947, India and Pakistan have fought three wars, two of them over Kashmir, the Himalayan region that both claim. — AP

## BANGLADESH COURT JAILS HINDU TEACHERS FOR 'ABUSING ISLAM'

**DHAKA:** A court in southern Bangladesh sentenced two Hindu schoolteachers to six months in jail for making "abusive" remarks about Islam that led a mob to attack their school, a magistrate said yesterday. The headteacher and another staff member at the Hijla High School in the town of Chitalmari were found guilty of "hurting the religious sentiments" of Muslim students and their parents.

The comments sparked protests by students, most of whom are Muslim, and angry villagers descended on the school seeking to beat up the teachers before being stopped by police. "They have made abusive comments about Islam and the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) during a class session," said magistrate Anwar Parvez, who handed down the verdict Monday after the teachers pleaded guilty. "Local people attacked the school. They wanted to beat the two Hindu teachers," Parvez told AFP. Criticism of Islam is taboo in the majority-Sunni Muslim nation.

The convictions come as concern mounts over Islamist extremism in conservative Bangladesh, which is reeling after a spate of murders of minorities and secular activists. In recent years, suspected homegrown militants have targeted secular activists and writers who have criticised Islam and radical Islamists. On Monday two gay rights activists were hacked to death in attacks by suspected Islamist militants. Two days earlier a liberal professor was murdered in a northwestern city, a killing claimed by Islamic State jihadists. A long-running political crisis in Bangladesh has radicalized opponents of the government and analysts say Islamist extremists pose a growing danger. — AFP



## JAPAN WARSHIP VISITS PHILIPPINES AS CHINA SEA ROW FESTERS

**SUBIC BAY:** A Japanese warship sailed into a Philippine port near disputed South China Sea waters yesterday in another sign of deepening security ties between the World War II foes to counter Beijing. Tensions in the South China Sea-through which one-third of the world's oil passes-have mounted in recent years since China transformed contested reefs into artificial islands capable of supporting military facilities. The Japanese destroyer Ise docked in Subic Bay while on a "navigational training" mission, the ship's captain said.

It marked the second time in just over three weeks that Japanese naval vessels visited Subic, a former major US naval base that lies around 200 kilometers from a Chinese-controlled shoal. "We want to deepen the relationship with the Philippines," Ise Captain Masaki Takada told reporters, who were given a tour of the vessel. Takada declined to say whether the Ise had been in contact with Chinese naval ves-

sels during its voyage. The Philippines, a US security ally with a severely under-equipped military has been seeking to strengthen ties with Japan as tensions mount over the disputed waterway, almost all of which is claimed by China.

Aside from the Philippines, Vietnam, Brunei, Malaysia and Taiwan also have overlapping claims. Japan has its own dispute with China in the East China Sea over uninhabited islands that it administers but that are also claimed by Beijing. In February, Japan agreed to supply the Philippines with military hardware, which officials said may include anti-submarine reconnaissance aircraft and radar technology. Ise's Philippine visit was the third by Japanese military vessels this year. "This visit will further strengthen our relationship with them. We have a strong relationship with them already but we want to enhance that," Filipino Navy Captain Samuel Felix told reporters. — AFP



**SUBIC BAY:** Japanese helicopter carrier Ise is towed as it prepares to dock at the former US naval base, Subic port, north of Manila yesterday. — AFP

## YOUNG SAUDI PRINCE HOLDS POWER BEYOND HIS YEARS

### DEPUTY CROWN PRINCE NICKNAMED 'MR EVERYTHING'

**RIYADH:** Saudi Arabia's hard-charging Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman holds unusual power for a man of just 30, so much so that diplomats have nicknamed him "Mr Everything". The main public figure behind Monday's unveiling of a vast plan to restructure the kingdom's oil-dependent economy, the son of King Salman has risen to among Saudi Arabia's most influential figures since being named second-in-line to the throne last year. Prince Mohammed, seen as the standard-bearer for a new generation of Saudi royals, is in charge not only of the country's economic policy but also the military as defense minister.

The prince has amassed "extraordinary power and influence very quickly" since his father took the throne last year after the death of King Abdullah, said Frederic Wehrey of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington. "He's clearly very bright, very intelligent, very on top of all his briefs" and has significant influence on the 80-year-old monarch, one Western diplomat said.

Among his most prominent positions is chairman of the Council of Economic and Development Affairs, set up last year to coordinate economic policy. Mohammed also chairs a body overseeing state oil giant Saudi Aramco. As defense minister, the prince supervised the kingdom's military intervention in Yemen, where a Saudi-led coalition 13 months ago launched air strikes against Iran-backed rebels in support of the embattled government. In a profile and interview released this month, Bloomberg Businessweek said the prince works 16-hour days and draws inspiration from the writings of Winston Churchill and Sun Tzu's "The Art of War". It was the latest interview in which the prince has spoken at length about economic plans for the kingdom, where officials are traditionally tight-lipped.

#### He is 'one of the citizens'

On Monday, he stood before journalists, many of them from overseas, and seemed relaxed as he politely answered questions for about 50 minutes. Wearing typical Saudi attire-sandals, a crisp white thobe and head-dress he leaned on a white podium and sometimes rubbed his eyes, replying in Arabic to questions posed in English. A law graduate from Riyadh's King Saud University, the dark-bearded prince with a receding hairline is the father of two boys and two girls and-unlike other members of the royal family-has only married once. He told Bloomberg that although Islam allows for multiple marriages, modern life does not leave the time.

Mohammed spent years working for his father when he was governor of Riyadh and from 2013 after Salman was named crown prince. "He has a reputation for being aggressive and ambitious," Bruce Riedel, a former Central Intelligence Agency officer who directs the Brookings Intelligence Project in Washington, has said. Observers last year pointed to an emerging power struggle between Prince Mohammed and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Nayef, 56, the interior minis-



**RIYADH:** Saudi Defense Minister and Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman gestures during a press conference in Riyadh. — AFP

ter and first-in-line to the throne. At his Monday press conference, a comment that "the name of Mohammed bin Salman will be remembered in the future" prompted a self-

effacing response from the deputy crown prince. "I am one of the Saudi citizens," he said, "and also the Saudi citizens will be remembered in the future." — AFP

## NORTH KOREA 'SET' FOR ANOTHER NUCLEAR TEST

**SEOUL:** North Korea is ready to carry out a fifth nuclear test and could press the button at any time, South Korea's president said yesterday, amid reports Pyongyang has readied a powerful, new mid-range missile for an imminent flight test. Concern has been growing for weeks that the North is building up to another nuclear experiment ahead of a rare, ruling party congress to be held early next month. "We assess that they have completed preparations for a fifth nuclear test and can conduct it whenever they decide to," President Park Geun-Hye said during a meeting with local media.

If North Korea does go ahead, it would constitute a dramatic act of defiance in the face of tough UN sanctions imposed after its most recent nuclear test in January. Some analysts have suggested that, by carrying out a fifth test so soon after the fourth, the North might hope to avoid a heavy package of additional sanctions-but Park insisted that the international community's response would be swift and severe. "Although the current sanctions are strong, we can impose even stronger sanctions that fill up any holes," the president said.

#### Grave 'miscalculation'

"North Korea's miscalculation is that by ignoring warnings from the international community and continuing to launch provocations, it will not defend its security, but only speed up its own collapse," she added. In recent months the North has claimed a series of major technical breakthroughs in developing what it sees as the ultimate goal of its nuclear weapons program-an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) capable of delivering a nuclear warhead to targets across the continental United States.

These have included success in miniaturizing a nuclear device to fit on a missile, developing a warhead that can withstand atmospheric re-entry, and building a solid-fuel missile engine. Earlier this month, leader Kim Jong-Un monitored the test of an engine specifically designed for an ICBM that he said would "guarantee" an eventual strike on the US mainland. The South's Yonhap news agency on Tuesday quoted unidentified government sources as saying the North had readied a medium-range Musudan missile for an imminent test launch. Existing UN resolutions forbid North Korea from the use of any ballistic missile-related technology. — AFP

## ISLAMISTS BEHEAD CANADIAN HOSTAGE IN THE PHILIPPINES

**MANILA:** Islamic militants in the Philippines have beheaded a Canadian hostage, raising fears for more than 20 other foreigners held captive on remote islands, with troops and police vowing to hunt down the extremists. The man's head was found Monday dumped outside city hall on Jolo, a mountainous and jungle-clad island in the far south of the Philippines that is a stronghold of the Abu Sayyaf Islamist group.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Filipino authorities identified the victim as John Ridsdel, a retiree in his late 60s who was kidnapped seven months ago from aboard a yacht, along with another Canadian man, a Norwegian and a Filipina woman. "This was an act of cold-blooded murder and responsibility rests with the terrorist group who took him hostage," Trudeau said in Ottawa.

The four were abducted at a marina near the major city of Davao, more than 500 kilometers from Jolo, as part of a wave of abductions by the Abu Sayyaf-a loose network of militants who for more than two decades have run a lucrative kidnapping-for-ransom business. The other three were fellow Canadian Robert Hall, Hall's girlfriend Marites Flor and Norwegian resort manager Kjartan Sekkingstad. Six weeks after the abduction, gunmen released a video of their hostages held in a jungle setting, demanding the equivalent of \$21 million each for the safe release of the three foreigners.

The men were forced to beg for their lives on camera, and similar videos posted over several months showed the hostages looking increasingly frail. In the most recent video, Ridsdel said his captors would kill him on April 25 if a ransom of \$6.4 million was not paid. Hours after the deadline passed, police in the Philippines said two people on a motorbike dropped the head near city hall on Jolo, which is about 1,000 kilometers from Manila. Ridsdel, a former journalist, oil executive and sailing enthusiast, had moved to the Philippines to manage a gold mine before retiring.

#### Hunt for militants

Trudeau said Canada was working with the



**MANILA:** This image shows Canadians John Ridsdel (right) and Robert Hall. Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau confirmed that the decapitated head of a Caucasian male recovered on Monday, April 25, 2016 in the southern Philippines belongs to Ridsdel, who was taken hostage by Abu Sayyaf militants in September 2015. — AP

## BRAVERY, LOSS, HOPE: LIFE AFTER WATERPARK TRAGEDY IN TAIWAN

**TAIPEI:** Huang Po-wei trains five times a week with a coach, crunching out 300 sit-ups and pulling on weights-all in anticipation of the day when he can strap on a new pair of legs. The 23-year-old engineering student was among the most severely burned victims in a Taiwan waterpark explosion last June, which killed 15 and injured hundreds at a "color party". Huang's life changed forever that night, when a blast ripped through the crowd of around 1,000 people as colored corn starch sprayed on young partygoers ignited.

Almost a year on, events organizer Lu Chung-chi was jailed Tuesday for four years and 10 months over the disaster. But Huang does not want to dwell on the past-instead he has decided to rebuild his life. With more than 90 percent burns, he opted to have both his legs amputated from below the knee and later his right arm to save himself from infection. He spent more than 200 days in hospital.

The ambitious student would have graduated from Ming Chi University of Technology in New Taipei City this spring. His studies are on hold, but Huang says there is no time for self-

pity. "The strength and exercise training I'm doing now is to prepare for prosthetics," he said after a rehabilitation session in Taipei. "Maybe it's not something I can do today and see results tomorrow. But as long as I work hard at it, there will be some progress," said Huang, his face and neck still marked by raw pink burns. "It was my choice to have the amputation. Since I chose to go down this road, I don't have a reason to quit."

#### Parents' struggle

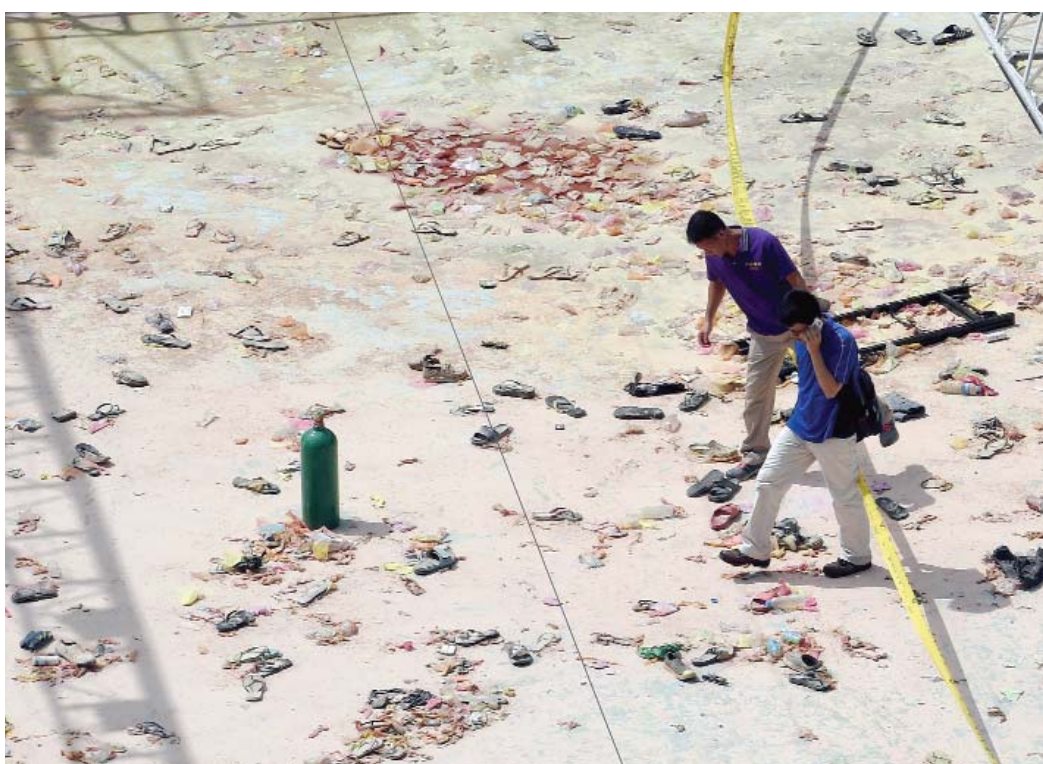
More than 200 were left seriously injured and while all have now been discharged from hospital, many make return trips for surgeries and treatments. As parents struggle to cope with grief and their children's injuries, some are throwing themselves into a campaign for justice-they say the maximum five-year sentence for negligence causing death is not long enough and also want to see others brought to court over the blast.

"We feel prosecutors didn't take the stance of seeking justice for the people. We can't accept that," said Su Jin-fa, 60, whose 23-year-old son Su Chia-sheng died in the tragedy. "These for-profit

businesses putting on large-scale events aren't placing enough importance on public safety." Still in deep mourning, he says staying focused on the case and his Buddhist faith are helping. "After all, there's still a long life to be lived," he said. But the loss is a heavy burden. "My son's death is like taking away half of my life," said Su.

#### 'New life'

The road ahead for Huang is tough, having to relearn the most simple skills or movements. But he insists on doing it himself when he can-eating with a utensil strapped to his bound left hand, browsing his phone with a touch pen, using a wheelchair to get around. He has even taken trips on the subway. "I was never afraid of how people would look at me," Huang said. "I don't see why I have to hide away at home." Physically, it will be a long while before Huang is ready to use prosthetics. However, he has already done some research into the kind he wants ones that can enable him to jump and run once more. "All of this hard work is so I can stand up again," he says. "And when I can stand up again, I can welcome a new life." — AFP



**NEW TAIPEI CITY:** This file shows two insurance investigators checking the site of where an explosion killed 15 and injured hundreds of others at a waterpark in New Taipei City. — AFP





People look at industrial equipment during a Ritchie Bros auction in Nisku, Alberta yesterday. Ritchie Bros is holding what it says is the largest-ever Canadian industrial auction this week - a sell-off of more than 10,000 items, including many pieces of idled equipment from the country's battered energy sector. — AP

## SAUDI ARABIA PLANS TO WELCOME TOURISTS

Continued from Page 1

Prince Sultan envisions a kingdom that also attracts big-spending Gulf nationals. Travelers from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Oman are expected to spend \$216 billion on world travel by 2030, according to a 2014 study for the travel tech company Amadeus. The study found that, on average, a traveler from these countries spends around \$9,900 per trip outside the Gulf.

Promoting domestic tourism among Saudis is not just aimed at capturing some of that tourism money, but also at forging a stronger national identity among the country's youth, hundreds of thousands of whom have studied abroad on scholarships and are active users of social media and the Internet. "Smelling and hearing the sounds of their country and tasting this fantastic multicultural country is something that's important for any nation that wants to go to the future confidently," Prince Sultan said.

"So many people today may look at their country practically as an ATM machine, which is very, very sad," he said, particularly as the country faces domestic and regional challenges. He said a lack of understanding about how the disparate tribes of Arabia became unified under his grandfather, the late King Abdulaziz, poses a major obstacle because the country needs "to have a Saudi citizen totally buying into their country's history."

Karen Young, a senior resident scholar at the Arab World Studies Institute in Washington, said these initiatives are particularly important to the kingdom as sectarian tensions with

rival Iran play out across the region. "This notion of Saudi Arabia as center of the Arab world and really having ownership of not just Arab identity, but also Islamic identity. That's a big goal," she said.

The Vision 2030 plan approved by the Saudi Cabinet on Monday is a national blueprint for preparing the country for an era of lower oil prices, which have eroded the state's ability to finance subsidies, wages and infrastructure projects. Currently, 70 percent of Saudis work for the government. More than half of Saudis are under the age of 25, and millions will soon be looking for work and affordable housing.

Prince Sultan said tourism is one of the most promising industries for "creating real, meaningful, long-lasting jobs that Saudis like to do." The tourism commission's figures show that around 245,000 Saudis work in the tourism sector. The target is to boost that to 352,000 by 2020 and to see investment in tourism upped by \$8 billion to reach nearly \$46 billion. The prince said Saudi Arabia could have implemented many of the reforms outlined in the new roadmap when oil prices were above \$100 a barrel and the kingdom's finances were in surplus. He said ideas have been on the table for years for developing Saudi tourism sites and building museums to attract investors and visitors.

"Lost opportunities are the most dangerous thing to any economy, to any country. This transformation project has happened because we need to recover," he said. Though around 11 million Muslims from across the globe flock to Saudi Arabia annually to perform religious rites at holy sites in Makkah and Madinah, the infrastructure for tourism outside these two cities remains nascent. — AP

## FINAL NOD TO HIGHER POWER, WATER CHARGES...

Continued from Page 1

commercial activities which will be charged a flat rate of 25 fils per kilowatt. On government offices, it applies after 18 months and after 21 months on industrial and agricultural activities.

**The new charges will be hiked for expatriates from the current 2 fils per kilowatt to the following:**

- 1- Five fils per kilowatt for the first 1,000 kilowatts.
- 2- 10 fils per kilowatt for between 1,000 and 2,000 kW.
- 3- 15 fils per kilowatt for consumption above 2,000 kW.

The consumption is calculated on a monthly basis. Current average monthly charges for a medium-size apartment is around KD 5-7. But under the new charges, the monthly bill in summer months, when air-conditioning does not stop, could easily hit above KD 50 depending on consumption.

In summer months, May-September, the monthly consumption of medium-sized apartments is roughly around 3,000 kW. This means the bill will be KD 30. If consumption rises to 4,000 kW, the bill will be KD 45 and so on. In winter months, the rate will remain around KD 5 or slightly above that, also depending on con-

sumption.

A number of MPs warned the commerce minister to closely monitor the local market to prevent any artificial increases in prices as a result of the law. According to Electricity and Water Minister Ahmad Al-Jassar, the 1.3 million Kuwaiti citizens consume about 40 percent of the electricity while the 3 million expatriates consume under 20 percent.

The rise in electricity charges comes as part of a government-sponsored package to cut consumption and boost non-oil revenues to face the sharp decline in oil income, the main source of public revenues. MPs had a lengthy debate on the so-called government vision for reducing dependence on oil as the main source of income.

A number of MPs said the vision includes a large number of projects including privatization and called for allowing the Assembly to vote on it, but speaker Marzuq Al-Ghanem said the Assembly is not required to vote on it because it is a government vision. Finance Minister Anas Al-Saleh said the government will not undertake any privatization without a law from the Assembly.

## TALKS PROGRESS AFTER AMIR MEETS YEMEN FOES

Continued from Page 1

But Ould Cheikh Ahmed said the UN wants all the main issues to be discussed in parallel by joint committees. He said no timeframe has been set for the talks which should continue as necessary to achieve a "comprehensive peaceful settlement." "We don't want to go back to Yemen without a peaceful settlement," Ould Cheikh Ahmed said.

Yemeni Foreign Minister Abdel-Malek Al-Mekhlafi said the agenda provided for the Houthis to quit cities they seized since 2014, allowing the government to retake control of the state. "We consider approval by the Houthis and the General People's Congress party (of ex-president Ali Abdullah Saleh) of the agenda as a good step that can lead to positive results," Mekhlafi said.

More than 6,800 people have been killed and around

2.8 million displaced since a Saudi-led Arab coalition began operations in March 2015 against the Iran-backed Houthi Shiite rebels who have seized swathes of territory, including the capital Sanaa. Since the delayed peace talks started on Thursday, the two delegations have struggled to reach an accord on ways to firm up a ceasefire that went into effect on April 11. The negotiations represent the best hope in months for a settlement to the conflict.

The 15-member UN Security Council on Monday stressed the importance of agreeing on a "roadmap" to implement security measures including the withdrawal of heavy weapons. The rebels have insisted that no ceasefire can be established without an end to coalition air strikes and sorties. The government side wants the rebels to lift the siege on cities, open humanitarian passages and release prisoners. — Agencies

## SAUDIS, KUWAIT STRUGGLE TO RESTART KHAFJI

Continued from Page 1

A third industry source, who has visited Khafji, said: "There's nothing happening ... the status quo is still the same."

Chevron, which operates the nearby Wafra field in the Neutral Zone on behalf of Saudi Arabia, has told investors they should not expect oil to flow soon from either field as preparations have yet to begin for a restart, sources said. "We continue to monitor the situation and we are encouraged by efforts underway by all appropriate parties to resolve the issue. Production will remain shut in until the situation is resolved," the U.S. oil company said in a statement to Reuters.

Wafra, which has an output capacity of about 220,000 bpd of Arabian Heavy crude, has been shut since May 2015 due to

operational difficulties. Khafji and Wafra are part of a long-standing dispute between Kuwait and Riyadh, mainly over operation rights. Senior officials from both countries have been trying to resolve the issue for months. Even HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah was quoted by local media as talking in January about the oilfields' closure.

Kuwait has limited spare production capacity and therefore been hit harder than Saudi Arabia by the closures. Kuwait's production capacity is estimated at 3.2 million bpd, compared to Saudi Arabia's 12 million bpd. The Neutral Zone is the only place in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait where foreign oil firms have equity in fields, which are otherwise owned and operated by state oil companies. Crude output is divided equally between the two countries. — Reuters

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## Washington Watch

DRIVERLESS CARS  
COULD SAVE LIVES,  
KILL BUSINESSES

By Joseph White and Paul Ingrassia

The automotive and tech companies pursuing the driverless car share a common belief: Autonomous vehicles will benefit society, eventually saving most of the nearly 33,000 people each year killed in road accidents in America alone. "If the situation was reversed, and we had automated vehicles today and someone proposed to let people drive cars, what would the reaction be?" asks Glen De Vos, vice president of global engineering for Delphi Automotive PLC, a supplier of driverless-car technology.

"You would be basically asking that 33,000 deaths per year be allowed on highways as part of a policy plan. There's no way on earth anybody would accept it." The big win for society wouldn't be big, or even a win, for everybody, however. There will be losers and winners. Take automakers. Eventually, if fully driverless cars ("L4" vehicles under the American government's classification system) can be summoned with a smartphone just like Uber cars today, many people might forgo car ownership. Or families in developed nations might own one car instead of two.

That could be a financial boon for families. In the United States, cars are usually the second-largest item in the household budget, even though studies show they sit idle 90 percent of the time. But automakers would suffer. If driverless cars catch on, US car sales could plunge 40% in the next 25 years, Barclays analyst Brian Johnson wrote in a report last year. General Motors and Ford Motor Co, he added, would have to cut their combined number of assembly plants in the U.S. and Canada to 17 from the current 30. Some 25,000 auto workers would lose their jobs.

Auto makers now are moving to offset any loss of sales with revenue from providing transportation as a service. "We've run a number of scenarios trying to understand some of the sensitivities," Mike Abelson, vice president of strategy and global portfolio planning, said in an interview. "Some scenarios show a decline in volume, but we have some scenarios that show it going up." As the cost goes down for autonomous vehicles, it will allow people who cannot drive - the elderly and disabled - to own or use vehicles, Abelson said, echoing comments by Google executives.

Ubiquitous driverless Ubers are a couple decades or more away, but some automakers already are experimenting with selling rides as well as cars. Ford and Jaguar Land Rover are launching car-sharing experiments without self-driving cars; autonomous vehicles could accelerate the concept. General Motors has purchased 10 percent of ride-hailing service Lyft, a competitor to Uber. But a prolonged transition to full L4 autonomy could bring automakers a financial windfall. The stage before L4 is L3 technology, requiring some human intervention - including automatic handling in traffic jams, braking to avoid accidents, keeping a proper distance from cars ahead and pulling into parking places. These features would cost extra and boost profits, especially on luxury models.

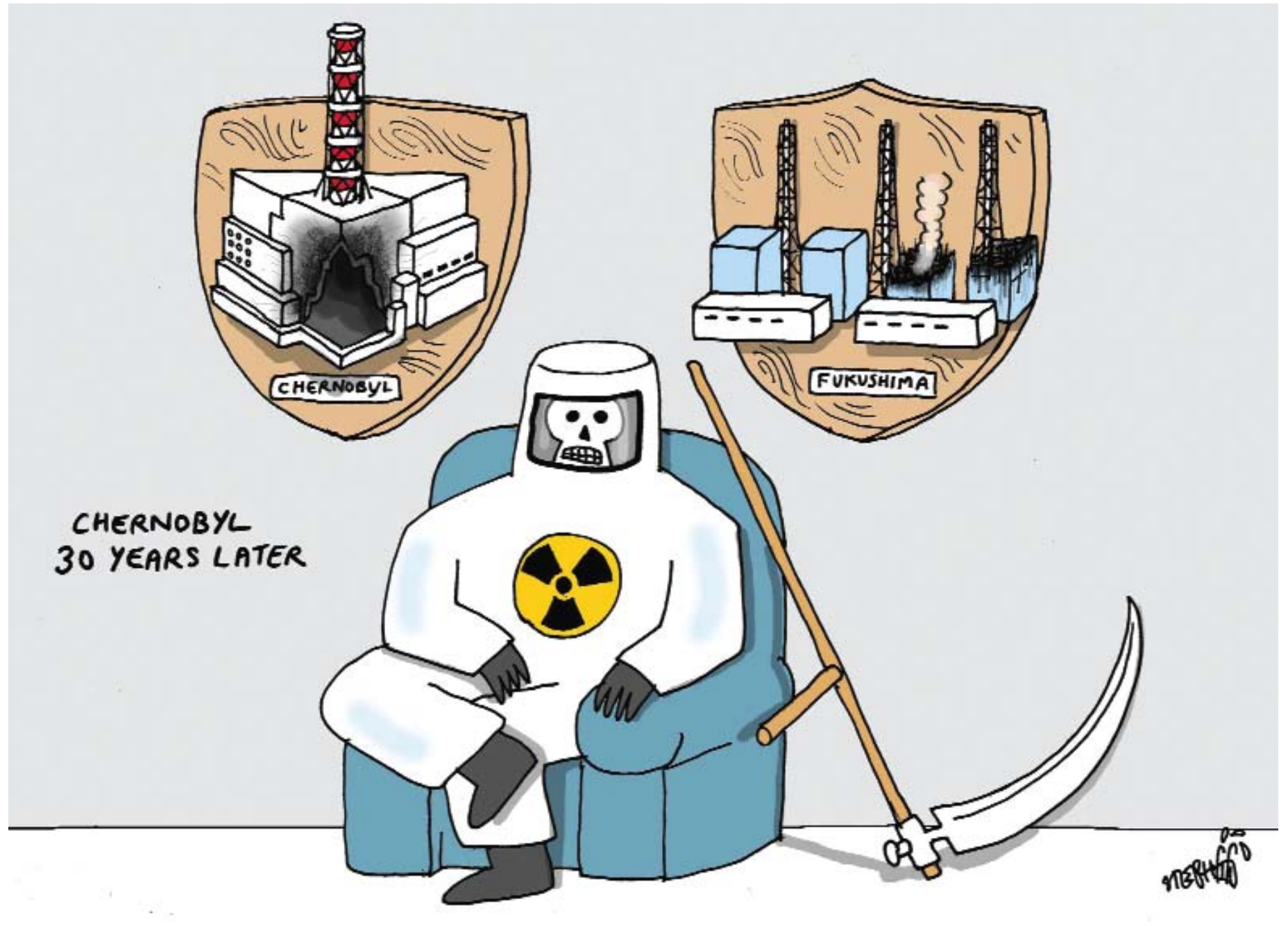
This is already happening. Last year, Tesla Motors Inc introduced Autopilot, which does all those things, on its Model S that starts at \$76,500. Drivers are warned to keep their hands on the wheel - not that they always comply. The Mercedes-Benz Intelligent Drive system, offered on the new E-Class and some other models, includes features the Daimler AG brand calls Park Pilot, Speed Limit Pilot and Blind Spot Assist. The L3 autonomous features can add \$4,500 to the price of a \$53,000 car.

Volkswagen AG's Audi and BMW offer similar systems, and General Motors plans to offer "SuperCruise" next year on its Cadillac CT6 sedans. Other automakers are joining in. The components companies that sell these systems to automakers are winners, too. They include Israel's Mobileye, Germany's Continental AG and Robert Bosch GmbH, and Delphi and Nvidia Corp in the United States. Silicon Valley's Nvidia, which began by making graphics for video games, now counts automotive as its fastest-growing business segment, with revenue nearly doubling every year.

## Winners and Losers

Two Silicon Valley giants, Google parent Alphabet Inc and Apple Inc, could be big winners. Google, which says it wants automotive partners, could license its self-driving software to car companies worldwide. Apple, typically tight-lipped, won't discuss its automotive ambitions. Its hiring suggests it might want to market Apple-brand cars, though their manufacture might be out-sourced, like iPads and iPhones. People who drive taxis, Uber cars, transit buses or delivery trucks would be losers. The number of jobs lost in the US alone could total 2.6 million, or nearly 2 percent of the work force, calculates economist Martin Zimmerman at the University of Michigan. To put that in perspective, Zimmerman says, American manufacturing has shed jobs equivalent to 11 percent of the workforce since 1979. The US economy has adjusted well, although many individuals have suffered. Those who moved into other jobs often settled for lower pay. — Reuters

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## GOOGLE'S QUEST TO SHAPE RULES OF DRIVERLESS ROAD

By Paul Ingrassia, Alexandria Sage and David Shephardson

The Alamo Drafthouse Cinema Plaza here is a strip mall with a pet-accessories store, a Thai restaurant and a yogurt shop, an unlikely venue to display the high-tech future. But one Saturday morning in March, Google did just that. A small convoy of its driverless cars cruised into the fading asphalt parking lot to give test drives - test rides, actually - to American mayors visiting Austin's annual South by Southwest tech-and-culture festival.

Mayor Richard J Berry of Albuquerque, New Mexico, was impressed with how the cars dodged pedestrians and fallen tree limbs. Sam Liccardo, mayor of San Jose, California, right in Google's backyard, was impressed that he got to see the cars at all. "These things are crawling all over my city" in tests, "but I had to come to Austin to ride in one," said Liccardo. "This is going to change cities."

But before that happens, Google needs to change regulations - the federal, state and local edicts that cover everything from whether cars must have steering wheels to who's at fault if a driverless car hits another vehicle. And so behind the technology display here in Austin was something as formidable as the technology but far less noticed: Google is mounting a lobbying and public-relations campaign across America to win acceptance for "autonomous vehicles," as they're formally known, and to shape the rules of the driverless road.

Last year, Google made Austin the first site outside Silicon Valley where it tests its driverless cars on public streets. This year, it has added Kirkland, Washington, and Phoenix, Arizona. The proliferation of cities is aimed at gaining public acceptance for driverless cars, Google executives acknowledge, in addition to testing them in different driving conditions. The test cars all have company-trained drivers, and none yet offer rides to the public. But in each city Google does "public outreach," in its words, such as town-hall meetings to explain the technology and tout its safety.

In Washington, Google has enlisted four former senior officials of America's federal traffic-safety agency in the company's efforts to convince their former government colleagues of the company's preferred path from here to autonomy.

## 'Ready Or Not, It's Coming'

Self-driving technology has developed far faster than experts envisioned when Google started developing it in 2009. Cars with partial autonomy, such as Tesla's Model S, are on the road now, and limited trials of fully self-driving vehicles are popping up. They could appear in urban transit systems within a few years, though the transition in the broad consumer market could take far longer. "I've gone from hoping this would happen to thinking it might happen to knowing it will happen," Chris Urmsen, the 39-year-old Canadian who's director of Google's driverless-car program, told Reuters in an interview.

Other companies, ranging from global automotive giants to Silicon Valley startups, also are developing driverless cars. And they, too, are lobbying state and federal regulators in effort to massage the rules to their liking. But Google, one of the first companies to launch a development effort, has emerged as the most visible and assertive lobbyist, with the most ambitious view of how self-driving vehicles should be deployed. Scorning the gradualist approach, Google is pushing for fully autonomous vehicles.

The company won an important early victory in February when the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) ruled that the artificial intelligence system piloting a self-driving car could be considered the driver under federal law. That paves the way for regulators to make subsequent rulings that autonomous vehicles don't need steering wheels, brake pedals, accelerator pedals or

other things that humans use to control motor vehicles.

On Tuesday, Google and four allies - Ford, Lyft, Uber and Volvo Cars - said they were forming "the Self-Driving Coalition for Safer Streets." The group will push for "one clear set of federal standards" for autonomous vehicles and try to build support for the technology among businesses and local governments. The coalition's public face will be David Strickland - the former head of NHTSA.

NHTSA has promised to issue driverless-car guidelines by July. The agency is holding a public meeting on Wednesday at Stanford University in California to gather public input. "The mission I have is we've got a clock ticking," Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx, who oversees NHTSA, told Reuters. "This technology is coming. Ready or not, it's coming."

But in California, Google's home state, officials want all autonomous vehicles to have steering wheels, brake pedals and accelerator pedals - which amounts to ensuring that driverless cars can have drivers. California's regulators believe there's no substitute, at least not for some years, for autonomous vehicles to be designed with a "handoff" system that allows a driver to retake control in an emergency. But California hasn't yet finalized its regulations.

In the US government's lexicon, California's incrementalist approach is called Level Three

owners against doing "crazy things". Toyota, meanwhile, is pushing for another alternative. In its proposed "guardian angel" system, as the company calls it, humans would do most of the driving, but the car would take over automatically when it senses a collision is imminent.

That system, say Toyota officials, could have avoided the well-publicized collision between a Google car and a bus in Mountain View, California, Google's headquarters city, in mid-February. The car was a Lexus RX 450h hybrid SUV modified for autonomous driving, though it does have a steering wheel and control pedals. (Google's latest driverless car, a bubble-shaped prototype, is designed to have neither.) The Google Lexus was trying to get around sandbags in a construction zone, with a bus approaching from behind on the left.

The Google car assumed the bus would give way, but the bus driver didn't yield. The car's left front fender hit the bus's right front corner, and the car slid back alongside until it reached the bus's midsection. Google acknowledged "some responsibility" instead of full fault because the situation was ambiguous, Urmsen told Reuters. Because the car was going just two miles an hour and nobody got hurt, there was no police report to affix blame officially. And the bus driver won't discuss the incident.

However, Toyota officials have analyzed video footage of the accident in detail. Their

theory that different types of vehicles might best suit different people and different conditions. Already, on Teslas and some other upscale cars, drivers can switch into autonomous mode in traffic jams but switch out of it for leisurely weekend drives. Foxx says the government needs to protect public safety and also encourage innovation, but he won't say how the NHTSA guidelines are shaping up.

The debate over the proper path to automotive autonomy is heating up because the stakes are huge. Autonomous vehicles combine the two transformative inventions that bracketed the 20th Century, the automobile and the Internet, both of which left the world far different than it was before them. Their combination in the early years of the 21st Century could be equally momentous.

That tech trend is converging with a related one: the rise of the electric car. Automakers - everyone from upstart electric specialist Tesla to legacy giants Nissan and General Motors - are pouring billions of dollars into the creation of battery-powered vehicles that would emit far less climate-warming carbon into the atmosphere than petroleum-powered cars do.

Autonomy advocates foresee an enormous reduction in automotive fatalities - now numbering 1.25 million globally every year, far more people than are killed in wars. That's because computers, unlike human drivers, won't get distracted, fatigued or drunk. Human error is a major contributor to 94% of traffic accidents, NHTSA studies show. The agency also found that in 2014, 6.1 million auto accidents were reported to police in America (many more, mostly minor, weren't), causing more than 32,000 deaths, 2.3 million injuries and \$836 billion in economic loss.

"Self-driving cars surely will make a huge contribution to society," Jen-Hsun Huang, chief executive officer of Nvidia Corp., said in January when unveiling the company's newest autonomous-car brain, which packs the power of 150 MacBook Pro computers into a panel the size of a car's license plate. "We'll be able to redesign the urban environment so that parks will replace parking lots," Huang added. "Think of the money we'll save, the reduction in accidents and the incredible freedom this will provide people who can't drive today."

## 'Deep Learning'

Incredible riches, meanwhile, could accrue to companies that control self-driving technology. So tech companies, automakers, components suppliers and a host of startups are investing big in artificial intelligence, the key to autonomous driving. Until four years ago, teaching machines to think meant downloading human knowledge into computers. Because many human endeavors are complex, imparting intelligence to machines was slow. The breakthrough was finding that flooding computers with data and prompting them to make choices would let them teach themselves.

In essence, the computer brains that pilot driverless cars have learned to recognize images from advanced sensors - cameras, radar and lasers - and react to other vehicles, pedestrians, road obstructions and other things. It's called "deep learning", and is similar to the process Google used to train its AlphaGo computer program, which recently beat the world's premier human master of Go, the complex Asian board game.

Last year, Delphi Automotive took an L3-equipped Audi SQ5 from San Francisco to New York, driving in autonomous mode 99 percent of the time. The Michigan-based car-components giant is considering a sequel, perhaps from Paris to Beijing. Most automakers and components companies such as Delphi prefer L3 autonomy to the full-on L4 level: They say it's a faster and cheaper way to reduce traffic fatalities. It also suits their business models. Features such as collision-avoidance radar, self-steering and self-parking boost profit per vehicle. But the debate is more nuanced than Silicon Valley vs Detroit. — Reuters



In this May 13, 2014 file photo, a Google self-driving car goes on a test drive near the Computer History Museum in Mountain View, California. — AP

autonomy, or "L3," on a scale running from L0, where a driver does everything, to a fully autonomous L4 vehicle that needs no human intervention. L3 advocates are "certainly not ready for humans to be completely taken out of the driver's seat," as one L3 champion, Mary Cummings, director of Duke University's Humans and Robotics Laboratory, told a US Senate Committee in March.

## Skeptical of Human Drivers

Google, though, is "definitely an L4 company," one executive says. The company maintains that requiring human controls makes driverless cars useless for elderly, blind and disabled people who can't operate a vehicle, and even makes the cars dangerous. "Developing a car that can shoulder the entire burden of driving is crucial to safety," Urmsen told the same Senate panel. "Human drivers can't always be trusted to dip in and out of the task of driving when the car is encouraging them to sit back and relax."

Google concluded that in 2012, when it asked employee volunteers to test its driverless cars. The volunteers agreed to watch the road at all times and be ready to retake control if needed. Google filmed them in action in the car. The technology lulled many volunteers into "silly behavior", as Google put it. One turned around to search for his laptop in the back seat while traveling 65 miles an hour. Google gave up on L3.

The Google philosophy got some confirmation last fall when Tesla launched an L3 technology called Autopilot. Soon after, online videos posted by Tesla drivers showed near misses, prompting CEO Elon Musk to warn

conclusion: "The car made a prediction about what the bus driver was going to do, and that prediction was wrong," says Gill Pratt, the scientist who is CEO of the Toyota Research Institute, a new \$1 billion investment in artificial-intelligence and robotics research. "Their model was incorrect." Google declined to comment on the Toyota analysis of the accident.

## A Moral Choice

After the fender-bender, Google temporarily pulled its 56 test vehicles off public roads and developed 300,000 new driving scenarios for its self-driving software to digest. But perfection remains elusive, even impossible, Google executives acknowledge, and at some point a driverless vehicle will cause a more serious, perhaps fatal, accident. When that day comes, society will begin facing a difficult moral choice. On the whole, machine-driven cars will almost certainly kill fewer people than human drivers do. But will the public accept any human traffic deaths at the hands of an automaton?

Regulators already recognize the dilemma. A key question, Transportation Secretary Foxx said, is whether the public might judge a few traffic deaths caused by driverless cars more harshly than the many more fatalities caused by human drivers. In the event of a serious self-driving car failure, Foxx said, there could be a "huge reaction." Americans, he added, need to have "reasonably set ideas about what's possible here."

It's possible NHTSA's new guidelines will allow several paths to automotive autonomy, including L3, L4 and the "guardian angel," on



### SAMMER SET TO RETURN AFTER BRAIN DISORDER

**BERLIN:** Bayern Munich expect to have director of sport Matthias Sammer back on their bench within the next fortnight as the former Germany international recovers from a mild brain disorder. The 48-year-old former Germany sweeper and 1996 Ballon d'or winner has been absent from the bench the last two games and will miss Wednesday's Champions League game at Atletico Madrid as he continues to recover. Sammer is convalescing at home after suffering from what club doctor Roland Schmidt has described as "a minuscule circulatory disorder of the brain that will heal completely and without consequences". "He's doing very well, he's working out. He doesn't need to worry about things. It's a matter of weeks, not months," said Bayern chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge on Tuesday before Bayern flew to Madrid. Rummenigge says he expects Sammer will return to his Bayern duties on May 14, the final day of the Bundesliga season, "once we get the (German league) trophy" with Bayern set to have a fourth consecutive league title confirmed this Saturday.—AFP



### FARRELL AND MARLER HEARINGS TODAY

**LONDON:** Owen Farrell and Joe Marler may receive bans ruling them out of European club finals and England's tour of Australia when they appear before disciplinary hearings in London today. The Six Nations grand slam-winners were both cited on Monday for alleged offences committed while on European duty with their respective club sides last weekend and a statement issued by European Professional Club Rugby today confirmed that hearings would be held today. England goal-kicker Farrell was alleged to have committed a dangerous tackle on Wasps' scrum-half Dan Robson early in the second half of Saracens' 24-17 European Champions Cup semi-final win over their fellow English club in Reading, southwest of London, on Saturday. Saracens fly-half Farrell was shown a yellow card by French referee Romain Poite for the head-high challenge and spent 10 minutes in the sin-bin. But he now faces a hearing after Italian match citing commissioner Stefano Marrama made an official complaint. If he is found to have contravened World Rugby's sanctions on foul play, Farrell could face anything from a two to 52-week ban, although he is unlikely to be hit with the most severe penalty.—AFP

### BLATTER TO TESTIFY AT PLATINI BAN APPEAL

**GENEVA:** Former FIFA president Sepp Blatter will testify during Michel Platini's appeal against his ban from football, following a request from world football's governing body, a source close to the case told AFP today. Platini, the suspended head of European football confederation UEFA, will challenge his six-year ban at the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne, Switzerland on Friday. "Blatter will testify on Friday, at the request of FIFA," said a source who was not authorised to discuss the case publicly, but confirmed the information first reported by L'Equipe newspaper. In December, FIFA's ethics judges found Platini guilty of ethics violations, conflict of interest and other offences in connection with a 2 million Swiss franc (\$2 million, 1.8 million euro) payment he received from Blatter in 2011. Both men claim the payment was part of a legitimate oral contract for consulting work that Platini did between 1999 and 2002, but FIFA's in-house court found that explanation unconvincing. The pair were first suspended for eight years in December, but a FIFA appeals panel reduced the bans to six years in February, citing mitigating circumstances.—AFP



Shooter Al-Afasi



Sheikh Salman Al-Sabah (second from right) with Khalaf Al-Otaibi (third right)

## KHALAF AL-OTAIBI LAUDS KUWAIT SHOOTERS' ACHIEVEMENTS

By Abdellatif Sharaa

**KUWAIT:** President of Kuwait and Arab Shooting Federations Eng Duajj Khalaf Al-Otaibi said Kuwait shooting continues its efforts and participation in local tournaments organized by the shooting club, regional and international events, as Kuwait shooters were able to qualify for the Rio de Janeiro 2016 Olympics with six players despite the unfair ISSF decision to take the qualifying status from the 13th Asian Shooting Championship that was held earlier in Kuwait. He said the latest of Kuwait

shooting achievements were in the Arab championship held in Cairo, Egypt. Eng Duajj Khalaf Al-Otaibi appreciated the unlimited support Kuwait shooting enjoys from the Kuwait Shooting Sport Club Honorary President Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah, who along with the family of late Sheikh Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah are keen on organizing this annual tournament for the past 25 years out of their keenness to encourage shooters, particularly the juniors to work on the development of their skills to represent Kuwait as part of the national

teams at their best. Al-Otaibi said the late Sheikh Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah tournament is a good opportunity to discover promising skills, which the technical department is keen on developing and polishing them by highly qualified trainers. Eng Al-Otaibi, on behalf of Kuwait Shooting Sport Club, thanked the family of the late Sheikh Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah for their support of the sport of shooting and shooters at all times. Al-Otaibi also lauded the generous support from HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-

Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for sports in general and shooting in particular, which was able to occupy advanced places, through achievements made in the name of Kuwait. Eng Al-Otaibi thanked the Public Authority for Sports, headed by its President Sheikh Ahmad Al-Mansour Al-Sabah and his deputies who spare no effort in order to allow Kuwait shooting continue its outstanding achievements. The late Sheikh Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah will include trap, D-trap, skeet, Olympic archery, 10 meter rifle and pistol.



Khalaf Al-Otaibi



## 5 NBK MASTERCARD CREDIT CARDHOLDERS TO ENJOY S-FINALS OF UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

**KUWAIT:** National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) announced the first five winners among NBK MasterCard Credit Cardholders of the full travel packages to attend the semi-final matches of the UEFA Champions League 2015/2016, one of the most popular sporting events in the world. Ali Ahmad Al Ibrahim and Anand Kumar Harith will be flown, to watch the UEFA Champions League semifinals that will be held on Wednesday 4th of May 2016 at the Santiago Bernabeu-Madrid, Spain between Real Madrid and Manchester City. Additionally, Farajallah Al Kobeissi, Wafaa Mohamed Al Quraini and Sherif Mohamed Nour Mohamed each won three fully paid travel

packages for two to watch the UEFA Champions League Semi-Finals in the draws that were occurring during the month of April in the Grand Avenue - Avenues Mall to reward NBK MasterCard Credit Cardholders who were shopping there. NBK MasterCard Credit Cardholders still have the chance to win a travel package to the UEFA Champions League Final Milano 2016 before the end of the campaign on 30th of April, 2016. NBK MasterCard Credit Cardholders increase their chances to win every time they use their cards during the promotional period. The UEFA Champions League is one of the world's most popular sporting events, and NBK is the only

bank in Kuwait offering its MasterCard Credit Cardholders a chance to win one of six fully paid packages and Final Milano 2016, in partnership with MasterCard International. NBK MasterCard Credit Cardholders get one chance to enter the draws for every 1 KD cumulatively spent using their NBK MasterCard Credit Cards for all local purchases during the promotional period. Cardholders also triple their chances of winning when using their cards while travelling overseas or doing online shopping. NBK Credit Cards are accepted worldwide and are the safest, most convenient and rewarding way to pay.

## QATAR HOPES TO TAKE MORE FEMALE ATHLETES TO RIO

**DOHA:** Qatari officials said yesterday they hoped to send a record number of female athletes to the Rio games as they unveiled the country's largest ever Olympic squad. Four female athletes represented Qatar at London in 2012 and senior members of the team said they hoped to improve on that figure in Brazil. "I think the number will increase," said Thani Abdelrahman Al-Kuwari, secretary general of the Qatar Olympic Committee. "This year we will have more than before. Women are now training to be leaders in athletics." London was the first Olympics in which Qatar sent female athletes, the seventh Games at which the country had competed. With qualification in some events continuing, Qatar's chief de mission to Rio, Mohammed Al-Fadala, said two female athletes would definitely compete in Brazil

and they were trying to finalise others. "It could be more, there's still some sports federations continuing qualification. We hope to get more athletes to go to Rio," said Fadala. One women athlete who is definitely going as part of the Qatar team to Rio is swimmer Nada Arkaji, who competed at the Olympics four years ago. "I think it is important to have more women to compete," Arkaji, who will compete in the 100m butterfly, told AFP. "Qatari women are taking up more sports, not just swimming but other events." Qatar will send at least 38 athletes to Brazil, amid hopes that the country can land its first ever gold medal. The biggest hopes this time are high jumper Mutaz Barshim, who won bronze in London and has already claimed his fourth Asian Indoor Athletics Championships this year at the age of just 24. Another

gold medal prospect is the handball team, which took silver at the world championships last year, losing out to France in the final. The handball team though has attracted criticism in the past for the number of non-Qatari born players in the side. Also going to Rio is Nasser al-Attiyah, a former world rally champion who won bronze at the men's skeet, a shooting event, in 2012. Qatar has won four Olympic bronze medals in total. The energy-rich emirate has poured huge resources into training young athletes to get them to world-class standard and Rio is a big test for its training programme. Earlier this year, the head of the country's Aspire Academy, the Doha site where young Qatari athletes are trained, said it could double the number of Olympic medals won by the tiny Gulf country at Rio.—AFP



**ATHENS:** President of the Hellenic Olympic Committee Spiros Kapralos (L) hands over the Olympic Flame to Syrian refugee Ibrahim al-Hussein (C), 27, an amputee swimmer, during the Olympic flame relay at the Eleonas refugee camp in Athens yesterday. A Syrian swimmer and judoka who lost his lower leg in a bombing and who was granted asylum in Greece will carry the flame of the Rio Olympics through an Athens refugee camp, the UN refugee agency said.—AFP



## SCHWARTZEL BECOMES 4TH MAJOR CHAMPION TO SKIP OLYMPICS

**CAPE TOWN:** Charl Schwartzel of South Africa is the latest player to drop out of the Olympics, making him the fourth major champion in the last two weeks to decide against being part of golf's return after a 112 year absence.

Ty Votaw, the PGA Tour's chief spokesman and vice president of the International Golf Federation, said Monday that Schwartzel notified officials late last week. The former Masters champion moved into a strong qualifying position when former British Open champion Louis Oosthuizen cited family and scheduling issues for withdrawing.

Another former Masters champion, Adam Scott of Australia at No. 7 in the

world, is the most high-profile player to say he would not compete this summer in Rio. Vijay Singh, the 53-year-old Fijian and three-time major champion, said two weeks ago he would not play in the Olympics.

Gary Player said he was "sad and disappointed" by top players withdrawing, particularly the South Africans. Player, who has won nine majors and is golf's foremost global player, is the Olympic golf captain for South Africa.

"South Africa had a great team, but now obviously, it will not be as good," Player said in a statement. "Players withdrawing hurt the game of golf. I was sorry to hear that Louis Oosthuizen and

Charl Schwartzel have withdrawn their names from consideration. They have been playing outstanding golf lately. This certainly impacts South Africa's chances to win a gold medal.

"No doubt they would have made our team even stronger." Each country is allowed no more than two players until the field for Rio reaches its limit of 60. Countries are allowed up to four players if they are in the top 15 of the world ranking by July 11.

### POPULAR SPORTS

Branden Grace, who won at Hilton Head two weeks ago, is the highest-ranked South African at No. 11.

Schwartzel not playing means Jaco Van Zyl at No. 59 is the most likely candidate to replace him. George Coetzee is next in line at No. 85.

Scott is the second-ranked Australian (behind Jason Day at No. 1) and his spot most likely would fall to Marc Leishman, who lost in a playoff at the British Open last year. Singh not playing means Fiji will not be represented in the men's competition. While the cutoff to qualify through the world ranking is July 11, all current candidates on May 6 go into a registry pool for stringent drug testing, which includes giving their whereabouts for out-of-competition testing.

Golf was last part of the Olympics in

1904. The IOC in 2009 voted golf back into the program, assuring it a spot for this year's Games in Rio and in 2020 in Tokyo. But a vote in 2017 will determine if golf stays beyond 2020.

Key to golf's success is getting the top players, and the top three - Day, Jordan Spieth and Rory McIlroy - have indicated they are playing.

"Golf is one of the most popular sports in the world and our best players should be showcased on the biggest stage in sports," Player said. "Luckily, we still have four more years to make sure the best players see the importance and commit to play in Tokyo, Japan." — AP

## WOODS REGISTERS FOR US OPEN

**PENNSYLVANIA:** Tiger Woods has registered to play in June's US Open at Oakmont Country Club in Pennsylvania but has not set a timetable for his return to the PGA Tour. The United States Golf Association confirmed on Monday that Woods, who has not competed since last August while recovering from back surgeries, registered for the year's second major on April 4, well ahead of Wednesday's deadline.

While the 14-times major winner has registered for the June 16-19 US Open, there is no guarantee he will be at Oakmont, one of the most difficult courses on tour.

Last year, the former world number one also registered to play at the US Open but backed out after saying he was not fully recovered from back surgery. Speculation, however, has been mounting that the three-times US Open champion could make his PGA Tour return within the next month.

There have been multiple media

reports that the 40-year-old American has been ramping up his practice routine while at home in Florida and could make a return to the PGA Tour as early as May 5-8 Wells Fargo Championship.

Woods has not won a major title since he clinched the 14th of his career at the 2008 US Open and his form has slipped dramatically in recent years due to injuries and the mastering of a new swing.

His top-10 finish at the PGA Tour's Wyndham Championship in August, following a dismal 2014-15 season in which he missed three cuts in the majors, gave him encouragement before his health again intervened.

Three weeks later, he had a second microdiscectomy surgery to alleviate pressure on a disc in his lower back, before needing another procedure on Oct. 28 on the same area. Woods' world ranking has plummeted to 486th and earlier this month he missed the Masters for only the second time since his tournament debut in 1995. —Reuters



**OKLAHOMA:** Oklahoma City Thunder forward Kevin Durant (35) defends Dallas Mavericks guard Justin Anderson (1) during the first half of Game 5 of a first-round NBA basketball playoff series, Monday, in Oklahoma City. — AP

## DOLDERER CELEBRATES FIRST RACE WIN IN SPIELBERG

**SPIELBERG:** Germany celebrates the win of Matthias Dolderer who took a stunning victory at the Red Bull Air Race of Spielberg, taking a home race win out of the hands of Hannes Arch.

With qualifying winner Velarde out of the running in the Round of 14, and a shock exit in the Round of 8 from Matt Hall, it was up to McLeod, Arch, Dolderer and Lamb to decide the Spielberg podium. The times were fast, and four error-free flights from the pilots made for a nail-biting final in the second round of the Red Bull Air Race World Championship.

McLeod was first out on the track in the Final 4, setting the bar high with one of his fastest performances of the day with 57.598. Hannes Arch had put the memory of a disastrous 2015 home race appearance behind him, as he stalked his way into the track on the hunt for a home win.

Arch put in a super-fast and precise performance, surpassing McLeod in the splits and showing no signs of carrying the weight of expectation from local fans as he blazed a decisive trail through the racetrack, finishing with 57.336 on the clock and taking the top spot on the timesheets.

Matthias Dolderer was next to fly, and had shown great confidence all week on the Styrian racetrack. The German pilot appeared cool, calm and collected as he blasted through the Start Gate, clearly on

a mission to take the race win and showing no mercy to the local fans backing Arch. Dolderer maintained full-throttle speed and an error-free, almost flawless performance together with some beautiful lines in his vertical turns which saw him nudge Arch off the number one spot. With a 0.340s advantage, Dolderer clocked in at 56.996, with only Nigel Lamb left to take a race victory from the German.

The British pilot, who was crowned World Champion in Spielberg in 2014, had shown steady improvement throughout the day. With a faster first split Lamb was really challenging Dolderer's blistering time, and despite some fast turns and Lamb really putting his MXS-R through its paces, he couldn't quite match the pace of Dolderer's Edge. Lamb finished 0.353s behind Dolderer, placing him in third overall and handing Dolderer a decisive and well-deserved first ever race victory.

"Absolutely fantastic, a dream came true finally! Thanks to the team, finally it worked out... I'm just speechless," said Dolderer after the race.

The official results from the Masters Final 4 in Spielberg:

Pilot	Nationality	Position
Matthias DOLDERERGER		1st
Hannes ARCHAUT		2nd
Nigel LAMBGBR		3rd
Pete MCLEODCAN		4th.



Red Bull Air Race Spielberg - action

## WESTBROOK LEADS THUNDER PAST MAVERICKS, OKC WINS SERIES

**OKLAHOMA:** Russell Westbrook had 36 points, 12 rebounds and nine assists as Oklahoma City beat Dallas 118-104 on Monday night to win their first-round playoff series 4-1 and advance to the Western Conference semifinals.

Westbrook was 13 of 23 from the field and 7 of 8 on free throws. Kevin Durant scored 33 points and Steven Adams added 15 points and 10 rebounds for the Thunder, who will play the San Antonio Spurs in a series that begins Saturday. Oklahoma City shot 50.6 percent from the field and trumped the Mavericks on rebounds, 42-35. The Thunder lost Game 2 85-84 at home, then won three straight, including two on the road in an often testy series.

"They just played gimmicky defense," Durant said. "They didn't really play solid. They weren't really disciplined the entire series. That's how we were able to shoot such a high percentage except for that second game. It took all of that to win by one point - us having a historically bad night shooting the basketball. But for the most part, we got whatever we wanted on the offensive end."

German Dirk Nowitzki scored 24 points for Dallas. Though the 37-year-old forward said Monday that he plans to finish his career as a Maverick unless the team decides to rebuild, coach Rick Carlisle is still going to recruit him.

"We've got to hope that this isn't Dirk's last game as a Maverick," Carlisle said. "He has the option to become a free agent. I'm ready to get on a plane to go to Germany and recruit him to be back. I don't think we can take that for granted. I think we have to give him that kind of respect."

In Charlotte, Justin Lim was a solid contributor again with 21 points and team-mate Kemba Walker scored a playoff career-high 34 to lift the Hornets over Miami 89-85 to even their first-round series 2-2.

Walker scored 11 straight Charlotte points in the fourth quarter after Miami cut the lead to two with 6:07 left. Courtney Lee sank two free throws with 4.6 seconds left after being fouled on an offensive

rebound to seal the win. Lee finished with 11 points and helped hold Dwyane Wade to 12 points on 4-of-11 shooting. Charlotte dominated in the paint for the second straight game, outscoring Miami 44-30. Joe Johnson led Miami with 16 points, while Luol Deng had 15.

Game 5 is Wednesday night in Miami. The smallest player on the floor at 6-foot-1, Walker finished 13 of 28 from the field. "Throughout my career I have made big plays - that is what I'm known for," Walker said. "Tonight was a good example of it."

Lin, who kept Charlotte in the game in the first half, said it was fun just watching Walker from the corner - and taking a breather - down the stretch. "I told Kemba to take us home," Lin said. "It's on you."

In Portland, Al-Farouq Aminu scored a career-high 30 points as Portland beat the Los Angeles Clippers 98-84 to also level their series at 2-2. In more bad news for the Clippers, Chris Paul departed midway through the third quarter with a broken bone in his right hand. It was not immediately clear how he was hurt, although his wrist appeared to bend back when he guarded Portland's Gerald Henderson on a layup.

The Clippers were further hurt when Blake Griffin retreated to the bench late in the game

after appearing to aggravate the left quad injury he struggled with this season.

The Trail Blazers pulled away after Paul's exit, with CJ McCollum scoring 19 points and Mason

Plumlee adding 14 points and 10 assists. Griffin had 17 points before leaving with less than 6 minutes left. Game 5 is Wednesday at Los Angeles. — AP

## JOHNNY MANZIEL INDICTED IN ALLEGED ATTACK ON EX-GIRLFRIEND

**DALLAS:** Former Cleveland Browns quarterback Johnny Manziel was indicted by a grand jury yesterday on a misdemeanor charge stemming from a domestic violence complaint by his ex-girlfriend.

The 2012 Heisman Trophy winner and Texas A&M star was accused by ex-girlfriend Colleen Crowley of hitting her and threatening to kill her during a night out on Jan. 30. Crowley said in court documents that Manziel struck her so hard that she temporarily lost hearing in one ear.

The indictment accuses Manziel of striking Crowley and "forcing (her) into a vehicle and against a vehicle dashboard." Manziel faces a charge of misdemeanor assault related to family violence, which carries up to one year in jail and a \$4,000 fine.

Dallas police referred the case to a grand jury in February, asking the Dallas County District Attorney's Office to present the misdemeanor assault case. Manziel was cut by the Browns in March after two tumultuous seasons marked by inconsistent play and off-the-field headlines about his partying and drinking, including one stint in rehab. His future in the NFL is uncertain at best, and might be nonexistent without a second stint in treatment that two agents have demanded. The league also has tougher standards regarding domestic violence cases after revising its policy in August 2014 following the Ray Rice case, which could complicate any attempt by Manziel to return.

The first agent, Erik Burkhardt, cut ties with Manziel after last season. Burkhardt's replacement, Drew Rosenhaus, dropped Manziel last week. His marketing agency dropped him before the charges were filed, and Nike confirmed last week that it no longer has an endorsement deal with Manziel. Crowley alleged that the 23-year-old

quarterback accosted her at a Dallas hotel and later struck her when they drove back to her apartment in Fort Worth. She was granted a protective order that requires Manziel to not see her for two years, stay at least 500 feet from her home and place of work, and pay \$12,000 in legal fees.

Crowley alleged she and Manziel had a confrontation in the hotel room that eventually continued downstairs to the valet station. She said he forced her into a car and a valet disregarded her pleas for help.

The two eventually drove to where her car was parked in front of a Dallas bar, she said in an affidavit. She said Manziel got into the driver's seat and began to drive. Crowley said Manziel stopped when she tried to jump out of the car, but then he dragged her back inside and hit her. She said Manziel threatened to kill himself as he drove her back to Fort Worth, about 30 miles west of Dallas, where police were called. Dallas police said Feb. 5 that they were investigating the case, a day after they issued a statement saying they considered the case to be closed.

In the wake of the allegations, Manziel's father said the family had made two recent, unsuccessful attempts to get him into a rehab clinic. Manziel - who entered the NFL with a reputation for partying and drinking - spent 73 days last winter in a Pennsylvania treatment center specializing in care for alcohol and drug dependency.

Manziel was cleared of any wrongdoing last year after he and Crowley got into a heated roadside argument near his home. Witnesses to that incident saw Manziel arguing on the side of a highway with his girlfriend and pulling her back into his car as she tried to leave the vehicle. He was not arrested, and Crowley told police she didn't want to press charges. — AP



**BEREA:** In this Monday, Dec 29, 2014, file photo, then-Cleveland Browns quarterback Johnny Manziel talks with the media at the NFL football team's training camp, in Berea, Ohio. Johnny Manziel was indicted by a grand jury yesterday, on misdemeanor charges stemming from a domestic violence complaint by his ex-girlfriend. — AP



## DAVID SURVIVES NAIL-BITER AT WOMEN'S SQUASH WORLDS

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Nicol David's squash world title defence got off to an anxious start yesterday as she had to claw back from a game down before putting away first-round opponent Rachael Grinham of Australia. One of the game's all-time greats, David has already won a record eight world championships but has seen her game falter of late, surrendering the top rank last September after a historic nine-year run. The Malaysian, 32, who is now ranked number five, started crisply in Kuala Lumpur to take the first game 11-4.

But the experienced Grinham—the 2007 world champ—battled back to take the next two games and put the hometown hero's title hopes in jeopardy. "Rachael got a string of points from the second game and that caught me off guard," said David, who upped the tempo and obliterated the tiring Grinham down the stretch, winning the last two games 11-1, 11-2. "I figured I had to do something extra and readjusted my approach in the final two games. I attacked more and got into my groove after that." World number two Nour El Sherbini also checked into the second

round with a three-game win over Australia's Donna Urquhart. Top-ranked Laura Massaro of England had made it into the second round a day earlier, defeating Mexico's Samantha Teran. David is seeking to win the PSA World Championship on home soil in Malaysia for the first time after falling short twice before. David acknowledged before the tournament that her days of squash dominance may be over, and yesterday remarked on what is being seen as one of the most competitive women's championship events in years. "It's tough. You don't always play a former world champion in the first round, but I have got the court feeling and am already looking forward to the next round to play my best squash," she said after her 46-minute victory. The championships finally opened this week after the 2015 event was called off in December amid controversy when its previous promoter claimed security concerns in Malaysia prevented it being staged.

Malaysian officials, however, denied there was any security threat and accused the promoters of a ploy to secure more financial support. — AFP



Malaysia's Nicol David

## BELGIAN CYCLIST BANNED FOR 6 YEARS FOR MOTORISED DOPING

**BRUSSELS:** The Belgian cyclist caught during competition in January with an electric motor hidden in one of her bikes has been banned for six years and fined 20,000 Swiss francs (\$20,603.69), the sport's governing body said yesterday. Femke Van den Driessche, 19, was found guilty of violating competition rules through "technological fraud" during the 2016 Cyclo-cross world championships, the International Cycling Union (UCI) said earlier.

It is the first time an elite rider has been punished for so-called "mechanical doping". A UCI statement yesterday described the ban as "a major victory" in the fight against a form of cheating seen as a growing problem in the sport. "The bike concerned was scanned using the new magnetic resonance testing deployed this year by the UCI. This detected the motor whilst the bike was in the rider's pit area," the statement said.

It said the Vivax motor was concealed along with a battery in the seat-tube, and was controlled by a Bluetooth switch installed underneath the handlebar tape. Van den Driessche denied knowing that the bike broke the rules, and said it belonged to her friend. But she later decided not to contest the finding and quit the sport. In a sign of a get-tough policy by the UCI, Van den Driessche has seen all her competitive results nullified

since October 2015 and been stripped of her ranking. She has also been ordered to return medals and prize monies from events in which she competed over that period, and to pay costs of the proceedings. "We have invested considerable resources in developing this new and highly effective scanning technology and also in strengthening the sanctions applicable to anyone found cheating in this way," UCI President Brian Cookson said. "This case is a major victory for the UCI and all those fans, riders and teams who want to be assured that we will keep this form of cheating out of our sport."

Leading cyclists, including 2015 Tour de France winner Chris Froome, have warned about the dangers of mechanical doping. "For the last few years now there have been rumours about motors being concealed within the bikes," Froome said on cyclingnews.com. "It's a concern that I've had." The UCI is expected to outline the magnetic resonance technology it uses to counter the cheats at a news conference next week.

"We believe it's the best technology available for making these kind of checks. It allows us to test a large number of bikes very quickly. We've done over 2,000 bikes in various races this year already," Cookson told Reuters at an event in Abu Dhabi. — Reuters



**FLANDERS:** This file photo taken on January 30, 2016 shows Belgian Femke Van den Driessche racing during the women's U23 race at the world championships cyclocross cycling, in Heusden-Zolder. The UCI global cycling governing body yesterday banned Femke Van den Driessche for six years for the first recorded case of using hidden motors in bike racing. — AFP



**KANSAS CITY:** Jordan Zimmermann #27 of the Detroit Tigers throws in the first inning action. — AFP

# CABRERA HOMERS LIFT TIGERS OVER OAKLAND

**DETROIT:** Jordan Zimmermann ended his scoreless innings streak but Miguel Cabrera homered twice to lift Detroit to a 7-3 win over Oakland on Monday night. Zimmermann (4-0) gave up a run for the first time with Detroit in the sixth inning, following 24 1/3 scoreless innings. The run came when center fielder Tyler Collins lost a flyball from Oakland's Marcus Semien in the lights, and an error charged to left fielder Justin Upton allowed Semien to reach third. Semien scored after next batter Billy Burns hit a single to end Zimmermann's unblemished start. Collins seemed to take the brunt of the blame from fans, and responded with an obscene gesture to his own home fans. He extended the middle finger on his left hand and waved it from right to left, and appeared to yell an obscenity to the booing crowd. Cabrera's solo homer in the first and his three-run homer in the fifth helped set up the win.

### YANKEES 3, RANGERS 1

Nathan Eovaldi lost his no-hit bid in the seventh inning but pitched into the eighth for New York without allowing a run in a series-opening win at Texas. The Rangers were without a hit until rookie Nomar Mazara, a day before his 21st birthday, led off the seventh with a clean single through the left side of the infield. After Mazara was wiped out by a double play, Prince Fielder swung at a high pitch for a double to right-center before Ian Desmond grounded out to end the inning. After Eovaldi (1-2) walked Mitch Moreland to start the eighth, Dellin Betances took over and promptly got Elvis Andrus to ground into a double play before Brett Nicholas hit his first career homer. That was the first earned run off the Yankees reliever in 10 appearances this season. Andrew Miller worked a perfect ninth for his fifth save in as many opportunities. Jacoby Ellsbury and Starlin Castro had solo homers for the Yankees off Cesar Ramos (0-1), the lefty starting in place of Cole Hamels.

### TWINS 4, INDIANS 3

Oswaldo Arcia led off the ninth inning with a home run off of Zach McAllister to lift Minnesota over Cleveland. Brian Dozier added a two-run double and the heavily taxed Twins bullpen gave up one run over the final 4 1/3 innings to snap a three-game skid. Kevin Jepsen (1-3) pitched the ninth for the win. Yan Gomes homered and Michael Brantley made his season debut with a pinch-hit appearance in the eighth inning for the Indians, who had a three-game winning streak ended. McAllister (1-1) gave up his first run in nine appearances this season.

### MARINERS 3, ASTROS 2

Taijuan Walker tied his career-high with 11 strikeouts over seven innings, Leony Martin and Kyle Seager hit solo homers and Seattle beat Houston for its eighth win in 11 games. Walker was overpowering in his fourth start of the season. The 23-year-old went seven innings and struck out the final six batters he faced, setting down the Astros in order in the sixth and seventh innings. He got Erik Kratz looking to end the seventh on a 97 mph fastball. It was the third time in his young career Walker (2-0) has struck out 11. Martin hit his fourth homer of the season just inside the right field foul pole leading off the third off Houston starter Doug Fister (1-3), and Seager followed an inning later with a solo shot to deep right-center field. It was Seager's 100th career home run.

### MARLINS 3, DODGERS 2

Giancarlo Stanton homered, doubled and drove in two runs to lead Miami past Los Angeles in Marlins manager Don Mattingly's return to Dodger Stadium. Mattingly, who managed the Dodgers from 2011-15, received a mix of boos and cheers before the start of his first game against his former club. Stanton ensured a winning return for him, blasting a solo home run to open the scoring in the fourth inning and a tying RBI double in the fifth. Derek Dietrich put the Marlins ahead for good with an RBI triple in the sixth. Yasiel Puig and Trayce Thompson hit solo homers in the fourth inning for the Dodgers. Miami's Wei-Yin Chen (1-1) pitched into the seventh inning for his first win with the Marlins while Dodgers rookie Ross Stripling (0-1) took the loss in his first career decision.

### ANGELS 6, ROYALS 1

ANAHEIM, California (AP) - Albert Pujols hit two

homers and Mike Trout added another, powering Los Angeles over Kansas City. Garrett Richards (1-3) pitched three-hit ball into the seventh inning of his first win of the season, while the Angels' struggling offense awoke with a three-run first inning followed by homers from its two biggest stars. Pujols connected on solo shots in the third and fifth innings against Ian Kennedy (2-2). The homers were the 564th and 565th of Pujols' career, moving him out of a tie with Reggie Jackson and into sole possession of 13th place on baseball's career list. Trout added a solo shot in the seventh, his fourth homer of the season. Salvador Perez drove in the Royals' only run.

### WHITE SOX 7, BLUE JAYS 5

Todd Frazier doubled home the go-ahead run in a five-run seventh inning as Chicago rallied to beat Toronto. Frazier went 2 for 3 with three RBIs, Jimmy Rollins had three hits, and Adam Eaton had two hits and two RBIs as the White Sox overcame a four-run deficit to win their fourth straight. Zach Putnam (1-0) pitched 1 1/3 innings for the win. Dan Jennings got one out, Matt Albers worked the eighth and David Robertson finished for his eighth save. Troy Tulowitzki made the final out when he was hit by Michael Saunders' infield hopper while running from first to second. Brett Cecil (0-4) took the loss.

### RAYS 2, ORIOLES 0

Chris Archer struck out 10 over 6 2/3 innings to end a 10-start winless streak as Tampa Bay beat Kevin Gausman and Baltimore. Archer (1-4) allowed five hits to get his first win since beating the Orioles on Aug. 31. The Rays opening day starter was 0-7 during the winless stretch. Archer also ended a 10-start winless run at home, which included six losses, dating to a June 23 victory over Toronto. Gausman (0-1) returned from the disabled list and struck out seven while pitching one-run ball through five innings. The right-hander missed the start of the season with a right shoulder strain. Alex Colome got the final out for his fourth save to complete the five-hitter. Curt Casali scored one run with a two-out double in the fifth, his third hit in 27 at-bats. In the sixth, Vance Worley hit Casali with a bases-loaded pitch.

### RED SOX 1, BRAVES 0

Rick Porcello combined with three relievers on a four-hitter and Jackie Bradley Jr. hit his first homer as Boston consigned Atlanta to its sixth straight loss. The Braves' home-run drought reached 14 games, matching the longest streak in their Atlanta history. Porcello (4-0) won his fourth straight start, allowing only four hits with two walks. Porcello gave up a double to Jeff Francoeur with one out in the seventh and left the game after walking Freddie Freeman. Robbie Ross Jr. stranded runners on first and third by striking out pinch-hitter Erick Aybar to end the inning. Julio Teheran (0-3) allowed only two hits before Bradley pulled a belt-high fastball over the right field wall for his first homer in the seventh. The Braves hit their last home run on April 10 and have only three for the season, easily the fewest in the majors.

### METS 5, REDS 3

Neil Walker hit his seventh home run in 10 games, a tiebreaking shot in the seventh inning that kept New York rolling against Cincinnati. Michael Conforto and Lucas Duda also homered for the suddenly homer-happy Mets, who won their fourth in a row overall. They returned to Citi Field after connecting 23 times on a three-city road trip. The Mets won on a night when ace Noah Syndergaard and the bullpen couldn't hold an early lead. New York has taken nine straight from the Reds dating to 2014. Syndergaard came out throwing 99 mph fastballs. The Reds' plan to slow him also involved speed - they stole five bases with the big righty on the mound. New to the Mets this year, Walker connected for his eighth home run, the most he's ever hit in a month, off J.C. Ramirez (0-1). Logan Verrett (2-0) relieved after Joey Votto's RBI single in a two-run seventh tied it. Jeury Familia closed for his sixth save in as many opportunities.

### PIRATES 6, ROCKIES 1

Matt Joyce hit a three-run homer and Jeff Locke threw six scoreless innings as Pittsburgh beat Colorado in a game briefly delayed by rain. Locke (1-2) allowed five hits as he bounced back from a clunker in his last outing. He struck out a season-high eight, including five on called third strikes. That drew the ire of the Rockies, who weren't too pleased with home-plate umpire Lance Barrett's low strike zone. Manager Walt Weiss was ejected after the fourth for arguing and outfielder Ryan Raburn followed in the sixth. Chad Bettis (2-1) had his start moved up a day with Jorge De La Rosa under the weather. Bettis gave up four runs in 6 2/3 innings. A.J. Schugel picked up his first major league save by pitching 2 1/3 innings.

### DIAMONDBACKS 12, CARDINALS 7

Jean Segura had four hits, including a go-ahead three-run home run in the sixth inning, to lead Arizona over St. Louis. Segura's homer came during a nine-run inning that made ace Zack Greinke a winner despite allowing seven runs. Greinke (2-2) lasted 6 2/3 innings and gave up 11 hits. Matt Bowman (0-1) gave up a run-scoring single to Chris Owings, his second RBI of the night, and Greinke helped himself by bouncing a single through a drawn-in infield that was expecting a bunt with two strikes.

### GIANTS 5, PADRES 4

Hunter Pence hit a home run and sacrifice fly and Buster Posey also homered to back Madison Bumgarner's first win since opening day as San Francisco held on to beat San Diego. Bumgarner (2-2) struck out nine in 6 2/3 innings to snap a two-start skid with his first victory in four starts since April 4 at Milwaukee. Angel Pagan drove in two runs from his new No. 9 hole as the Giants won for the third time in four games following a five-game losing streak. Pence connected for his fourth home run leading off the fourth to put San Francisco ahead 2-1 and Pagan hit an RBI double four batters later. Pence added a sacrifice fly the next inning. Posey hit his third homer in the seventh. —AP

## MLB results/standings

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

American League				National League				
Eastern Division				Eastern Division				
	W	L	PCT					
Baltimore	11	7	.611	-	Washington	14	4	.778
Boston	10	9	.526	1.5	NY Mets	11	7	.611
Toronto	10	11	.476	2.5	Philadelphia	9	10	.474
Tampa Bay	9	10	.474	2.5	Miami	7	11	.389
NY Yankees	8	10	.444	3	Atlanta	4	15	.211
Central Division				Central Division				
Chicago White Sox	14	6	.700	-	Chicago Cubs	14	5	.737
Kansas City	12	7	.632	1.5	Pittsburgh	11	9	.550
Cleveland	9	8	.529	3.5	St. Louis	10	9	.526
Detroit	9	9	.500	4	Cincinnati	9	11	.450
Minnesota	6	14	.300	8	Milwaukee	8	11	.421
Western Division				Western Division				
Seattle	10	9	.526	-	LA Dodgers	12	8	.600
Oakland	10	10	.500	0.5	Arizona	11	10	.524
Texas	10	10	.500	0.5	San Francisco	10	11	.476
LA Angels	9	11	.450	1.5	Colorado	9	10	.474
Houston	6	14	.300	4.5	San Diego	7	13	.350



## NADAL WANTS HIS DRUG-TEST RESULTS MADE PUBLIC

**LONDON:** Fed up with being accused of doping, Rafael Nadal has written to the president of the International Tennis Federation and asked for all of his drug-test results and blood profile records to be made public.

"It can't be free anymore in our tennis world to speak and to accuse without evidence," the 14-time Grand Slam champion said in a letter obtained yesterday by The Associated Press.

Nadal's letter was sent to ITF President David Haggerty on Monday, the same day he filed suit against a former French government minister who suggested he had been doping. "I know how many times I am tested, on and off competition," Nadal wrote in the letter. "Please make all my information public. Please make public my biological passport, my complete history of anti-doping controls and tests.

"From now on I ask you to communicate when I am tested and the results as soon as they are ready from your labs. I also encourage you to start filing lawsuits if there is any misinformation spread by anyone."

The ITF confirmed it received the letter from Nadal, including the request for his test results to be released under the Tennis Anti-Doping Program. "The ITF can confirm that Mr. Nadal has never failed a test under the TADP and has not been suspended at any time for an anti-doping rule violation or for any other reason related to the TADP," the ITF said in a statement sent to the AP.

The ITF said Nadal, like other players, has access to his anti-doping records through the World Anti-Doping Agency's database "and is free to make them available." "The accuracy of any such release would be verified by the ITF," the federation said.

The Spanish star said he was writing the letter because of remarks by Roselyne Bachelot, France's former minister for

health and sport. She said on a French television show last month that Nadal's seven-month injury layoff in 2012 was "probably due to a positive doping test."

Nadal, who won his 49th clay-court tournament on Sunday in Barcelona and will go for his 10th French Open title next month, filed a defamation suit against Bachelot in Paris. "It is unacceptable and mostly unfair that someone that should have knowledge of sports to a certain point and degree can publicly say something like this with no proof or evidence," Nadal said in the letter to Haggerty.

### TRANSPARENCY AND HONESTY

Nadal said some media, fans, and sponsors don't trust tennis' anti-doping program. "They don't trust the sport. They think governing bodies cover things up and do nothing," he said. "We know this is not true. ... I believe the time has arrived, and our sport and our governing bodies need to step up in communicating well to the world."

Nadal said he has never shied away from sharing his thoughts on anti-doping. "I believe we have to continue with the fight against doping and make the fight stronger and better if possible," he wrote. "As a player, first an amateur and then a professional, I have been sure that our sport is clean. It is necessary that our sport becomes a flagship in a world where transparency and honesty are two pillars of our conduct and way of living."

Nadal's letter comes at a time when tennis is dealing with Maria Sharapova's high-profile doping case. The Russian has been provisionally suspended after testing positive for the newly banned substance meldonium at the Australian Open in January. She is awaiting an ITF disciplinary hearing. —AP



**ST LOUIS:** Robby Fabbri #15 of the St. Louis Blues shoots the puck against Corey Crawford #50 of the Chicago Blackhawks in Game Seven of the Western Conference First Round during the 2016 NHL Stanley Cup Playoffs at the Scottrade Center on Monday in St. Louis, Missouri. The blues beat the Blackhawks 3-2 to win the series. — AFP

## BROUWER PUTS BLUES OVER TOP, BLACKHAWKS ELIMINATED

**ST LOUIS:** The St. Louis Blues acquired Troy Brouwer for moments like this, dealing fan favorite T.J. Oshie to Washington for some badly needed veteran presence. The 30-year-old forward showed plenty of poise when his first shot clanked off the post midway through the third period. The second effort off the backhand produced the goal that put a long-frustrated franchise over the top against the defending Stanley Cup champions.

Brouwer described the go-ahead score in the third period of a 3-2 Game 7 victory over the Chicago Blackhawks on Monday night as "the ugliest goal I've ever scored and probably the tightest goal I've ever scored."

"I just tried to stay with it, knowing the magnitude of the game, knowing how everything's been going," Brouwer added. Brouwer played for the Blackhawks' Cup winner in 2010 and this was his seventh career Game 7. The goal at 8:31 was his first in 24 postseason games since 2013 and was the difference in a tense series that was either tied or a one-goal game 91 percent of the time, according to NHL.com.

Chicago just missed a chance to tie it when Brent Seabrook's shot went off both posts with about 3:30 left. Coach Joel Quenneville came close to challenging the play. "We had a sniff there," Quenneville said. "We didn't get the positive feedback from the headset. It was close." It is the first time the Blues advanced past the first round since 2012, when they beat San Jose in five games but then lost four straight to Los Angeles. St. Louis plays Dallas in the next round.

"We're still not where we want to be," Brouwer said. "We want to be playing in a month and a half still." Jori Lehtera scored his first career playoff goal and rookie defenseman Colton Parayko also scored for the Blues, who avoided another inglorious finish. They led 2-0 early, their second two-goal cushion in two games, before the Blackhawks tied it in the second period.

Marian Hossa scored his third goal of the series and Andrew Shaw got his fourth on a power play for the Blackhawks. Patrick Kane was dangerous all night but was scoreless, and was minus-3.

"It just doesn't really feel right," Kane said. "Pretty quick right after to put everything right after into words. Obviously, not the outcome we were looking for." The Blackhawks have won three of the last five Cups - but when they don't win it all, the postseason can be a short one, with three first-round eliminations the last six seasons.

### 'IT'S A MILESTONE'

"You get the feeling that it'll be one of those things again and we feel from the get-go we've got the team to do it again," Chicago captain Jonathan Toews said. "Not much you can say right now. It was close the whole way."

Brouwer scored from close range off a feed from Robby Fabbri. The first shot went off the right post and he nudged the second past Corey Crawford. St. Louis was coached by Quenneville the last time it played in a Game 7, a loss at Vancouver in 2003. The Game 7 win was the franchise's first since 1999.

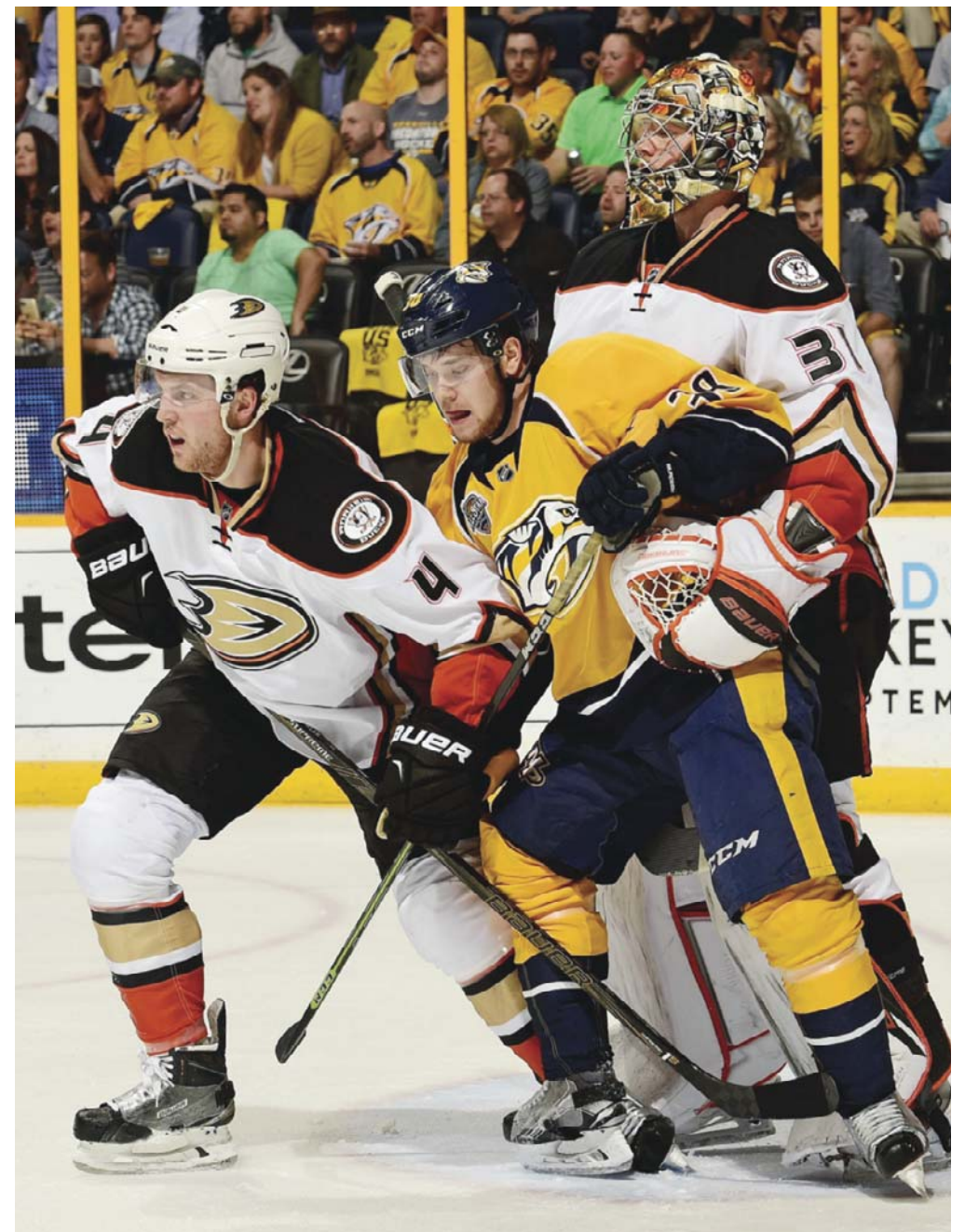
"To coach it, to play in it, to strategize in it, it

was a lot of fun," Blues coach Ken Hitchcock said. "I don't know if it's a milestone. It's a hump." The Blues outscored the Blackhawks 7-3 in the first period in the series, but Chicago owned the second period with an 11-3 advantage. That included the first three of five unanswered goals in Game 6 on Saturday.

Blues standout Vladimir Tarasenko was no factor after entering among the playoff leaders with four goals. He went to the locker room for about 2 1/2 minutes midway through the second for undisclosed reasons and his ice time was down at 14 minutes and 31 seconds - second-fewest on the Blues' top three lines - just as it has been earlier in the series.

Game 7 drew a standing-room attendance of 19,935 and the arena had seldom been louder than after Parayko's drive from the point made it 2-0 at 13:43 of the first period. Lehtera's deflection on Jay Bouwmeester's point shot gave St. Louis an early cushion just a minute in. The Blackhawks had a 7-0 shots advantage the rest of the period and Hossa's third of the series, a drive from the top of the right circle on the counter-attack, cut the deficit to one at 18:30.

Chicago made it 14 shots in a row at the start of the second period, including the tying goal by Shaw from a bad angle off the leg of Bouwmeester crouching in the crease and past Brian Elliott. —AP



**NASHVILLE:** Cam Fowler #4 of the Anaheim Ducks stands in front of goalie Frederik Andersen #31 as he holds onto Viktor Arvidsson #38 of the Nashville Predators during the first period in Game Six of the Western Conference First Round during the 2016 NHL Stanley Cup Playoffs at Bridgestone Arena on Monday in Nashville, Tennessee. — AFP

## ALL MAJOR TEST NATIONS WANT DAY-NIGHT MATCHES: AUSTRALIA

**MELBOURNE:** The cricket boards of all major test-playing nations have thrown their support behind day-night matches and nearly half intend to host a game under lights in the next 12 months, according to Cricket Australia boss James Sutherland.

Australia hosted the first day-night test against New Zealand in Adelaide last year and will play Pakistan in another match under lights in Brisbane in December. South Africa's players have balked at an invitation to play Australia in a day-night match in November, however, citing concerns about the specially developed pink ball and their relative inexperience playing it.

Sutherland, who met with South African officials during an International Cricket Council meet-

ing in Dubai on Sunday, said no final decision on the Adelaide test could be expected until Proteas players returned home from the Indian Premier League tournament.

But he said day-night tests in general had unanimous support from the top nations' boards. "What I heard from (ICC) full member country CEOs in meeting was a very broad-ranging commitment to day-night test cricket and indeed three or four full member countries are planning on hosting test cricket under lights in the course of the next 12 months, which is very encouraging," Sutherland told reporters at CA's Melbourne headquarters yesterday. "Certainly India, Pakistan are very keen to play day-night test cricket, I know New Zealand are

also keen. "To a person, full member countries and their CEOs stated their absolute support of test cricket being played under lights."

The first day-night test drew huge crowds to Adelaide Oval and big television audiences, helping to offset disappointing attendances to the season-opening tests against New Zealand in Brisbane and Perth.

CA and players on both sides hailed the match a success in the aftermath but South Africa captain AB de Villiers told local media last week that his team had been discouraged from committing to the day-night test in Adelaide after getting feedback from Australian players, including captain Steve Smith. —Agencies



Rafael Nadal

## WIMBLEDON TO BEEF UP MEASURES AGAINST DOPING

**LONDON:** The Wimbledon championships will protect its squeaky clean image with

### WIMBLEDON WINNERS TO GET £2M EACH

**LONDON:** Winners of the men's and women's singles titles at this year's Wimbledon will each receive £2 million (\$2.9 million), the All England Lawn Tennis Club said yesterday. Overall prize money for the tournament has been increased by five percent to £28.1 million for what is now the only one of tennis' four major tournaments played on grass.

Last year, reigning Wimbledon singles champions Novak Djokovic and Serena Williams each won £1.88 million. But the US Open continues to be the Grand Slam event with the biggest prize fund. Last year it paid out \$42.3 million, with \$3.3 million going to each of the singles champions. This year's Wimbledon will also feature enhanced anti-doping measures following the admission by former champion Maria Sharapova that she had been taking the banned substance, meldonium.

And there will also be "increased investment" in anti-corruption systems after allegations during January's Australian Open that tennis authorities failed to properly investigate possible fixing incidents involving 16 players. "Our increased investment in promoting integrity in light of the recent focus on these areas underlines our determination for Wimbledon to play its part in safeguarding tennis' integrity," said AELTC chief executive Richard Lewis.

Wimbledon chairman Philip Brook refused to say whether any ban for Sharapova would affect her membership of the All England Club which she gained as a Wimbledon champion. "It is hard to say that the reputation of the game has not been hurt," he told the London Evening Standard. "It would be a great shame because Maria is a popular former champion."

The 130th edition of the Wimbledon Championships will be played at the All England Club in southwest London from June 27-July 10. — AFP

enhanced anti-doping and anti-corruption measures for this year's 130th tournament, organisers said yesterday.

Tennis was rocked by allegations of match-fixing on the eve of this year's Australian Open and suffered another blow to its integrity when former Wimbledon champion Maria Sharapova said in February she had failed a drugs test.

At a news conference announcing yet another substantial hike in prize money, the All England Club pledged to beef up its safeguards against sport's two biggest threats. Measures will include data streams and videos of all matches, including in qualifying events, enhanced data monitoring and player education as well as additional anti-doping controls to complement those already run at the tournament by the International Tennis Federation (ITF). "Whether it's integrity or anti-doping we feel we should enhance what we are doing," Richard Lewis, chief executive of the All England Club, told reporters.

"There has been lots of media scrutiny since January and it's appropriate that we respond accordingly." The Tennis Integrity Unit (TIU) received no betting alerts during the 2015 championships, but All England Club chairman Philip Brook said the prestigious tournament needed to safeguard public trust, admitting that the sport's image was under threat. "We don't think there is a big issue but we will do whatever it takes to keep the sport clean," he said. "It's an issue of perception rather than reality."

"I think it's hard to say (this year's events) haven't had an impact," he added. It is still unclear whether provisionally suspended Sharapova, the 2004 champion, will play this year as she is awaiting the outcome of her anti-doping hearing after testing positive for Meldonium at the Australian Open. Brook said her absence would be a "great shame". "She is a former champion here at Wimbledon and very popular with the crowds. But I think in terms of what has happened we need to let due process take its course," he said. No figures were revealed regarding how much the All England Club is investing to safeguard the tournament's integrity. They were more forthcoming about a five percent rise in prize money, taking the total pool to 28.1 million pounds - second only to the US Open.

The winners of the men's and women's singles titles will pocket two million pounds, up 6.4 percent on 2015. First-round losers in the singles will take home 30,000 pounds (\$44,000) — a 161 percent rise from 2011 when Wimbledon pledged to assist those players struggling lower down the rankings. —Reuters



## DEL PIERO, ZOFF PAY TRIBUTE AS MARADONA CLAIMS JUVE BIAS

**MILAN:** Club legends Alessandro Del Piero and Dino Zoff hailed Juventus after the Turin giants' record-equalling fifth consecutive Serie A title on Monday, although former Napoli legend Diego Maradona was not amused.

Juventus, emulating their feat of 1935 when the Turin giants won a fifth straight title for the first time, went 12 points clear of Napoli with a 2-1 win at Fiorentina on Sunday.

Napoli had to beat Roma on Monday to maintain their slim hopes of snatching a first scudetto since 1990 when Maradona was still in his pomp at the San Paolo.

But Maurizio Sarri's men were stunned when Radja Nainggolan hit an 89th-minute winner for Roma in the capital to hand the title to the Old Lady of Turin. Del Piero, who still holds records for the biggest number of goals (290)

and appearances (705) for the club, posted a message on Twitter which read:

"You are part of history. This is Juventus. Well done lads!!!" The claim that Juventus benefit from favourable refereeing decisions still exists in Italy, and their 2-1 win in Florence did little to dispel it. Referee Paolo Tagliavento ruled out a perfectly valid goal from Fiorentina striker Federico Bernardeschi, prompting an outburst from Maradona on Monday. "Fiorentina's goal... was a scandal, a scandal," the Argentine told the In Casa Napoli programme.

"I was watching on television and the Fiorentina goal was cancelled because they were playing against Juventus."

"Juventus have great players in the Italian (football) federation and in the refereeing body, but this is nothing new." Nevertheless, Juventus goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon required no help when

he made a last-gasp penalty save from Croatian Nikola Kalinic.

It capped a sterling season for the 38-year-old shot-stopper, who throughout an incredible career has experienced the lows of relegation to Serie B due to Juve's role in a vast match-fixing affair as well as the highs of being part of Italy's most successful club on the domestic front. Last month Buffon set a new Serie A record for going unbeaten 974 consecutive minutes, surpassing the previous record of 929 minutes held by former AC Milan keeper Sebastiano Rossi.

### 'EVEN MORE PROUD'

"He's had a great season," said former Italy and Juventus legend Zoff.

"Even though we've come to expect that from him, he (Buffon) had a crazy championship. Even yesterday he saved the team with a great penalty save."

Juve coach Massimiliano Allegri, who was rumoured to be close to the exit door last autumn following a disastrous start to their title defence, underlined the champions' impressive comeback.

"I always say that you can only improve by enduring the hard times. Looking at our season, it makes me even more proud," said Allegri, who steered Juventus to their first league and Cup double in 20 years in his first season in charge last year, as well as a first Champions League final appearance in 12 years. "Serie A isn't the final of the 100 metres, but a marathon. You need patience to find the right rhythm."

Defender Leonardo Bonucci, who was seen soaking fans with champagne as they waited at the gates of the club's Vinovo training ground, told Sky Sport: "They had us dead and buried in October, but Juve never die."

Napoli travelled to Roma on Monday—a national holiday in Italy—primarily looking for the win that would keep their third-placed hosts at bay.

But in spite of Gonzalo Higuain returning from a three-match ban, the 30-goal Argentine striker was thwarted three times by Roma keeper Wojciech Szczesny as the hosts snatched a precious win in the penultimate minute of regulation time.

Despite his claims of bias, Maradona admitted Juve's quality had made a significant difference.

"When Sarri looks at his substitutes' bench, he just didn't have the same quality of players as Allegri. That made the difference. "Even if Napoli played better football, you have to tip your hat. Juve have a great coach, a great squad, and the club knows how to go about their business." — AFP

## BAYERN JET OFF TO BEGIN 'MISSION MILAN'

**BERLIN:** Bayern Munich jetted off to Spain hoping to realise their dreams of reaching the Champions League final ahead of today's semi-final, first-leg, against "very, very dangerous" Atletico Madrid.

Boosted by their passionate fans, Atletico's Vicente Calderon stadium is set to offer an intense challenge to Bayern with a place in this year's final on May 28 in Milan at stake.

Diego Simeone's Atletico will provide Pep Guardiola with an acid test in his third and final year in charge of Bayern before coaching Manchester City. The 45-year-old has seen his Bavarian giants knocked out by Spanish opposition at the semi-final stage in both of his previous two full seasons in charge.

"They have a big heart and a very good mentality. This is a top, top team. They are very, very dangerous," warned Bayern's Guardiola, who needs a good result in Madrid ahead of next Tuesday's return at the Allianz Arena. "I know exactly how special Atletico's team is and with how much determination they play."

Bayern's Germany defender Jerome Boateng could return to the starting lineup for the first time since January after a groin injury. "I am ready and I'm there to help the team," he said on a possible inclusion in Bayern's bid to repeat their 2013 tri-

ble of Champions League, Bundesliga and German Cup titles.

### QUALITY

Simeone's Atletico threw down a gauntlet in the quarter-finals by knocking out last year's winners Barcelona while Bayern are bidding to win the European crown for the sixth time.

"Of course we have a goal and that's to reach the final and continue living this dream," said Bayern's chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge before boarding the plane at Munich airport.

"Any team who can shut out Barcelona has a lot of quality."

"This team can hurt anyone and be very unpleasant to play against." Bayern excited the 2014 Champions League semi-finals with a crushing defeat to eventual winners Real Madrid, then succumbed to Barcelona at the same stage of last year's competition. Having again drawn Spanish opposition, Bayern are hoping to make it third time lucky and they expect a battle royal against Atletico's miserly defence which has leaked just 16 goals in La Liga this season. "We have our eyes wide open," said Germany forward Thomas Mueller.

"There will be antics and many one-on-ones in the grey area. It's something we'll have to adjust to." — AFP



**LONDON:** West Bromwich players (L) defend against a shot from Tottenham Hotspur's Danish midfielder Christian Eriksen (R) during the English Premier League football match between Tottenham Hotspur and West Bromwich Albion at White Hart Lane in London, yesterday. — AFP

## POCHETTINO REFUSES TO ACCEPT TOTTENHAM'S TITLE RACE RUN

**LONDON:** Tottenham Hotspur manager Mauricio Pochettino is not ready to concede the Premier League title to Leicester City despite seeing his side drop precious points in a 1-1 draw with West Bromwich Albion.

Monday's result at White Hart Lane left second-placed Spurs seven points behind longtime leaders Leicester with three matches remaining. Leicester can now clinch the title with a victory over Manchester United at Old Trafford on Sunday—the day before Tottenham travel across London to play Chelsea at Stamford Bridge.

"Is it over? No, it's not, because the gap is seven points and there are three left to play," said Pochettino. "It's true that it's very difficult, more so than before this game. Yes, this is very frustrating. "But we need to still believe and keep fighting and be ready for the next game and hope Leicester drop points," the Argentinian, looking to see Spurs crowned champions of England for the first time since 1961, added.

"In the first half, we played very well. In the second, we lost a little bit of the control of the game and allowed them to believe and to create chances. When you do not kill the game, you always allow them to believe," explained Pochettino after Albion defender Craig Dawson made amends for his 33rd-minute own-goal by heading home an equaliser 17 minutes from time. "We need to be calm and assess the season. So far it has been fantastic. We still need to

fight and improve. "But no complaints. We are very proud since the start of the season on how we have played and worked."

### ALLI INCIDENT

Pochettino said he had not seen the video circulating on Twitter during the game which showed Spurs' Dele Alli appearing to punch Albion midfielder Claudio Yacob late in the first half. This is not the first time the 20-year-old has shown a mean streak, most notably in a Europa League tie with Fiorentina when he escaped with a booking for kicking Serbian defender Nenad Tomovic.

"The behaviour of Dele after Fiorentina has been fantastic," said Pochettino. "You know sometimes the opponent tries to find him and to provoke him as they know he has a strong character and might react."

"But I did not see it. I don't know what happened." When Albion manager Tony Pulis was asked about that incident, he laughed.

"Yacob hasn't complained," he said, "but then he is a tough lad."

Pulis commended his players for the fight shown in the second half, especially after the disappointment of losing 2-0 to Arsenal at the Emirates last Thursday.

The Welshman also acknowledged his side's improved performances away to the so-called "bigger" teams in the Premier League.

"I am very pleased in the way that we have played away from home against the bigger clubs this year. "We did smashing at (Manchester) City, got beat late on at Man Utd, and did well at Chelsea. All the big clubs, we played well—Arsenal is the only ground at which we have been disappointing at. So, it was important they had a go tonight."

Pulis added: "Tottenham are a fantastic team. The future here is bright here over next the couple of years."

"One thing that has not been said about this title race between the two clubs is the fact that Tottenham have played a lot of games on a Thursday night. I have experienced that and playing Thursdays and Sundays is difficult."

"So, for Tottenham, even though they are disappointed now, to be where they are at the moment is a fantastic achievement." — AFP



**Matches on TV**  
(Local Timings)

**UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE**  
**Atletico Madrid v Bayern Munich 21:45**  
beIN SPORTS 1 HD  
beIN SPORTS 2 HD



**MADRID:** Atletico's Fernando Torres smiles during a news conference at the Vicente Calderon stadium in Madrid, yesterday. Atletico Madrid will play a Champions League semi final, 1st leg soccer match against Bayern Munich today. — AP

## LEICESTER ONE WIN AWAY FROM 'INCREDIBLE' TITLE TRIUMPH

**LONDON:** Leicester will complete an "incredible" Premier League title triumph and be crowned champions of England for the first time in their history if they beat Manchester United at Old Trafford on Sunday. Tottenham Hotspur, the only team who can deny the Midlands club the title, lost ground with a 1-1 draw at home to West Bromwich Albion on Monday that meant they were seven points behind with three games left to play. Even if Leicester, 5,000/1 rank outsiders in pre-season to win the Premier League after narrowly avoiding relegation last term, slip up at Old Trafford the Foxes will still be in pole position to finish the season as champions. "There's still work to do but, in most people's eyes, it is done and dusted," former Leicester defender Matt Elliott told BBC Radio Five. "Leicester can win the title at Old Trafford... it sounds incredible. I'm covering it on the radio and there are three of us going up in the car. If they win, it won't be me driving home." This season has seen Midlands club Leicester leave established Premier League giants such as Manchester City, Arsenal and defending champions Chelsea well behind them. Owned by Thai billionaire Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha, Leicester have already qualified for the Champions League for the first time in a season where only the three promoted clubs—Watford, Norwich and Bournemouth—started at longer odds to win the Premier League.

Foxes manager Claudio Ranieri, who replaced sacked former Leicester boss Nigel Pearson in pre-season, was derided as the 'Tinkerman' when he first made his name in English football as Chelsea manag-

er from 2000-04. But under the Italian's guidance the likes of Algeria winger Riyad Mahrez, named last week as the Professional Footballers' Association Player of the Year, and leading scorer Jamie Vardy have enjoyed the best seasons of their careers, with the Foxes all-action game proving hard to resist in a campaign where they've lost just three league games to date. When Leicester appointed Ranieri, lifelong Foxes fan and former England striker Gary Lineker, who started his career with his hometown club, tweeted.

### 'CLAUDIO RANIERI, REALLY?'

Lineker subsequently admitted: "Oh how wrong I was, how wonderfully, spectacularly, blissfully wrong."

The only downside for Leicester's best-known supporter is that it looks as if he may have to make good on a promise to present the BBC's flagship Match of the Day football programme in his underpants if the Foxes win the title. "I've kind of said I'll have to do it," Lineker told the Radio Times magazine in an interview published Tuesday. "I've told them many times, 'Please tell me I can't do it.'"

"When I sent the tweet in December I categorically knew there was zero chance that (Leicester) would win." Leicester will be without Vardy at Old Trafford after the Football Association gave him an additional one-match ban on Tuesday for improper conduct following his red card against West Ham. But they were without the England forward last weekend as well and still beat Swansea City 4-0. It's been that sort of season for Leicester. — AFP

## BAYERN CONFIRM NEGOTIATIONS WITH HUMMELS

**BERLIN:** German league leaders Bayern Munich yesterday confirmed they are negotiating with Borussia Dortmund's Germany defender and club captain Mats Hummels.

Should he sign for Bayern for next season, Hummels would be the third big-name Dortmund star to quit Borussia for Munich in the last three years after midfielder Mario Goetze in 2013 and striker Robert Lewandowski in 2014. Dortmund's CEO Hans-Joachim Watzke has already said he expects Hummels to join Bayern for next season, even though his Borussia contract runs until June 2017.

"Basically, I can confirm what Mr Watzke has said; Mats is dealing with Bayern," chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge said as the Munich club jetted off for today's Champions League semi-final first leg at Atletico Madrid. "But every transfer is a three-way business, so we have to wait calmly. "You have to respect his current contract in view of our proper relationship with Borussia Dortmund, we have to be considerate." Dortmund, who will likely finish second behind Bayern in the Bundesliga, will be back in the Champions League next season, but Hummels, along with midfielders Ilkay Gundogan and Henrikh Mkhitaryan, is one of three stars out of contract next season.

Borussia want to extend all three contracts, but Gundogan is almost certain to join Manchester City to work with current Bayern coach Pep Guardiola next season.

Gundogan's agent met City's director of sport Txiki Begiristain in Amsterdam last month, while reports in the UK media claim a five-year contract has already been signed.

Mkhitaryan has been linked to Chelsea, although he is the one most likely to stay.

Hummels joined Dortmund from Bayern in 2008 and Watzke is realistic about whether he will stay. "I believe that if he (Hummels) goes, it will be in the direction of Munich," said Watzke.

"He still has unfinished business with the club (Bayern Munich). His father, his mother and his brother all live in Munich. "His girlfriend comes from Munich, he's from Munich too—so a whole lot of components have already come together."

Watzke says he can understand Hummels' deliberations. "We have to accept when someone like Mats, who has already played for Borussia Dortmund for eight years, is 27 and would come to think: 'Am I going to play for Borussia Dortmund for my entire career, or will I do something else?'" said Watzke.



**BERLIN:** This file photo taken on May 17, 2014 shows Dortmund's defender Mats Hummels reacting during the DFB German Cup final football match BVB Borussia Dortmund vs Bayern Munich at the Olympic Stadium in Berlin. — AFP



# Sports

Westbrook leads  
Thunder past  
Mavericks,  
OKC wins series



Brouwer puts  
Blues over top,  
Blackhawks  
eliminated



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DAVID SURVIVES NAIL-BITER AT WOMEN'S SQUASH WORLDS Page 17



MANCHESTER: Manchester City's Vincent Kompany jumps over Real Madrid's Carlos Henrique Casemiro during the Champions League semifinal soccer match between Manchester City and Real Madrid, at the City of Manchester stadium in Manchester, England, yesterday. — AP

## MAN CITY HOLD REAL TO STAY IN HUNT FOR FINAL

MANCHESTER: Champions League top-scorer Cristiano Ronaldo was a frustrated spectator as his Real Madrid side played out a slow-burning 0-0 draw at Manchester City in yesterday's semi-final first leg.

Injury prevented the Portuguese superstar from adding to his 16-goal tally and in his absence the visitors were unable to convert the handful of chances they created, with a sensational late Joe Hart save to deny Pepe the closest either side came to a goal at the Etihad Stadium. As an occasion, City's first semi-final appearance in the competition was a let-down, but by preventing Madrid from notching an away goal they safeguarded their hopes of reaching the final ahead of next week's return leg at the

Bernabeu. There was concern, though, for Manuel Pellegrini's side in the shape of a first-half injury to Spanish playmaker David Silva, which leaves both him and Madrid counterpart Zinedine Zidane sweating on the fitness of key attackers going into the teams' reunion.

Neither fellow semi-finalists Bayern Munich nor Atletico Madrid, however, were given much to sweat about by the on-pitch fare. City's semi-final arrival was an event seven and a half years in the making for the club's Emirati owners and there was a carefully stage-managed attempt to generate an atmosphere prior to kick-off, with fans given blue and silver foil flags and a flurry of streamers greeting the teams. The star

attraction, alas, was on the bench, glowering in a grey Real Madrid anorak. Ronaldo took his place among the visiting officials after failing a pre-match fitness test on a thigh strain.

City seemed determine not to let their guests settle into a rhythm and with Ferdinandinho setting the tempo for their pressing, they did exactly that.

### ZIDANE'S WARDROBE MALFUNCTION

But with neither side able to create any chances, the most notable act of the first half was the departure of Silva after he appeared to injure his thigh in a challenge on Gareth Bale that earned him a booking, which saw 19-year-old Nigerian forward

Kelechi Iheanacho join the fray. Madrid striker Karim Benzema, a pre-match doubt with a knee problem, was replaced at half-time by Jese and despite the touchline exhortations of Zidane, who split his trousers for the second Champions League match running, his side could not find a breakthrough.

When they belatedly hit the target, Sergio Ramos hanging in the air to meet Toni Kroos's corner from the right with a firm header, Hart saved comfortably. And when they conspired to beat Hart, Jese looping a header towards goal from Dani Carvajal's right-wing cross, the crossbar came to the England international's rescue.

City started the second half with a left-

foot sighter from Sergio Aguerro that whistled over the bar, but they did not threaten again until a stoppage-time Kevin De Bruyne free-kick that Keylor Navas tipped over. In the minutes prior to that, the visitors had started to knock on the door. After Bale had given City a scare by curling narrowly wide from the edge of the box, Hart produced two demonstrations of the razor-sharp reflexes that have come to his side's rescue so many times on big European nights.

First, he stuck out his left boot to deflect away a downward header from Casemiro and moments later a starfish-style block prevented Pepe from snatching a late winner from point-blank range. — AFP

## BRITISH POLICE BLAMED FOR SOCCER STADIUM TRAGEDY

WARRINGTON: Police were responsible for the deaths of 96 Liverpool soccer fans in the 1989 Hillsborough stadium crush, a jury concluded yesterday after two years of hearings into Britain's worst sporting disaster. The inquest verdicts of "unlawful killing", which could pave the way for prosecutions, were greeted with a mix of cheers and tears by relatives of the victims, who sang the Liverpool fans' anthem "You'll never walk alone" outside the court in Warrington, northern England.

The families had campaigned for almost three decades to get "Justice for the 96", refusing to accept the deaths were accidental. They said the police, who at first blamed the tragedy on the supporters themselves, had told lies and staged a cover-up of "industrial proportions" to hide their mistakes in managing the crowd surging into the stadium.

"The conspiracy and lies which began on the 15th April 1989 and continued over the years involving police, politicians, and officials of high standing has been the most evil act of man's inhumanity to man," Karen Hankin, whose husband Eric was among those killed, told a news conference.

The fans, many of them young, died in an overcrowded, fenced-in enclosure at the Hillsborough ground in Sheffield, northern England, at an FA Cup semi-final against Nottingham Forest on a sunny spring afternoon. It was one of the world's worst stadi-

um disasters.

Britons were shocked by harrowing images of supporters crushed against metal fences, bodies lying on the pitch and spectators using wooden advertising hoardings as makeshift stretchers.

After the longest jury proceedings ever held in England, the inquest jurors ruled by a 7-2 majority that the fans had been unlawfully killed, finding police commanders had made mistakes in the build-up to the match and on the day itself. The jury absolved Liverpool fans of any role.

The coroner, John Goldring, had told jurors that to return an unlawful killing verdict they would have to be sure that David Duckenfield, the police commander in charge at the match, was responsible for "manslaughter by gross negligence".

Duckenfield had told the inquest he had lied about fans forcing a gate open, and acknowledged that his failure to close an access tunnel had directly caused the loss of lives.

The state Crown Prosecution Service said it was considering whether criminal charges should be brought against individuals or any corporate body. An independent police watchdog is also investigating. The tragedy changed the face of English football. Banks of terracing and metal fences around pitches disappeared, replaced by modern, all-seated venues and better security.

"Landmark day as the Hillsborough



WARRINGTON: People react as they leave the coroner's court in Warrington, north-west England yesterday following the conclusion of the inquest into the 1989 Hillsborough disaster. The 96 Liverpool fans who died in Britain's 1989 Hillsborough football stadium disaster were unlawfully killed, a jury found yesterday following the longest-running inquest in English legal history. — AFP

inquest provides long overdue justice for the 96 Liverpool fans who died in the tragic disaster," Prime Minister David Cameron said on Twitter.

In 2012, Cameron apologised to families of the victims after a damning independent report detailed a catalogue of errors and evidence that police dishonestly tried to deflect blame onto Liverpool fans who they portrayed as being aggressive, drunk, and ticketless. The new inquests were ordered in December that year, when

London's High Court quashed accidental death verdicts from 21 years earlier.

Andy Burnham, a Liverpoolian who speaks on home affairs for the opposition Labour Party, said the tragedy had been "the greatest miscarriage of justice of our times", and people must be held accountable. David Crompton, Chief Constable of South Yorkshire Police said his force "unequivocally" accepted the jury's findings and that they had got the policing on the day "catastrophically wrong". — Reuters

## ICC BLASTS WINDIES FOR T20 OUTBURST OVER PAY DISPUTE

MELBOURNE: The International Cricket Council has criticised West Indies for using their victory speech at the World Twenty20 tournament to complain about their cricket board after a long drawn-out pay dispute.

During the televised broadcast, West Indies captain Darren Sammy referred to the dispute which saw the team threaten to withdraw from the tournament in India before a last-minute deal was brokered with the board.

All-rounder Dwayne Bravo later criticised the West Indies Cricket Board in an interview with a local broadcaster. The ICC said in a media release that the players comments had "inappropriate".

"The (ICC) Board considered the behaviour of some of the West Indies players in the immediate aftermath of the final, and unanimously agreed that certain comments and actions were inappropriate, disrespectful and brought the event into disrepute," the ICC said.

"The Board acknowledged an apology by the WICB but was disappointed to note that such behaviour had detracted from the success of what was otherwise a magnificent tournament and final." The ICC added that "serious consideration" had been given to bringing code of conduct charges against the players.

After West Indies' four-wicket win over England in Kolkata, skipper Sammy said in an interview: "People were wondering whether we would play this tournament. We had a lot of issues, we felt disrespected by our board ... I'm yet to hear from (them). That is very disappointing." — Reuters



# Kuwait Times BUSINESS

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**Ambitious Saudi reforms up against 'vested interests'**

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**KIPCO announces 13% jump in Q1 net profit**

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**AL-MAZAYA HOLDING REPORTS KD1.86M NET PROFIT FOR Q1**

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**JAKARTA: Traffic at the Hotel Indonesia roundabout in Jakarta. The capital city of Indonesia is one of the worst cities in the world for traffic jams. — AFP**

## OOREDOO KUWAIT POSTS KD 175M REVENUE FOR Q1 2016 NET PROFIT MORE THAN TRIPLES, CUSTOMER NUMBER INCREASES BY 3%

**KUWAIT:** National Mobile Telecommunications Company KSCP- NMTC (Ooredoo) yesterday announced its financial results for the first quarter of 2016:

### Financial Highlights:

\* Total customer base increased by 2.8 to 24.1 million at the close of Q1 2016, versus 23.5 million for the same period in 2015.

\* Revenues for Q1 of 2016 stood at KD 175.3 million, compared with KWD 174.3 million for the same period in 2015, an increase of 0.6.



**Sheikh Saud Bin Nasser Al-Thani.**

\* EBITDA for Q1 2016 was KD 56.9 million, compared to EBITDA of KWD 57.4 million for the same period in 2015.

\* The net profit attributable to NMTC in Q1 2016 was KWD 10.2 million compared with a Net Attributable Profit of KWD 2.2 million for the same period in 2015. The increase was supported by good performances in Algeria and the Maldives.

\* The consolidated Earnings per Share was 20.4 fils, compared to 4.5 fils per share earned for the same period last year.

Sheikh Saud Bin Nasser Al-Thani, Chairman of Ooredoo Kuwait (NMTC) commented: "Ooredoo has delivered a robust set of results for the first quarter of the year. Despite the challenges of the current economic climate, we maintained steady revenue and EBITDA, with EBITDA margin only slightly impacted, down 1. Significantly, net profit, at more than KD 10 million, performed strongly against net profit of KD 2.2 million for the first quarter of 2015.

"Ooredoo Kuwait delivered a strong performance for the quarter as the business continued to roll out the latest generation of high speed services, which drove revenues by 13 to KD 50 million. EBITDA grew significantly by 4.5 to KD 10.2 million. "Ooredoo Algeria increased its customer base by over 4 to more than 13 million as the business maintained its first mover data advantage. In local currency terms revenue and EBITDA increased. Net Profit reached positive territory of KD 4.6 million.

"Ooredoo Tunisia's results for the quarter were impacted by the ongoing challenging conditions of the economy as well as the business' strategy to spend more on customer acquisition cost. Market leadership position was maintained.

"Both Wataniya Palestine and Ooredoo Maldives performed well in the period. Wataniya Palestine increased customers by nearly 13 and delivered net profit for the first time. Ooredoo Maldives had a strong quarter, delivering growth across the business which resulted in net profit for the period surging more than 100.

"Ooredoo continues to deliver world leading communications services to its customers. The attractiveness of our services, and the ability to



communicate and access services by our consumers and business customers, continues to generate value for our shareholders."

### Review of operations

The Group's operational performance can be summarized as follows:

#### Ooredoo - Kuwait

Ooredoo's customer base in Kuwait was 2.4 million at the end of Q1 2016, a decrease of 3.6 on the same period in 2015. Revenues for Q1 2016 were KD 50.0 million, an increase of 12.8 compared to 2015 of KD 44.3 million. EBITDA was KWD 10.2 million versus EBITDA for Q1 2015 of KD 9.8 million, an increase of 4.5. Net Profit was at

KD 2.4 million compared to KD 3.0 million for the same period in 2015.

#### Ooredoo - Tunisia

Ooredoo's Tunisia customer base was 7.5 million at the end of Q1 2016, an increase of 1 on the same period in 2015. The security situation in Tunisia continues to impact the economy and the results in KD are impacted by the depreciation of the Tunisian Dinar.

Revenues for Q1 2016 were KD 33.8 million compared to revenues for the same period in 2015 of KD 36.3 million. EBITDA was KD 11.4 million compared to KD 15.1 million for the same period in 2015. The Net Attributable Profit to Ooredoo for Q1 2016 was KD 0.5 million compared to KD 2.0 million for the same period in 2015.

#### Ooredoo - Algeria

Ooredoo's customer base in Algeria at the end of Q1 of 2016 was 13.2 million customers, an increase of 4.4. The Algerian Dinar depreciated significantly compared with the same period last year, significantly impacting the results reported in KD. Revenues for Q1 2016 were KD 76.9 million, compared to revenues of KD 82.3 million for the same period in 2015. EBITDA for Q1 2016 was KD 29.2 million, a decrease of 1.7 on KD 29.7 million for the same period in 2015. The Net Attributable Profit to Ooredoo for Q1 of 2016 was KD 4.6 million compared to a Net Attributable Loss of KD 3.5 million for the same period in 2015.

#### Wataniya - Palestine

The total customer base for Wataniya Mobile Palestine at the end of Q1 2016 was 0.7 million, an increase of 12.8 from the same period of 2015. Revenues for Q1 2016 were KD 6.2 million an increase of 8.8 compared to the revenues of KD 5.7 million for the same period in 2015. EBITDA for Q1 2016 was KD 1.8 million compared to an EBITDA of KD 0.5 million for the same period in 2015. The Net Attributable Profit for Q1 of 2016 stood at KD 0.04 million compared to a Net Attributable Loss of KD 0.6 million for the same period in 2015.

#### Ooredoo - Maldives

Maldives total customer base at the end of Q1 2016 was 0.4 million, an increase of 14.8 from the same period of 2015. Revenues for Q1 2016 were KD 8.3 million an increase of 45.8, compared to KD 5.7 million for the same period 2015. EBITDA for the Q1 2016 was KD 4.7 million an increase of 69.8, compared to an EBITDA of KD 2.7 million. The Net Attributable Profit for Q1 2016 was KD 2.5 million compared to the Net Attributable Profit of KD 1.3 million for the same period in 2015.

## US CONSUMER CONFIDENCE SLIPS, DURABLE GOODS ORDERS REBOUND

**WASHINGTON:** US consumers were feeling a little less confident in April, even though the stock market was rebounding from its February lows. The Conference Board said Tuesday its consumer confidence index dropped to 94.2 this month after rising to 96.1 in March.

The April report showed confidence on a sideways path, with modest progress in one month followed by a slight retreat in the following month. Consumers' assessment of current conditions improved in April, which could suggest that the economy is growing at a stable pace. But their expectations for the future fell to a two-year low. Paul Ashworth, chief US economist at Capital Economics said that the recent rise in gasoline prices seemed to be offsetting the rebound that has occurred in the stock market. "Consumer confidence has trended lower in recent months, but the fundamentals for consumption remain encouraging," Ashworth said.

He noted that the labor market remains strong, interest rates are low and the price of such key household assets such as homes and stocks were on the rise.

Ashworth said the reading for consumer confidence was consistent with consumer spending growing at around a 2 percent rate, an improvement over the 1.5 percent spend-

ing growth he has forecast for the first quarter. Economists closely watch consumer spending because it accounts for 70 percent of economic activity.

Meanwhile, orders for long-lasting US manufactured goods rebounded less than expected in March as demand for automobiles, computers and electrical goods slumped, suggesting the downturn in the factory sector was far from over. The Commerce Department said yesterday that orders for durable goods, items ranging from toasters to aircraft meant to last three years or more, increased 0.8 percent last month after declining 3.1 percent in February.

Non-defense capital goods orders excluding aircraft, a closely watched proxy for business spending plans, were unchanged after a downwardly revised 2.7 percent decrease in the prior month.

These so-called core capital goods orders were previously reported to have decreased 2.5 percent in February. Economists polled by Reuters had forecast durable goods orders advancing 1.8 percent last month and orders for manufactured capital goods increasing 0.8 percent. Prices of US Treasuries pared losses and US stock futures gave up some gains after the data. The dollar was trading lower against a basket of currencies. — Agencies

## SAUDI FALLS AS REFORM EUPHORIA FADES

### MIDEAST STOCK MARKETS

**DUBAI:** Shares in Saudi Arabia pulled back yesterday as local short-term investors booked profits in stocks that had jumped when Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman announced economic reforms on Monday. Riyadh's stock index, which had gained 2.5 percent on Monday mainly from banks that could win business handling the government's privatization plans, dropped 1.6 percent. Trading volume shrank by almost one-third.

Samba Financial Group, lead underwriter of the recent initial public offer of Middle East Healthcare, dropped 5.3 percent after rocketing 9.3 percent on Monday.

Because the reforms will take years, most fund managers do not expect any immediate, extended rally of the overall stock market. "The implications for Saudi non-oil growth would provide a meaningful uplift to Saudi earnings in the medium to long term," said Mohamed Eljamal, head of asset management at Abu Dhabi-based Waha Capital. Khaled Abdel Majeed, managing partner at London-based asset manager MENA Capital, said his fund might conceivably put more money into Saudi Arabia in the wake of the reform announcement, but would do so very selectively. "At the moment the Saudi market is 15 times trailing earnings for 2015, but earnings in the first quarter of 2016 were flat, so zero growth, so if you annualise that and assume there will be no growth in 2016, then you are talking forward

earnings of 15 times," he said.

"At that price, I don't think I am being paid enough to take that risk. If it was trading at 10 times, then yes, maybe." However, some stocks gained yesterday on the belief their industries would benefit from the reforms. Saudi Arabian Mining Co (Ma'aden) rose 0.6 percent. One target of the economic plan is to raise the mining industry's contribution to gross domestic product to 97 billion riyals (\$25.9 billion) and increase the number of jobs in the sector by 90,000 by 2020.

Builder Abdullah Al-Khodari Sons climbed 2.0 percent after Prince Mohammed said on Monday that all state infrastructure projects were continuing. Khodari earns a major part of its revenue from government contracts and last year was awarded a contract from Ma'aden for work on a phosphate complex.

Al-Khaleej Training climbed 0.4 percent and Mouwasat, which runs and manages medical centres across the kingdom, rose 0.2 percent. Education and training are expected to be central to the effort to modernize the Saudi economy.

#### UAE, EGYPT

Elsewhere in the Gulf, earnings determined market performance with Dubai's Emaar Malls, a unit of Emaar Properties, jumping 4.2 percent after it reported a 22 percent rise in first-quarter net profit as rental income grew. The commercial real estate operator made a net profit of 529 mil-

lion dirhams (\$144.03 million), beating EFG Hermes' forecast of 451.9 million dirhams.

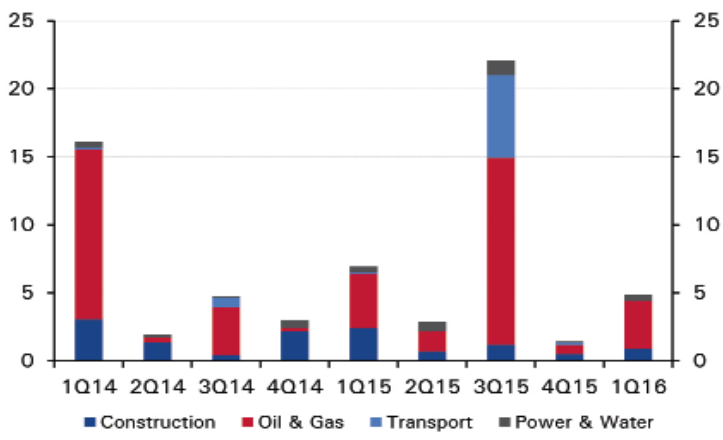
Emaar Properties, which has not yet reported earnings, rose 1.2 percent. But telecommunications operator du edged down 0.6 percent after it reported a 1.4 percent fall in first-quarter net profit because it paid a higher rate of tax than a year earlier. The firm made a net profit of 480.1 million dirhams; analysts at EFG Hermes and SICO Bahrain had forecast 480.7 million dirhams and 501.6 million dirhams respectively.

Dubai's main index added 0.2 percent, but neighboring Abu Dhabi's index dropped 1.1 percent, weighed down by blue chips. The emirate's largest listed stock, telecommunications operator Etisalat, retreated 2.1 percent after it reported an 8 percent fall in first-quarter net profit. Etisalat made a net profit of 2.00 billion dirhams, after analysts at EFG Hermes and SICO Bahrain forecast 1.93 billion dirhams and 1.99 billion dirhams respectively. Dana Gas tumbled 3.5 percent after chief executive Patrick Allman-Ward said it had not been able to reach an acceptable deal with Iran on natural gas imports into the United Arab Emirates, and that an arbitration process would continue.

In Egypt, which was closed on Monday for a public holiday, the main index climbed 1.9 percent to 7,889 points, its highest close since mid-August last year. Foreign investors were aggressive buyers of Egyptian shares, bourse data showed, with some of their top picks leading gains. — Reuters



Chart 1: Awarded projects (\$ billion)



Source: MEED Projects, NBK

Chart 2: Kuwait's projects market (\$ billion, planned and active projects)



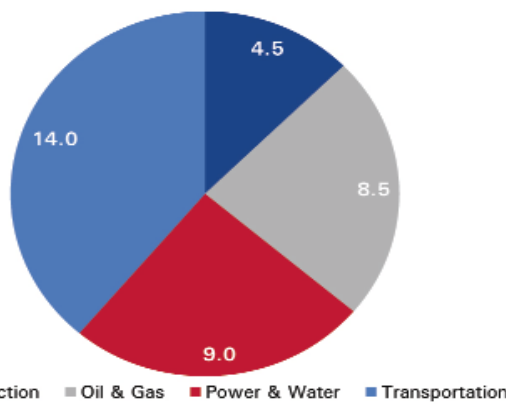
Source: MEED Projects

# KUWAIT PROJECTS OFF TO A GOOD START IN 2016

## KD1.5 BILLION WORTH OF CONTRACTS AWARDED IN 1Q16

### NBK ECONOMIC REPORT

Chart 3: Planned projects for 2016 (\$ billion)



Source: MEED Projects, NBK

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait's projects market continues to expand against a backdrop of low oil prices and its impact on government finances. Kuwait awarded KD 1.5 billion (\$4.8 billion) worth of contracts in 1Q16, according to MEED Projects. This brought the total size of the local projects market (private and public, active and planned) to KD 76.6 billion (\$254 billion), an increase of 2.8 percent year-to-date.

Looking ahead to the rest of 2016, Kuwait is expected to award KD 10.8 billion (\$35 billion) worth of contracts before year-end. This figure has been revised down from the KD 16 billion reported earlier due to changes in the awarding schedule. The Kuwaiti government remains committed to its infrastructure development plan, however, and has stressed that development projects will move ahead in 2016 regardless of the trajectory of oil prices. According to MEED Projects, Kuwait has already prequalified companies for more than 60 percent of the projects it has planned this year.

Below is a breakdown of major project developments according to sector.

#### Oil & gas

The overhaul of the Mina Abdullah and Mina Al-Ahmadi refineries, known as the Clean Fuels Project (CFP), has been pushed to 2019, according to a report by MEED. The KD 3.7 billion (\$12 billion) project aims to upgrade both the quality and quantity of Kuwait's refined petroleum products. The project was originally scheduled for completion in 2017.

In 1Q16, KNPC awarded its largest contract for the year: a KD 882 million (\$2.9 bn) contract to build the liquefied natural gas (LNG) Import and Regasification Terminal. The project, which will be situated in the Al-Zour area, was awarded to a consortium of South Korea's Hyundai Engineering and Construction (E&C). The terminal includes four full-containment LNG tanks with a capacity of 1.5 trillion BTUs a day.

With imports of over 3 million tons in 2015, Kuwait is the Middle East's largest LNG importer. At the same time as it prepares to import additional gas supplies from Qatar, Kuwait is also expanding domestic gas production. Kuwait Oil Company (KOC), the state's upstream operator, has tendered three contracts worth KD 1.7 billion (\$5.7 billion) for the development of Jurassic Non-Associated Gas Reserves in northern Kuwait. The project, which is split into three packages, aims to produce 10,472 tons of natural gas per day. In January, US firm Schlumberger was awarded the KD 144 million (\$480 million) contract to develop the Sabriyah and Umm Niqia fields. Bids for the East & West Raudhatain packages are still being evaluated.

The main contract bid for phase 2 of the Al-Zour North IWPP, which aims to produce 1,800 megawatts (MW) of electricity and 464,100 cubic meters a day of desalinated water, has been pushed to 10 May, when four of the seven prequalified companies are expected to bid in three consortiums. The main contract bid for the KD 450 million (\$1.5 billion) Umm Al-Hayman Wastewater Treatment Plant has been pushed to 28 April, while the bid for the Kabd Municipal Solid Waste Project has been rescheduled to 26 May. It remains unclear whether the delays are related to the recent change in KAPP's management.

Mutlaq Mubarak Al-Sanei was recently appointed to head KAPP after Adel Al-Roumi, who oversaw the authority's mandate since 2008 when it was known as the Partnerships Technical Bureau (PTB), stepped down earlier this year.

KAPP is now at the forefront of Kuwait's economic reform plan after public private partnerships (PPP) were identified as one of the six pillars of Kuwait's economic reform plan. Kuwait's deputy prime minister, finance minister and acting oil minister, Anas Al-Saleh, highlighted the importance of PPPs in an interview with MEED. PPP schemes, according to Al-Saleh, will increase the private sector's involvement in infrastructure projects. Kuwaiti citizens will be offered a 50 percent equity stake in these schemes through public offerings.

#### Transportation

KAPP also delayed the prequalification process for its national railroad and metro projects. According to MEED, the prequalification process has been moved from the first to the second quarter of this year. KAPP says it is finalizing the feasibility studies for both schemes.

First announced in 2007, the national railroad project has faced numerous delays and obstacles, including over the route of the planned railway line. The project experienced some delay as authorities sought to iron-out some issues with the project's path through the farms area in Wafra, but those issues were resolved in December 2015. The railroad will be approximately 575 km long and link up with the proposed GCC railway line by 2018. However, that date looks like being pushed back. Once it is completed, Kuwait's railroad will link the new Mubarak Al-Kabeer Seaport on Boubyan Island with the Shuaikh and Shuaiba ports and connect with Al-Salmi along the Kuwait-Saudi Border.

**Construction**  
Kuwait University is constructing a new campus at Shadiyiah to bring all of the university's 14 faculties under one roof. The new university will accommodate up to 30,000 students. In January, the university awarded the KD 173 million (\$574 million) contract for the administration facilities buildings to China State Construction International Holdings and Combined Group Contracting Company, a joint venture. The package is one of 22 relating to the new campus and includes the construction of a Central Administration Building, Grand Mosque, Conference Center, Library, and Visitor Center. The University was also scheduled to award a contract for the College of Dentistry package this year but the project has been put on hold, MEED reports.

**Power & water**  
Kuwait Authority for Partnership Projects (KAPP) has extended the deadline for three of its projects that were scheduled to be tendered this

# ALAFCO POSTS NET PROFIT OF KD 6.1M IN H1

**KUWAIT:** Vice Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Aviation Lease and Finance Company (ALAFCO) Ahmad A Alzabin, announced that the company earned a net profit of KD 6.1 million (\$ 20.1 million) for the first half of its current fiscal year ended 31 March 2016. That translates to earnings per share of 6.9 fils (\$ 0.02).



Ahmad Alzabin

Alzabin said in a statement released to the press after a meeting of the Board of Directors that 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 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.

# CHINA IMPOSES FRESH CURBS ON COMMODITIES

**BEIJING/MANILA:** Chinese commodities exchanges stepped up efforts yesterday to curb surging prices that some say have been driven by speculators, raising fears of another derivatives bubble after last year's stock market collapse. Transaction fees for iron ore futures were hiked for a second time in as many days, after the original increase led to a sharp drop in iron ore and steel futures in China that helped cool a week-long surge in local commodities markets.

Base metals futures also fell yesterday, while other commodities, including coking coal and cotton, surrendered most of their early gains to end nearly flat. China's top commodity exchanges in Dalian, Shanghai and Zhengzhou increased trading margins and fees in response to last week's spike in prices and volumes, which some analysts said were not matched by fundamentals for the underlying commodities.

The Dalian Commodity Exchange in northeast China said it would raise transaction fees for iron ore and polypropylene futures contracts twice in two days this week. The exchange said yesterday it would also hike transaction fees for coke and coking coal futures contracts starting from April 27.

The most traded September iron ore contract on the Dalian exchange closed down 6

percent at its exchange-set floor of 450.50 yuan (\$69.35) a tonne. It hit 502 yuan on Monday, its strongest since August 2014. Analysts say the spike was largely due to speculators betting that a rise in infrastructure spending in China would lift raw material prices, which have been battered for years by a broad-based glut.

But analysts warned that the rise could flip into an equally precipitous fall. "The speculation-driven futures rallies are not sustainable, and consolidation may have some spillover effects on the spot market," Argonaut Securities' Helen Lau said in a note.

News that China's top steel making province would ban the reopening of steel mills previously ordered to shut down also weighed on sentiment for commodities used in steel making, which include iron ore, coking coal and coke.

#### SHORTAGE OF SOME MATERIALS

On the Shanghai Futures Exchange, rebar - reinforced steel used in construction - fell 3.8 percent to close at 2,554 yuan a ton. Rebar reached a 19-month high of 2,787 yuan on April 21, when its turnover was worth nearly 50 percent more than the total value of trade on the Shanghai stock exchange. — Reuters

Table 1: Projects awarded in 2016 (\$ billion)

Project	Sector	Value
Jurassic Non-Associated Oil & Gas Reserves Expansion: Phase 2	Oil & gas	4.1
LNG Import and Regasification Terminal	Oil & gas	2.9
Al-Zour North IWPP (Phase 2)	Power & water	2.7
Umm Al-Hayman Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion	Power & water	1.5
South Al-Mutlaa City	Construction	1.0
Kabd Municipal Solid Waste	Power & water	0.9
Al-Abdaliya (ISCC) Power Plant (CSP)	Power & water	0.7
Airport Expansion Phase 1: Runway & Taxiways: Package 3	Transport	0.5
Al-Jahra Ministerial Complex	Construction	0.2

Source: MEED Projects, NBK

# OIL RISES BUT THREAT OF SUPPLY SURPRISE LINGERS

**LONDON:** Oil prices rose yesterday, boosted by expectations that demand could grow quickly enough to match supply this year, although concern over a potential battle for market share between Saudi Arabia and Iran limited gains. Front-month Brent crude futures were up by 74 cents at \$45.22 a barrel by 1340 GMT. US crude futures rose 76 cents to \$43.40 a barrel.

"Market fundamentals continue to suggest that the combination of robust demand and weak supply growth will move global oil markets closer into balance by the end of the year," BP Chief Executive Bob Dudley said in a statement after the firm reported stronger-than-expected results.

However, some analysts warned it was too early to call an end to the crude glut as Saudi Arabia and Iran could ramp up output further in a race for customers. "The biggest bear risk to the oil market right now is that Iran's ramp-up accelerates and then that Saudi Arabia does the same," Citi said in a note to clients.

"If anyone had a doubt about Saudi Aramco's ability to use its logistical system and spot sales to increase market share, its recent 730,000-barrel sale of a

cargo to a Chinese teapot refiner in Shandong should lay any doubts to rest," it said. The cargo will be lifted in June from Aramco's storage in Japan's Okinawa prefecture and shipped to China's eastern province of Shandong, Reuters reported.

Citi said it was likely that Saudi Arabia was targeting 500,000 barrels per day (bpd) in new sales to bring its production up to at least 11 million bpd. The oil price has risen by nearly 14 percent in April, putting it on track for its largest monthly gain in a year and some analysts are reluctant to be too optimistic about the prospects of further gains, given that supply and demand are still misaligned to the tune of some 1 million barrels a day.

"I think there is a downside correction due, but it's all about timing," PVM Oil Associates analyst Tamas Varga said. "Maybe all the bulls are looking much further ahead than I do and are looking at the second half of the year, which is going to be less oversupplied than the first half. But on the other hand, the feeling two months ago was that in the second quarter, every single day global stocks would build by 1 or even 2 million barrels." — Reuters

# FIGHT AGAINST ILLEGAL AMAZON GOLD MINING INTENSIFIES

**AMAJARI, Brazil:** After trekking nearly two hours through dense jungle, Brazilian environmental special forces burst into a clearing where the trees had been sawn and a muddy crater dug. An illegal gold mine on indigenous land in the heart of the Amazon. The miners and gold were already gone, scattered by the whir of helicopter blades, but armed troopers in camouflage burned tents and generators. When there was nothing left, they moved on to the next.

The five-day operation last week, led by Brazil's environmental agency Ibama and Indian foundation Funai, located 15 air strips and destroyed 20 barges used to transport equipment and supplies by the estimated 5,000 illegal miners in the vast remote region. At more than 23.5 million acres, the Yanomami people's territory is twice the size of Switzerland and home to around 27,000 indigenous people.

The land has legally belonged to the Yanomami since 1992, but miners continue to exploit the area, sawing down trees and poisoning rivers with mercury in their lust for gold. The mercury has become a growing cause for concern. While miners once killed the Yanomami with guns or disease - nearly 20 percent of the population was wiped out in the 1980s - today the threat is the toxic liquid metal used to separate gold from grit. A study published last month by the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation, a public biomedical research group, found that in some Yanomami villages, 92 percent of residents suffered from mercury poisoning. The results shocked experts, who believe mercury is entering the food chain through fish in polluted rivers. High mercury exposure harms the nervous, digestive and immune systems, can lead to impaired vision and hearing, and can be fatal. — Reuters

**KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN**  
**ELECTRICITY & WATER AUTHORITY**  
**Invitation for Prequalification**  
**Notice No: EWA-PSD-01-2016**

The Kingdom of Bahrain has received a grant from the State of Kuwait through the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, within the Gulf Funds Program, for the funding of Electricity Transmission Works for Normal Growth Demand, hereby, Electricity & Water Authority (EWA) would like to invite prequalification for the following works:

PREQUALIFICATION TITLE	DOCUMENTS FEES - BD	CLOSING DATE/TIME	OPENING DATE
Pre-Qualification of Kuwaiti Companies for the Electricity Transmission Works Packages for Normal Growth Demand in the Kingdom of Bahrain Funded by the State of Kuwait.	25	11.05.2016 13.30	12.05.2016

- The Work Packages are as follows:
  1. 220kV Substation Switchgear Works
  2. 66kV Substation Switchgear Works
  3. 220kV Substation Transformers and Reactors Works
  4. 66kV Substation Transformers Works
  5. 220kV Cable Material Supply, Jointing & Testing
  6. 66kV Cable Material Supply, Jointing & Testing
  7. 220kV Cable Installation and Associated Civil Works
  8. 66kV Cable Installation and Associated Civil Works
  9. 220kV Substations Civil Works
  10. 66kV Substations Civil Works
- All interested Companies who wish to collect Pre-qualification Applications for the project shall pay a non-refundable documents fees as mentioned above for each Work Packages, from 24.04.2016 by either:
  - a) The presence of the Company's representative to EWA's Headquarters in the Diplomatic Area - Kingdom of Bahrain during office hours with a copy of this advertisement to pay the fee in the form of a cheque to the cashier in the Planning & Studies Directorate - 7<sup>th</sup> floor Tel: 0097317996100, 0097317996570, fax: 0097317541189 who then will issue the CD contains an electronic copy of Prequalification Application documents.
  - b) or through bank transfer to the following account:
    - Account No. : 10000025947
    - Bank : BBK
    - Currency : BHD
    - IRAN No. : BH93BBK10010000025947
    - NBB Bank BIC : BBKUBH33

Kindly forward a copy of the payment confirmation to the following e-mail address attaching a copy of this advertisement and full contact details of the company including telephone numbers and e-mail address to receive an electronic copy of Prequalification Application documents.  
[ahussain.khalifa@ewa.bh](mailto:ahussain.khalifa@ewa.bh), Copy to [Salman.Alnakhal@ewa.bh](mailto:Salman.Alnakhal@ewa.bh) & [fuad.khalil@ewa.bh](mailto:fuad.khalil@ewa.bh)

- This Prequalification Invitation is according to the provision of the Law Regulation Government Tenders & Purchases No.(36) of 2002 and its Implementing Regulations issued by Decree No.(37) of 2002 in Kingdom of Bahrain.
- This Prequalification Invitation shall also be according to the provision of the Law Regulations of the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development and if it conflicts with the Regulations of Tender Board of the Kingdom of Bahrain, The Law Regulations of the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development shall supersede.
- The completed Prequalification Applications for the above shall be submitted in one original hard copy and two soft copy in CD (in pdf searchable format), in a sealed envelope marked: "Pre-Qualification of Kuwaiti Companies for the Electricity Transmission Works Packages for Normal Growth Demand in the Kingdom of Bahrain Funded by the State of Kuwait through the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development".
- The Prequalification Applications must be deposited in the box provided in the Tender Board Office at 7<sup>th</sup> floor Al Moayed Tower - Seef Area - Kingdom of Bahrain, The Prequalification Applications are going to be opened at Tender Board's Offices.
- For any query regarding the request, you may Contact: Planning and Studies Directorate, Electricity and Water Authority, PO Box 2, Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain (above-mentioned emails).



# AMBITIOUS SAUDI REFORMS UP AGAINST 'VESTED INTERESTS'

**RIYADH:** Saudi authorities will have to confront a range of vested interests if they hope to pull off an ambitious plan to diversify the economy away from oil, analysts said. The "Vision 2030" plan, unveiled Monday by the powerful Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, aims to transform an economy that has for decades relied mainly on Saudi Arabia's vast oil resources.

At the root of the plan is the sale of less than five percent of state oil giant Saudi Aramco in what officials say will be the largest-ever Initial Public Offering. Proceeds from the sale will help create the world's biggest government investment fund, with a value of \$2 trillion, whose profits can provide an alternative to oil revenues that have been hit by the dramatic fall in crude prices since 2014.

The wide-ranging plan calls for a range of other measures, from increasing household spending on entertainment to boosting the domestic defence industry and bringing more

women into the workforce. With such a sweep, analysts say the plan's boosters could face an array of obstacles.

"Given that the authorities will be coming up against significant vested interests within the royal family, the business elite and the religious establishment, we think that political concerns rather than oil prices are more likely to determine whether the government's plans come to fruition," London-based Capital Economics said in a briefing paper.

## Royal family behind prince?

Patrick Dennis, lead Middle East economist at Oxford Economics, said one factor will be the level of support behind 30-year-old Prince Mohammed, the principle architect of the plan. "We do not know how much MBS can take the rest of the royal family with him," said Dennis, using the prince's initials.

"The challenges are immense in terms of

implementing the required fiscal austerity, and implementing diversification into manufacturing, tourism etc.," he said. Saudi economist Abdulwahab Abu-Daheh called the plan highly ambitious and said it aims to turn a "welfare oil economy" - where the kingdom's oil revenues supported generous social benefits - into one based on managed investments.

"I think we will need plenty of legislation to implement the plan, mainly on simplifying red tape," he told AFP. "The Vision targets are achievable but we need extremely hard work and patience." Some analysts were sceptical of the kingdom's plan to turn its Public Investment Fund into a proper sovereign wealth fund. Capital Economics said "it reflects a shift of balance sheets" rather than any new assets.

"We don't buy into Mohammed bin Salman's assertion that Saudi Arabia will no longer be dependent on oil by 2020," it said. Some also questioned the plan's timing. "Saudi should have

started this kind of program when the oil price was high," an oil industry source said. "It needs time, a long time, to develop."

## 'Ambition and youthful spirit'

Other analysts were more positive. "Why can't we achieve it like countries in the region such as the UAE and Qatar?" asked Mohammed Al-Shumaimri, who leads a financial consultancy group in the Red Sea city of Jeddah.

"The proposed giant sovereign wealth fund will enable Saudi to diversify sources of income... Privatisation of state-owned companies will reduce corruption because it will initiate accountability," he told AFP.

Saxo Bank analyst Christopher Dembik said the kingdom's still-significant financial reserves, and political stability, allow for optimism over the difficult process. "Saudi Arabia has entered a transition phase which will last several dozen years," he said. The kingdom had long talked of

diversifying its economy, the largest in the Arab world but one which remained relatively closed to outsiders.

Only last year were foreign institutions allowed to invest directly on the Tadawul All-Shares Index. The bourse, which jumped more than two percent after the plan's announcement on Monday, closed down 1.6 percent yesterday. On Twitter, a popular outlet in the tightly controlled kingdom, Saudi reaction was mixed. "What transformation is this? It's already late, might as well make it 2035 just in case," user @salShabanH wrote.

But many others praised the plan and in particular Prince Mohammed. "No worries for a nation whose vision is being planned by a man like this," @alobisan wrote.

Saudi citizen Sultan Tamimi, who at 27 is a couple of years younger than the prince, said "the nation was reborn" by the plan, which showed "ambition and youthful spirit". — AFP

## THREE DAYS LEFT TO ENTER AL-DANAH QUARTERLY DRAW

**KUWAIT:** The countdown to the 2nd quarterly Al-Danah draw for 2016 is winding down and there are three days remaining for customers to open an Al-Danah account or increase their deposits, as to enhance their chances of winning the KD250,000 cash prize.

Opening an Al-Danah account merely requires a minimum balance of KD 200 to be deposited as to allow active participation in the Al-Danah draws. Minors wishing to open an account require their parents or their legal guardian to open the account on their behalf. Customers are advised to maintain the minimum balance, allowing them to automatically enter the Al-Danah Draws. The Al-Danah account offers the daily draw, three quarterly draws as well as an annual draw. The daily draw has two winners drawn for every working day and accordingly up to 10 winners announced the following week with each receiving KD1000. The three quarterly draws take place every 3 months; their cash prizes range from KD200,000 - KD500,000. Finally, the annual draw, offers the biggest single prize in the Middle East, that being the KD million cash prize. The more customers save, and the longer the duration, the more chances they have to be one of the lucky winners of Al-Danah's draws.

### Five reasons why the Al-Danah account is the Best:

- 1) Kuwait's single biggest yearly cash prize of KD 1 million
- 2) Kuwait's biggest quarterly cash prizes, up to KD500,000
- 3) Two winners of KD1,000 every working day
- 4) The most chances to win
- 5) Only bank that transfers your chances to win from year to year

Open an account and Deposit now to Win Big, Live big, with Al-Danah 2016.

Gulf Bank would like to remind its customers that opening an Al-Danah Account is quick and simple through its 56 branches strategically located throughout Kuwait. Customers are encouraged to go to their nearest Gulf Bank branch or call the Customer Contact Center on 1805 805 and the Customer Care Center representatives will be delighted to assist with any further information or questions on Al Danah or on any of the Bank's products and services.

## BREXIT, A NEW THREAT TO TRANSATLANTIC TRADE TALKS

**WASHINGTON:** It's hard enough for the leaders of the United States and the European Union to muster public support for the ambitious TTIP transatlantic trade talks. Now they have the threat of Brexit. The British will vote in a referendum on exiting the EU in June, raising a huge question mark over talks on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership. That is placing ever heavier pressure on the TTIP negotiators, who just opened their 13th round of talks in New York on Monday.

As one of the largest trading economies of the European Union, Britain would play a major role in TTIP, which would create the world's largest free-trade zone. TTIP aims to ease non-trade barriers and harmonize bureaucratic rules that impede commerce and investment between the European Union and the United States. Speaking in Germany on Sunday, US President Barack Obama urged the two sides to push for a final deal by the end of the year, as his eight years in the White House wrap up.

But Britain's focus has now become its spat with the 28-member EU as the country plunges into a heavily politicized domestic fight over pulling out. The June 23 vote does not change the goal of the talks, which have been going on for three years. But for some experts, a British split from the EU could be devastating to TTIP prospects. "If British people vote to leave the EU, it will put the TTIP talks in shambles," said Gary Hufbauer, a former US Treasury official now with the Peterson Institute for International Economics in Washington. "There will be no way of going forward because there will be so many uncertainties."

Edward Alden, a trade expert at the Council on Foreign Relations, says a British exit would throw the whole TTIP project "into the air" as the European Union and Britain struggle to adjust. "Conclusion of the TTIP would fall down on the agenda," he said. "Everybody would be scrambling to try to figure out what is the new relationship between Great Britain and Europe." — AFP

## ATLAS MARA FUNDING IN PLACE FOR BARCLAYS' AFRICA BID

**LONDON:** Atlas Mara, the African investment vehicle of former Barclays boss Bob Diamond, has held discussions with investors with a view to making a bid for Barclays' African business, it said yesterday.

Atlas said such an acquisition would help it accelerate its strategy to build a major financial firm across sub-Saharan Africa and that it had already lined up funding for an offer, without elaborating on what form the financing would take. "The consortium has committed, long-term strategic investors, the funding is in place," Diamond said on a conference call.

Atlas Mara's equity at the end of 2015 was \$625 million, while Barclays Africa has a market value of \$8.47 billion, causing some analysts to question whether they can muster the financial fire power to make a serious offer. "I am very skeptical that they can pull it off quite frankly," said Zoran Milojevic, a director at Auerbach Grayson, a New York brokerage specialising in emerging and frontier markets.

"However, if this were to happen, they would certainly jump a lot of hurdles, and join the proper playing field in African banking." Private equity group Carlyle is one member of the consortium, a source familiar with the matter told Reuters this week following media reports of the US fund's interest. Barclays said this year it would sell down its 62 percent stake in Barclays Africa to focus on other divisions. While its business is mainly in South Africa, it has operations in Botswana, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, Mozambique and Seychelles. — Reuters

## This Publication is for Promotional Purposes

### Invitation to participate in the Subordinated Tier 2, Basel III compliant bonds to be issued (up to KD 100,000,000) by Gulf Bank K.S.C.P. due 2026 composed of Kuwaiti Dinar Bonds up to 50 Million Fixed Rate Bonds at 6.50% Due 2026 ("Fixed Rate Bonds") and Kuwaiti Dinar Bonds up to 50 Million Floating Rate Bonds at 4.00% + Central Bank of Kuwait Discount Rate Due 2026 ("Floating Rate Bonds")

#### Overview of the offering

**Issuer:** Gulf Bank K.S.C.P.

**Commercial Registration:** 0347

**Bond Type:** Kuwaiti Dinar denominated Subordinated Tier II Basel III compliant bonds

**Principal Amount:** Up to KWD 100 million

**Denomination:** KWD 50,000 per bond

**Number of Bonds:** Total offering of up to 2,000 bonds at KWD 50,000 per bond

**Minimum Subscription Amount:** KWD 100,000

**Tenors:** 10 years and not callable before year 5

**Call Option:** The Bonds may be redeemed in full or in part at the option of the Issuer subject to the Redemption Conditions (as defined in the Terms and Conditions of the Issue) and with prior written approval of the CDK after the completion of five annual periods from the date of issuance or at any coupon payment date thereafter, together with interest accrued to the date fixed for redemption. The Issuer does not confirm nor create any expectation that the call will be exercised. Further the Issuer cannot exercise the Call Option unless:

a. the Issuer replaces the Bonds with capital of the same or better quality and the replacement of this capital is done at conditions which are in line with the financial capacity of the Issuer; OR

b. The Issuer demonstrates that its capital position is well above the total applicable capital requirements after the Call option is exercised. This should be subject to an assessment of the Issuer's capital adequacy by the CDK.

**Conversion:** None.

**Put Option:** None - the investors have no right to accelerate the repayment of the Bonds (coupon or principal) except in Bankruptcy and liquidation.

**Bond Rating:** As of April 2016, BBB by Capital Intelligence.

**Coupon Rate: Fixed Rate Bonds:** For the period preceding the Reset Date, (as defined in the prospectus) the Interest Rate will be fixed at 6.50% per annum payable Quarterly in arrears. For the period following the Reset Date, the Interest Rate will be the sum of: (i) the Discount Rate of the Financial Regulator, calculated in accordance with the Conditions on the Reset Determination Date, and (ii) 4.25%, and payable quarterly. The first payment of interest for the period from and including the Issue Date to but excluding [•] and amounting to KWD 812.5 per KWD 50,000 Bond shall be paid on [•].

**Floating Rate Bonds:** The Interest Rate applicable to the relevant Interest Period shall be determined quarterly by the Fiscal Agent on the relevant Interest Determination Date (as defined in the prospectus). The Interest Rate shall be the sum of the Discount Rate of the Financial Regulator in effect at 12 noon Kuwait time on the Interest Determination Date and 4.00% paid in arrears, provided however that such sum shall never exceed the prevailing Interest Rate attributable to the Fixed Rate Bonds at that time plus 1.00%.

**Use of Proceeds:** The proceeds of the issue of the Bonds will be used by the Bank to increase Tier II capital for purpose of improving the Bank's capital adequacy ratio under the Basel III framework and for general corporate purposes.

**Allocation of Bonds:** The Managers reserve the right to refuse any subscription request or any part thereof or cancel a subscription in whole or in part, as they deem appropriate, and are not constrained by any systematic requirement in the allocation of Bonds. Subscribers will be notified with regards to their allotted number of Bonds and the nominal value assigned to them.

**Status of the Bonds:** the obligations of the Issuer under the Bonds will be direct, general, unconditional, unsecured and subordinated limited recourse obligations of the Bank which at all times will rank (a) junior to all Bank Senior Obligations, (b) pari passu with all Bank Parity Obligations and (c) senior to all Bank Junior Obligations ("Bank Senior Obligations," "Bank Parity Obligations," and "Bank Junior Obligations" all as defined in Condition 2 (Status) from Terms and Conditions of the Issue). Specifically, the Bonds are subordinated to the depositors and general creditors of the Issuer.

**Non-Viability Clause:** The Bonds may be written off in accordance with the requirements and procedures of the CDK at the time of write off, upon the occurrence of the Trigger Events (as defined herein) unless the CDK issues instructions that:

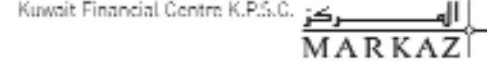
a. Require such bonds in general to be written off upon the occurrence of such events; or

b. Otherwise require such bonds to fully absorb losses before depositors are exposed to loss.

**Trigger Event:** The Non-Viability Trigger Event is the earlier of [1] a decision that a write off, without which the Issuer would become non-viable, is necessary, as determined by the CDK; and [2] the decision to make an injection of capital, or equivalent support, without which the Issuer would have become non-viable, as determined by the CDK.

**Listing and Trading of Bonds:** The Bank may either immediately upon issuance of the Bonds or at some time in the future list the Bonds on the Kuwait Stock Exchange or a foreign securities exchange.

**Joint Lead Managers & Placement Agents:** KAMCO Investment Company K.S.C. (Public)



#### Risk Factors Relating To The Bonds

The main risk factors that may affect the ability of the Bank to fulfill its obligations under the Bonds are highlighted below (for further details on any such risk factors, please obtain a copy of the prospectus for the Bonds at any of the parties listed further below in this notice):

#### 1. Factors that may affect the Bank's ability to fulfil its obligations under the Bonds

- a) Gulf Bank's business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects are and will continue to be affected by global and regional financial markets and economic conditions and any deterioration in economic conditions in Kuwait and the wider MENA region could materially adversely impact Gulf Bank;
- b) Gulf Bank is exposed to credit risk of borrowers and anticipated future growth in, or deterioration in the quality of, Gulf Bank's loan portfolio could result in an increase in its credit risk profile;
- c) Gulf Bank has legacy non-performing loans which could give rise to further losses in the event that Gulf Bank needs to enforce the collateral underlying these loans;
- d) Security interests in loans/guarantees provided in favor of Gulf Bank may not be sufficient to cover any losses and may not be legally enforceable;
- e) Gulf Bank's customer loan portfolios, deposit base and securities portfolios are concentrated in Kuwait;
- f) Gulf Bank has significant individual customer and sector concentrations;
- g) Gulf Bank has significant credit related contingent liabilities and commitments that may lead to potential losses;
- h) The Bank is exposed to reputational risks related to its operations and industry;
- i) Gulf Bank could be adversely affected by the soundness or the perceived soundness of other financial institutions and counterparties, which could result in significant systemic liquidity problems, losses or defaults;
- j) Gulf Bank is subject to the risk that liquidity may not always be readily available or may only be available at costs which may adversely affect its business or results of operations;
- k) Gulf Bank is subject to extensive regulation and changes in this regulation, or the interpretation and enforcement of this regulation, or any failure by Gulf Bank to comply with this regulation could have a material adverse effect on Gulf Bank;
- l) A negative change in Gulf Bank's credit rating could limit its ability to raise funding and may increase its borrowing costs;
- m) The Kuwaiti government is under no obligation to support Gulf Bank and there is no assurance that Gulf Bank will receive future support that is commensurate with the support that it has received in the past;
- n) The banking industry is competitive and, in particular, Gulf Bank is exposed to significant competition in Kuwait;
- o) Gulf Bank's financial condition and results of operations could be adversely affected by market risks;
- p) Gulf Bank is exposed to a range of operational risks. In particular, any failure of Gulf Bank's information technology systems could have a material adverse effect on its business and reputation;
- q) Gulf Bank's risk management policies and procedures may not be effective in all circumstances and may leave it exposed to unidentified or unanticipated risks;
- r) Gulf Bank's internal compliance systems might not be fully effective in all circumstances;
- s) Capital Adequacy;
- t) Gulf Bank may not be able to recruit and retain qualified and experienced personnel, which could have an adverse effect on its business and its ability to implement its strategy;
- u) Gulf Bank's accounting policies and methods are critical to how it reports its financial condition and results of operations and require management to make estimates about matters that are uncertain;
- v) Gulf Bank's four largest shareholders control 51.66% of its shares and their interests may, in certain circumstances, conflict with those of bondholders.

#### 2. Risks relating to the region in which the Bank operates

- a) Investing in securities involving emerging markets generally involves a higher degree of risk;
- b) Kuwait is located in a region that is subject to on-going political and security concerns;
- c) Kuwait and other GCC legal systems continue to develop and this may create an uncertain environment for investment and business activity;
- d) Legal and Regulatory Systems;
- e) The Regulatory Framework of the Central Bank of Kuwait;
- f) The Applicable Regulatory Capital Regulations- Basel III;
- g) Kuwait Bankruptcy Law.

#### 3. Factors which are material for the purpose of assessing the risk associated with the Bonds

- a) Suitability of investment;
- b) Absence of active secondary market;
- c) Redemption prior to maturity;
- d) Credit ratings may not reflect all risks;
- e) Modifications and waivers;
- f) The claims under the Bonds will be subordinated to most of the Bank's liabilities;
- g) No limitation on issuing senior securities; subordination;
- h) The circumstances triggering a Write-down are uncertain and unpredictable;
- i) Bondholders' right to receive repayment of the principal amount of the Bonds and the Bondholders' right to any further profit may be written down upon the occurrence of a Non-Viability Event;
- j) Taxation risks on payments;
- k) The application and enforcement of the Kuwaiti income tax regime is uncertain, and holders of the Bonds which are "non-GCC corporate entities" may become subject to the Kuwaiti income tax regime in certain limited circumstances;
- l) Kuwait may introduce corporate income tax;
- m) Impact of regulatory changes - Bonds;
- n) Change in Law;
- o) Redemption upon the occurrence of a Capital Event or a Tax event;
- p) The insolvency regime in Kuwait is relatively untested with limited guidance as to how the legislative framework will be applied in practice by the courts in Kuwait;

**Subscription information:** The necessary information regarding the investment in the Bonds is included in this publication and in accordance with the requirements of Article 5, 27 of Book 11 (Trading in Securities) of the Executive Bylaws of Law No. 7 of 2010, Gulf Bank will publish its financial statements and other data on the Gulf Bank's website (www.gulfbank.com). The public can obtain a copy of the prospectus from the headquarters at Gulf Bank, Mubarak Al Kabir Street, the headquarters of KAMCO Investment Company, Shaheed Tower, Khalid Bin Walid Street, Shargh, and Kuwait Financial Centre headquarters, Doha Building, Mubarak Al-Kabeer Street, Qila, from Sunday to Thursday from 10 am to 2 pm.

**You are hereby advised to seek the advice of an advisor licensed by law and specialized in advising on the contents of the prospectus and the investment in the Bonds prior to making a decision as to whether or not to subscribe to the Bonds.**

**Subscription period:** From Monday 2<sup>nd</sup>, May 2016 up to Monday 23<sup>rd</sup>, May 2016 unless otherwise extended by the Bank. Applications for subscription for the Bonds will be made through the Joint Lead Managers. The Bank may, in its absolute discretion, close the subscription prior to the expiry of the subscription period if all, and not only some, of the Bonds have been subscribed to, or keep the subscription period open until expiry of the same. The Kuwait Capital Markets Authority or any regulatory organization in Kuwait does not take any responsibility for the contents of this announcement or its accuracy, and not for any loss arising from this announcement.



# STOCKS PRICES CLIMB AS INVESTORS READY FOR FED

LONDON: World stocks climbed for the first time in four days yesterday and a weaker dollar helped oil prices gain too, as investors fine-tuned their expectations for monetary policy meetings in the United States and Japan. European shares also benefited from a less-than-expected 80 percent first quarter profit fall and an unchanged dividend from BP, as well as encouraging results from UPM.

With the quarterly earnings season in full swing, investors were awaiting an update from the world's biggest company, Apple.

The pan-European FTSEurofirst 300 stock

index climbed half a percent, while Britain's FTSE 100 gained 0.4 percent. Those gains helped the MSCI world equity index, which tracks shares in 45 countries, inch up 0.1 percent after three straight days of losses, taking it back towards an almost-five-month high touched last week.

"European equity markets are trading moderately higher on positive corporate earnings surprises from several companies," said City of London Markets trader Markus Huber. Ahead of the two-day Federal Reserve meeting starting yesterday, Huber said "many

traders are at least temporarily moving their overall exposure to more neutral from previous negative, consequently closing some of their short positions."

Markets see no chance of a US interest rate increase and are pricing in about a one-in-five chance of a move at the next meeting on June 14-15. A surprise drop in new US home sales data for March on Monday added to evidence of anemic US economic growth. Nevertheless, Fed officials have repeatedly said a hike in June is on the cards. "Even dovish policy makers such as (Boston Fed

President Eric) Rosengren are saying market expectations are too low," said Nomura Securities fixed income strategist Tomoaki Shishido, in Tokyo.

"So the Fed may try to urge markets to price in higher rates. On balance, we are more likely to have a hawkish surprise than a dovish surprise," he added. The 10-year US Treasuries yield stood at 1.8986 percent, easing from a four-week high of 1.914 percent on Monday.

## DOLLAR DOWN

Earlier, Asian stocks retreated, with MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan falling 0.5 percent and Japan's Nikkei closing down 0.5 percent. The yen, which tends to have an inverse correlation with Japanese stocks, climbed for a second day, with the dollar falling a third of a percent to 110.80 yen, as prospects of more monetary stimulus this week from the Bank of Japan, which begins a two-day meeting today, remained unclear.

Later last week the yen tumbled to three-week lows on speculation that the BOJ would introduce more easing measures, but analysts said those expecting aggressive monetary loosening

may be disappointed. Sterling strengthened to a ten-week high against the dollar, building on Monday's gains as investors bet more heavily that Britons would vote to stay in the European Union at a referendum in June, following an intervention from US President Barack Obama on the side of the "In" campaign.

"We've seen equity funds positioning more for a 'Remain' vote, and the (currency) bounce that will cause," said the head of hedge fund sales with a big bank in London. Against the euro, too, the dollar edged down, leaving it 0.3 percent lower on the day against a basket of major currencies.

As well as the weaker dollar, oil prices also benefited from hopes of an easing of the global oil glut. Brent crude futures traded up half a percent at \$44.75 per barrel, while US crude futures were up 27 cents, at \$42.91 a barrel. Both remained off five-month highs hit last week.

An unexpected bond sale from the eurozone rescue fund kept German Bund yields near five-week highs yesterday as worries grew that a recent rise in yields resembled the prologue to a brutal sell-off that occurred in 2015. — Reuters

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report										
Tuesday 26 April 2016										
Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing	High	Low	Volume	Value (KWD)	Trades	Last	Change
Price Index	+ 41.57	5,403.29	5,358.72	5,454.29	5,358.72					
Weighted Index	+ 1.29	395.30	394.02	395.30	393.68					
Nikkei 18	+ 3.38	699.51	696.21	699.50	694.75					
Volume						151,041,079				
Value (KWD)						12,908,330				
Number of Trades						3,672				

Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KWD)	Trades	Last	Change
MARK	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	998	-0.0
KALBA	47.0	45.0	1,292,280	57,463	43	45.0	+ 0.5
IPS	37.0	37.0	65,000	2,610	4	37.0	+ 0.0
NAPESCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	678	-0.0
ENERGYH	44.0	44.0	2,000	88	1	44.0	-0.0
GPI	42.0	42.0	2,000,467	104,000	42	42.0	-0.0
ABAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	994	-0.0
Oil & Gas			3,826,747	167,681	66	754.38	+ 2.38
KFDC	190	184	203,619	36,302	24	188	-0.0
BPC	520	510	102,036	53,036	9	520	-0.0
ALDUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	610	-0.0
ALQURAN	200	200	167,404	40,400	10	200	+ 0.0
Basic Materials			503,657	133,668	40	372.86	+ 3.88
KCBM	360	360	47,400	16,970	3	360	-0.0
NEPI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	300	-0.0
CABLE	375	365	944,576	349,370	80	375	+ 25.0
SNP	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	144	-0.0
PCBM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,620	-0.0
PAPER	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	300	-0.0
MBC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	44	-0.0
ACOD	280	280	168,500	47,723	21	280	+ 0.0
QSC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	450	-0.0
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	134	-0.0
KBMC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	250	-0.0
NCBM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	300	-0.0
EQUIPMENT	50	57	875,280	49,917	33	58	+ 1.0
NGD	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	99	-0.0
GPBAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	992	-0.0
SALADIN	84	81	345,149	28,530	20	84	+ 1.0
ADLY	100	100	1,877,284	627,607	59	100	+ 10.0
EDU	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	194	-0.0
CLEANW	42.0	40.0	480,957	20,035	22	42.0	+ 2.0
CITYGROUP	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	500	-0.0
KOL	48.0	47.5	110,000	5,162	12	47.5	-0.0
KPC	270	260	40,000	9,572	9	270	+ 10.0
HUMANSOFT	800	820	10,407	43,553	4	800	+ 10.0
NAFAS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	134	-0.0
SAFARI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	200	-0.0
GFC	32.0	32.0	500	16	1	32.0	+ 1.0
MAYDEEN	24.0	24.0	3,887,685	93,575	84	24.0	-0.0
COC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	790	-0.0
WFCB	70	77	410,450	32,041	29	79	+ 1.0
UPAC	740	720	57,370	57,300	10	740	+ 20.0
ALAFOD	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	300	-0.0
MUBARAK	46	45	50,000	2,200	2	46	-0.0
LOGISTICS	70	77	380,300	27,200	28	77	+ 0.0
SCEN	70	70	30,000	1,000	1	70	+ 0.0
OCEM	80	82	112,000	9,200	3	80	+ 0.0
QCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	88	-0.0
PCEN	74	75	300,000	22,122	9	74	+ 1.0
RWVC	80	80	713,100	64,800	27	80	+ 0.0
SPEC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	73	-0.0
Industrials			11,266,724	1,846,493	449	1042.16	+ 10.28
KSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	998	-0.0
NSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	84	-0.0
PAFOD	170	170	900	90	1	170	-0.0
CATL	134	134	5,450	7,200	1	134	+ 0.0
DAWH	73	70	989,819	68,879	24	73	-0.0
FOAT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	576	-0.0
FOOD	2,520	2,440	24,401	50,541	21	2,580	+ 40.0
Consumer Goods			995,894	126,543	91	1075.81	+ 48.0
MHC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	270	-0.0
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	600	-0.0
YACD	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	320	-0.0
Health Care			0	0	0	944.00	-0.00
KDH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	990	-0.0
ICDIT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	270	-0.0
BLTAN	81	84	10,350	852	9	84	+ 1.0
CABLETV	30.0	28.0	9,200	147	4	30.0	+ 1.0
EYAS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	300	-0.0
FAHR	186	184	3,450	625	2	186	+ 0.0
OULAFUEL	170	170	8,448	909	8	170	-0.0
MUNTADAWT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	88	-0.0
JAZEERA	880	870	80,804	71,743	5	880	+ 10.0
SOOR	112	110	38,391	4,409	11	112	+ 2.0
FUTUREND	100	100	900	90	1	100	-0.0
ALFARAFI	75	75	28,312	2,123	1	75	-0.0
ALRAI	142	140	13,000	1,820	4	142	+ 2.0
ZMNH	45.0	44.0	5,112,972	130,580	67	44.0	-1.0
UPVJ	140	140	0	0	0	140	+ 0.0
Miscan	1,100	1,100	112,000	123,320	3	1,100	-0.0
Consumer Services			3,214,380	352,034	116	1075.17	+ 6.26
ZNH	360	360	3,217,524	1,142,287	79	360	-0.0
QORODD	1,000	1,000	3,333	3,334	1	1,000	-0.0
HITTELEC	38.0	38.0	1,004,300	61,740	40	37.0	-0.0
VVA	1,000	1,000	48,200	48,200	10	1,000	-0.0
Telecommunications			4,833,482	1,264,830	186	674.66	+ 1.81
NR	670	660	2,483,899	1,645,323	57	660	-0.0
GR	240	240	2,308,490	563,832	37	240	-0.0
GRK	450	450	18,200	8,100	3	450	+ 0.0
ABK	320	320	44,971	14,847	2	320	-0.0
ALMUTAFED	425	415	111,280	46,251	13	425	-0.0
KB	180	180	161,887	32,054	12	180	-0.0
BURD	320	320	31,301	10,488	2	320	+ 0.0
KBK	400	400	1,379,209	608,287	40	400	-0.0
BOURNA	470	460	177,210	71,801	20	460	+ 1.0
AUB	180	180	320,880	134,026	22	180	-0.0
IFM	36.0	36.0	3,438,877	131,872	73	36.0	-1.0
WABASAB	170	170	1,429,400	251,454	10	170	+ 0.0
Banks			12,326,835	3,579,491	269	678.58	+ 0.70
GRS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	200	-0.0
GRV	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	800	-0.0
ARS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	450	-0.0
WNS	152	152	802	80	2	152	-0.0
KUWAITRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	200	-0.0
FTI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	100	-0.0
WETHAQ	45.0	45.0	117,000	4,854	12	45.0	+ 0.0
BOKHT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	300	-0.0
Insurance			117,000	4,742	14	1042.32	+ 11.38

Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KWD)	Trades	Last	Change
BOROLE	41.0	39.0	1,887,215	447,343	155	40.0	+ 0.5
KRI	50	50	4,710,812	243,033	72	50	+ 0.0
URC	80	82	471,400	39,000	4	80	-0.0
MFC	81	80	1,750,014	157,362	27	81	+ 1.0
SRI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	300	-0.0
TAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	500	-0.0
AREC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	538	-0.0
MASALEH	45.0	45.0	10,000	450	1	45.0	+ 1.0
AFABRIC	35.0	35.0	837,721	32,657	24	35.0	-0.0
ERECO	50	50	2,000	102	1	50	-0.0
MARHHE	600	600	162,516	93,437	12	600	-0.0
MUZZAT	75	73	72,800	5,361	7	75	-0.0
INVESTFOR	23.0	23.0	4,116,887	94,733	64	23.0	-0.0
IRC	31.0	30.0	3,427,338	95,473	77	31.0	+ 0.0
ALYUBA	75	77	120,000	9,300	6	76	+ 1.0





**SEOUL:** Shoppers look at clothes at Namdaemun Market in Seoul yesterday. South Korea's economy expanded at its slowest pace in three quarters during the first three months of this year, as exports and domestic demand sagged due to subdued global demand and heavy household debts.—AP

## WORLD'S LARGEST SHIPBUILDER POSTS Q1 PROFIT

**SEOUL:** The world's largest shipbuilder, Hyundai Heavy Industries, posted its first net profit for more than two years in the first quarter, despite an extended global slump in the shipbuilding sector.

The South Korean company said yesterday that net income for the January-March period stood at 244.5 billion won (\$213 million), compared to a loss of 125.2 billion won a year earlier.

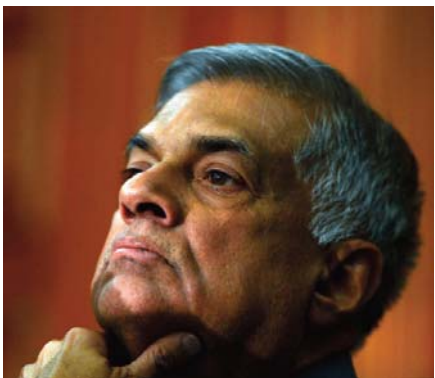
"We've succeeded in shifting to the black for the first time in 10 quarters through intense corporate restructuring," it said in a statement. The overhaul included spinning off unprofitable businesses and cutting costs across the board. Hyundai Heavy said the first quarter performance was boosted by lower raw material prices, a weaker Korean currency and "substantial

improvement" in sectors aside from shipbuilding — including heavy engines, electric and electronics goods and construction equipment. Asian shipbuilders had a brutal year in 2015 as low oil prices, overcapacity and lower freight rates hit nearly every shipbuilding sector. South Korea's financial regulator laid out the problems in a briefing to journalists yesterday. "Last year, the overall value of ship orders clenching by local shipbuilders stood at \$10 billion," said Financial Services Commission (FSC) Chairman Yim Jong-Yong.

"But this year, new orders have nearly dried up, overwhelming shipbuilders' ongoing self-rescue efforts," Yim said. South Korean shipbuilders are expected to lay off up to 20,000 workers as restructuring efforts kick in.—AFP

## SRI LANKA GROWTH SLOWS DESPITE LOWER OIL PRICES

**COLOMBO:** Sri Lanka's ailing economy grew at a slower-than-expected 4.8 percent last year despite lower oil prices as a slowdown in European markets hit exports, the central bank said yesterday. Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe said his government had inherited a "very bad situation" when it came to power early last year but that things were improving.



**COLOMBO:** Sri Lanka Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe contemplates proceedings at a press conference in Colombo yesterday.—AFP

"We are turning the economy around," he said. "We do not have a balance of payment crisis anymore. We may have had it before, but not now." The news of a slowdown in growth from 4.9 percent in 2014 came as Sri Lanka negotiates with the International Monetary

Fund for a bailout to help fund substantial debt repayments.

The bank had forecast last year's growth would be better than in 2014, when strongman president Mahinda Rajapakse was in office. He was toppled at elections in January 2015. But the bank said a slowing down of net foreign exchange inflows, including worker remittances, and capital outflows had generated a balance of payments deficit.

It came despite the welcome effect of a sharp drop in oil prices-Sri Lanka is dependent on imported crude. Sri Lanka sought an IMF bailout immediately after the new government took office in January last year but the fund turned down the request at the time, saying the country's reserves were at a comfortable level. It had received \$2.6 billion from the IMF in 2009 to boost its financial reserves, which dropped below \$1 billion at the height of fighting between Tamil Tiger rebels and troops. The IMF said two weeks ago that it was on track to agree a bailout loan for Sri Lanka that is expected to be worth just over \$1.0 billion drawn over a period of 36 months. But Wickremesinghe told journalists yesterday it could take some time to finalize the deal.

"It will be worked out. Give us a few more months," he said. But he conceded the country's revenues were inadequate to meet state spending. From May 2 the government is increasing value-added tax from 11 to 15 percent to boost revenue while taking administrative measures to reduce tax exemptions offered to new investments.—AFP

## FRIDGES GO OFF AS VENEZUELA POWER-RATIONING HITS

**CARACAS:** Fridges zapped off in kitchens across Venezuela as the government turned off the electricity supply to help ease a power shortage that is worsening the country's economic crisis.

It is the latest drastic measure by the government in a crisis that already has Venezuelans queuing for hours to buy scarce supplies in shops. The government imposed a four-hour blackout in eight states starting Monday and said the measure will last 40 days. The states of Caracas and Vargas had also been on the list for blackouts but were spared at the last minute.

The timing of the switch-off caught Pedro Tarazona by surprise at his shop in the town of Santa Teresa del Tuy southeast of Caracas. The fridge was full of meat when it suddenly stopped working. So did the electric fan.

The machine for processing bank card payments wouldn't work either without power, so at least two customers left without buying anything. President Nicolas Maduro's government blames the power shortage on a drought caused by the El Nino weather phenomenon, which has caused the country's hydroelectric dams to run low. Critics, however, say it is the result of economic mismanagement and inefficient running of the energy network.

Maduro is under growing pressure from the center-right opposition, which vowed to oust him when it took control of the legislature in January after winning a landslide election victory.

### Broken mincer

Venezuela's economy has plunged along

with the price of the oil it relies on for foreign revenues. Citizens are suffering shortages of medicines and goods such as toilet paper and cooking oil. Maduro blames the collapse on an "economic war" by capitalists. Last week, his government said it was shifting its time zone forward by 30 minutes to save power by adding half an hour of daylight.

Maduro has even urged Venezuelan women to stop using their hairdryers. Other measures include giving government workers an extra day off each week for the next two months.

He has cut the workday for ministries and state companies and ordered them to lower their electricity consumption, along with shops and hotels. Analysts warn the measures will further damage productivity. Research group Capital Economics calculated the power crisis could further cut economic growth this year by about 1.5 percent, deepening the contraction to as much as 10 percent.

Power cuts are a particular hazard for businesses because the sudden power surge when the current is restored burns out the resistors on electrical appliances. Tarazona said he has already lost a fridge and an electric mincer that way. He can no longer make sausages.

"We tradespeople suffer from this because the equipment and the merchandise gets damaged," he said. Sonia Sotillo, a 39-year-old seamstress, said that the power cuts will oblige her to get up earlier to get work done in time for her customers.

"I will have to work hard at night. I hope sleep doesn't get to me," she said, after spending several hours queuing for groceries.—AFP

# KIPCO ANNOUNCES 13% JUMP IN Q1 NET PROFIT

'CORE BUSINESSES CONTINUE TO GROW:' CEO INVESTMENT

**KUWAIT:** KIPCO - the Kuwait Projects Company - has announced a net profit of KD 13.5 million (\$ 44.7 million) for the first three months of 2016 - an increase of 13 per cent over the KD 12 million (\$ 40 million) profit reported for the same period last year. Earnings per share grew by 18 per cent to 7.45 fils (\$2.5 cents) from 6.31 fils (\$2.1 cents) per share reported for the same period last year.

The company also reported a 7 per cent rise in its operating profits before provisions during the first quarter of 2016, at KD 40 million (\$ 133 million) from KD 37.5 million (\$ 124 million) reported for the first quarter of last year.

KIPCO's consolidated assets increased to KD 10 billion (\$33 billion) from KD 9.6 billion (\$32 billion) at year-end 2015. Tariq AbdulSalam, KIPCO's Chief Executive Officer - Investment, said the company's first quarter results reflect the revenue growth KIPCO's core companies continue to

achieve despite the difficult global economic conditions: "Our first quarter results are in line with our performance expectations, given the difficult trading conditions the world is experiencing. The revenue growth achieved by our core businesses in the first quarter of 2016 will help KIPCO achieve growth in the high single digit by the end of the year, as we forecasted in our Shafafiyah Investors' Forum in March."

The KIPCO Group is one of the biggest holding companies in the Middle East and North Africa, with consolidated assets of US\$ 33 billion as at 31 March 2016. The Group has significant ownership interests in over 60 companies operating across 24 countries. The group's main business sectors are financial services, media, real estate and manufacturing. Through its core companies, subsidiaries and affiliates, KIPCO also has interests in the education and medical sectors.



Tariq AbdulSalam



## GET SET FOR FAMILY-FRIENDLY BEACH ACTIVITIES THIS APRIL AT AL-KOUT BEACH

**KUWAIT:** Al-Kout, a project under the overarching umbrella of the Tamdeen Group - Kuwait's leading mixed-use property developer that is reshaping the urban and social landscape of the country through innovative projects - is organizing a series of fun filled beach activities this April.

The beach event, to be held on April 22 and 29, respectively, will feature a series of activities including, parasailing, jet skiing, soap football, inflatable toys and a sandcastle competition. The highlight will be a one of a kind opportunity to parasail, a fun, unique sport to Kuwait, and one irresistible to thrill seekers. All the day's events will add an exciting dose of adventure, challenging vis-

itors to take on different sports and engage in family activities.

Complementing the activities there will be a number of dining options that will include sandwiches, snacks and beverages. There will also be a wide array of treats and desserts for those with a sweet tooth.

Nermeen Bishady, Marketing Manager, Al-Kout, said: "The scenic beauty of Kuwait's coastline and especially that around Al-Kout Mall is simply stunning and visitors can spend a day at the beach by relaxing, participating in sports and soaking in the sun. We will have exciting competitions and will give away vouchers for stores at Al-Kout Mall, too

during the course of the event; all this, in addition to live music that the family can enjoy! We are excited to host these activities and we extend an invitation to visitors to come over and be a part of this excitement."

"At Al-Kout, we remain committed to delivering a unique set of events dedicated to families to enjoy," she further added. Warm waters and year round sunshine make the beach near Al-Kout Mall an ideal location for adventure and water sports. Exploring the region's water sport activities gives people a chance to discover the fascinating beauty of the area, as well as indulge in adrenaline pumping adventure.

## BLIND FAITH TURNS TO DISBELIEF IN ITALY BANKING'S HEARTLAND

**VICENZA, Italy:** Until very recently, Domenico Bertini, a machinery technician nearing retirement, viewed his local bank in the picturesque Vicenza region of northern Italy as family. The 150-year-old Banca Popolare di Vicenza was a world away from the faceless bankers of Wall Street who brought the global financial system close to collapse almost a decade ago. It was a traditional, safe institution staffed by Bertini's friends. Or so he and many others thought.

What remained of their extraordinary faith in the bank has now turned to anger and disbelief, with grave implications for Italy's banking system, which is funded to a large extent by ordinary people via bonds and shares as well as deposits. Popolare di Vicenza - in financial straits and under investigation for mis-selling its own shares to clients, false accounting and deceiving regulators - revealed last week that many of its customers' life savings would be all but wiped out.

For Bertini, aged 56 and with two children, it was a personal betrayal. "These are people you used to play football with when you were 15 and maybe their father was your school teacher," he said to explain why he had not only deposited money at the bank but also put his retirement savings, 400,000 euros (\$450,000), in its shares. "You meet them in the town square every day, you meet them in church. You trust them. They tell you to buy the bank's shares, you do it," said Bertini, sitting in a cafe in Vicenza, a Renaissance-era town at the foothills of the Italian alps, a ream of newspaper clippings and correspondence on the table.

Bertini is among thousands of customers who have lodged legal claims against the bank and official investigations are under way into several former executives. Those executives declined requests to comment and the bank's new management has promised to cooperate with prosecutors and put the lender on a solid footing. It will take longer to restore trust in the country's banks, which, despite government efforts to promote bourse listings and bond issues, remain the main source of financing for Italy's million small businesses - the backbone of the economy.

The government sees a sound banking system as key to its efforts to revive growth and help reduce a public debt pile running at more than 1.3 times Italy's domestic output. Prime Minister Matteo Renzi helped arrest a slide in Italian banking shares this month by persuading major financial institutions to create a 4 billion bank bailout fund to ensure Popolare di Vicenza can raise the capital it needs to stay afloat and prevent a domino effect hitting weaker lenders. The fund,

named after the Greek god Atlas, is meant to hold up the sky above the euro zone's fourth largest banking sector.

### Mother

Italian households held €200 billion (\$225 billion) in bank bonds in Sept 2015, the latest official data shows, reflecting the extent to which banks relied on the public to finance their way through the euro zone crisis at the start of the decade. Before a favourable tax rate ended in 2012 it was almost twice as much. By comparison, in Britain, the total value of corporate bonds, including companies as well as banks, issued specifically to retail investors is around £5 billion (\$7.25 billion), according to March data from the London Stock Exchange.

Official data on the value of retail shareholdings in Italy's banks is not available but regional lenders rely on them heavily. Italy's 427 cooperative and mutual banks like Popolare di Vicenza have 2.63 million shareholders. Nicolas Veron, a research fellow at economic thinktank Bruegel, said Italians need to be more sceptical of their banks. "I think it's only healthy for people to stop blindly trusting their bank as if it were their mother."

Popolare di Vicenza, Italy's eighth largest bank, says managers who have since left were wrong to ask clients to buy shares using bank loans. It was a way of using the bank's own money to bolster a balance sheet weakened by mounting bad debts. The bank's new chief, Francesco Iorio, has himself filed a complaint with prosecutors against former executives and says the new management is assisting investigators and regulators.

Popolare di Vicenza clients began pulling money out of the bank late last year, and deposits fell by about a quarter in 2015, but then stabilized early this year. Last month, as a fuller picture emerged of the bank's problems, they fell again. Though bank deposits of up to €100,000 are guaranteed in Italy, deposits have headed from smaller lenders to the bigger banks such as Intesa Sanpaolo. Vicenza has set a price of 10 euro cent per share for its €1.76 billion public share offering, set to go ahead at the end of this month. Unlisted stock was sold to some depositors and borrowers at €62.5 two years ago and even last year it went for €48. Sergio Liana, an architect who lives near Venice but banked with Popolare di Vicenza, invested half his life savings in the bank's shares. "We still have something left only because I had an account also with another bank that was closer to home and what's there is safe - though is it really? You start doubting everything in the end!"—Reuters

## MINING GIANT FREEPORT CUTS BACK AFTER POOR OIL BET

**WASHINGTON:** Doubly hit by the crash in ore and oil prices, US mining giant Freeport McMoRan said yesterday it would sell off more of its oil and gas assets to reduce debt. The world's largest copper miner, with huge operations in Indonesia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Chile and the United States, also said it would cut its oilfield workforce by 25 percent as it seeks to rebound from a bad bet on oil and natural gas when the market was at its peak.

Freeport reported a sixth straight quarterly loss in the January-March period yesterday. The company lost \$4.2 billion, most of that from writing down the value of oil interests it bought in 2012, when crude was more than \$100 a barrel. For those purchases the Freeport ran its debt load up to \$20 billion, and with the price of crude plunging to as low as \$27 a barrel last year, the company is now trying to shed the business to strengthen its balance sheet.

During the first quarter it agreed to sell off interest in its Morenci copper mine in Arizona and its Timok exploration project in Serbia for \$1.3 billion. Another \$100 million will come from a deal to sell some oil and gas interests. The company, known by its market symbol FCX, said however that it had failed to find a buyer for its entire oil and gas business due to weaker crude prices and tighter credit.

But it continues to negotiate over the sales of other oil and gas assets in order to further cut debt, it said. "During the first quarter, we remained focused on executing our plans to strengthen FCX's balance sheet and to position the company to enhance shareholder value in a challenging market environment," said president and chief executive Richard Adkerson in a statement.

"We believe the quality and scale of our assets provide opportunities for significant debt reduction while retaining a substantial business with attractive low-cost, long-lived reserves and resources."

Revenues dropped to \$3.53 billion in the first quarter from \$4.15 billion a year earlier, despite a 15 percent rise in the volume of copper sold. Volumes of gold, oil and molybdenum were all lower.

The loss per share in the first quarter was \$3.35, compared with \$2.38 a year ago. But after stripping out the write-down charges, the loss was 16 cents a share, better than the analyst forecast of a 17-cent loss.

Freeport shares, which peaked at \$60 in 2010, hit bottom at \$3.70 in January amid worries of insolvency, but have since rebounded. In early trade yesterday Freeport was down 4.9 percent at \$10.79.—AFP



## AL-MAZAYA HOLDING REPORTS KD1.86M NET PROFIT FOR Q1 OPERATING INCOME JUMPS BY 66.9% TO KD15.99 MILLION

**KUWAIT:** Al-Mazaya Holding has announced its financial results for the first quarter of 2016, with the company achieving a net profit of KD1.86 million, compared to KD1.71 million in the corresponding period, in 2015. This represents an increase of 8.5 per cent. Earnings Per Share (EPS) reached 3.00 fils, compared to 2.77 fils, in the first quarter of 2015.

Speaking after the board meeting held on 25 April 2016, in the presence of members of the board of directors, Al-Mazaya Holding's Chairman Rashid Al-Nafisi, said: "Al-Mazaya Holding has taken another huge leap forward, in the first quarter of 2016. This is due to a consistently prudent strategy, comprehensive vision and well-formulated targets. The company was able to follow the schedules precisely and efficiently, boosting the sales process, leasing and delivery, and increasing Q1 2016 revenues by 66.9 per cent to KD15.99 million, compared to KD9.59 million during the same period last year." Al-Nafisi stressed that the significant jump in revenues was, in large part, due to strong and effective marketing campaigns conducted prior to and during this period. Revenues generated from sales increased by 75.6 per cent to KD14.17 million, compared to KD8.07 million, in Q1 2015. Revenues generated from leasing activities grew by 19.7 per cent to KD1.76 million, up from KD1.47 million in the first quarter of last year.

Commenting on the operational activities of Al-Mazaya, Al-Nafisi added that the company continued to achieve high occupancy rates in its income-generating projects, such as: Sky Gardens, located in the Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC); Al-Mazaya Towers, Kuwait City; and other projects in KSA and Dubai. The

company has also achieved high numbers in its properties available for sale, such as selling and delivering a large number of residential units in Queue Point, in Dubai, and Ritim Istanbul, in Turkey.

### Financial results

"Al-Mazaya's quarterly growth in its operational performance continued to achieve net profits in line with well formulated targets. Gross assets totaled KD242.07 million in Q1 2016, compared to KD261.19 million, in Q1 2015. Shareholders' equity amounted to KD111.46 million, in Q1 2016; a 4.9 per cent growth over the KD106.26 million recorded, in Q1 2015," Al-Nafisi said.

Al-Nafisi clarified that short-term liabilities decreased to KD130.61 million, in Q1 2016, down 15.7 per cent on the KD154.93 million seen in Q1 2015. He attributes this decrease to the conversion of all the company's short-term borrowing to medium and long-term borrowing vehicles. In addition, some liabilities were transferred to revenue, with payments received from customers transferred to revenue after they delivered their residential units. Touching on the company's loans, Al-Nafisi said: "Al-Mazaya successfully converted all its loans into Islamic Financing products, in 2015. These facilities have started to be used in new investment opportunities that are driving growth, in the first quarter of this year, and in direct accordance with the corporate strategic plan."

He added: "Al-Mazaya's success in utilizing these facilities to such great effect is a reflection of the company's strong financial position compared to its peers. The company's liabilities to assets ratio is less than the required levels in the Kuwaiti market. The company has also managed

to structure its facilities into medium and long-term maturities and has cut financing costs, which boosted company revenues and reduced its periodic financial obligations."

### Q1 2016 Accomplishments

\* Al-Mazaya Holding started to make rental returns from the commercial tower in Al Olia area in Riyadh, KSA, which was acquired by the company through one of its subsidiaries in KSA, by end of 2015.

\* Al-Mazaya completed studies to develop a plot of land for investment in Al-Sharq area, in Kuwait. The plot of land was acquired through one of its subsidiaries (Al-Mazaya Real Estate Development). An engineering firm will soon be appointed to commence the design and licensing works.

\* Al-Mazaya has started construction works on its 17-storey medical facility in Sabah Al Salem. Contracting works have been awarded to a leading contractor. Drilling and piling works on the 2,000 square metre project commenced in preparation for the structure, which will take approximately 20 months to complete.

\* Al-Mazaya made a completion rate of 50 per cent on the first phase of the Queue Line Residential project, which consists of four new buildings in Dubai Land, in the Emirate of Dubai. The project is progressing well, with the delivery of the first phase of the project scheduled for the end of 2016.

\* Al-Mazaya Holding also advanced the progress of its Ritim Istanbul development (a joint venture project with Dumankaya Real Estate). Over 80 per cent of units are now sold. The project is 85 per cent completed and the handover of project is expected in July 2016.

\* Al-Mazaya Holding continues its extensive promotional campaigns to sell its Queue Point development, in Dubai. The project is now 85 per cent completed and over

80 per cent sold out, thereby increasing operating revenue generated from sales in the company's financial results, in the first quarter of 2016.

\* The occupancy rate for the Mazaya Logistics project, in Bahrain Investment Wharf, reached 80 per cent, in Q1 2016. The mixed-use project consists of industrial, logistics and investment units.

\* Al-Mazaya boosted income generated from fully occupied projects by renewing lease contracts and increasing rates to reflect current market prices and quality services provided by the Property Management Department. This step has helped increase the operating revenue generated from lease operations, during the first quarter of 2016.

\* Al-Mazaya recently participated in the KFH Capital Financial Analysis conference, where it met with investors and shareholders to keep them updated about the company's projects and financial results, in compliance with the principle of transparency.

In conclusion, Al-Nafisi noted that Al-Mazaya is currently studying many other investment opportunities in the markets in which it operates, particularly in the GCC and Turkey, which are seen as the most appropriate to the company's expansion strategy. Al-Mazaya has gained great confidence in these markets following the completion of many property projects; however, the company regularly monitors developments in the financial and international markets for the impact they may have on the region's real estate market - for existing projects and those still underway. In doing so, Al-Mazaya is taking informed decisions regarding its entry into new ventures.

Al-Nafisi underlined that the company's growth in these markets will result in the creation of many more strategic partnerships and joint ventures with elite investors. This will help achieve the highest returns to serve the interests of both the company and its investors.



Al-Mazaya Holding's Chairman Rashid Al-Nafisi.



## FORD MUSTANG IS BEST-SELLING SPORTS COUPE GLOBALLY

**DUBAI:** In its first year of global availability, Ford Mustang became the world's best-selling sports coupe. Demand for the iconic pony car remains insatiable. According to company analysis of the most recent registration data from IHS Automotive, Ford sold around 110,000 Mustang Coupes globally in 2015 - topping all other sports coupe competitors.

That record was achieved despite limited availability for most of the year in such key markets like China and the United Kingdom. Additionally, Ford sold around 30,000 Mustang Convertibles, for total nameplate sales of 141,868 vehicles - making Mustang far and away the best-selling two-door sports car in the world. "US consumers have enjoyed interesting foreign sports cars for decades, so it was time for the Americans to return the favor with the worldwide launch of the new Mustang," says Erich Merkle, Ford sales analyst. "Global markets have responded in a huge way. Ford Mustang was the only sports coupe in the world with more than 100,000 units registered last year."

Global data for 2015 suggests Mustang has room to grow overseas this year as many markets begin to take delivery of their full allotment. So far, Merkle notes, global customers are most interested in V8-equipped Mustangs.

"While much of the growth in Mustang demand in the United States has come from coastal markets - especially Southern California - and millennials opting for the 2.3-liter EcoBoost engine, buyers in other countries prefer the V8," he says. "That unmistakable V8 warble is a hot commodity outside the US."

### Mustang in Europe, MEA

To date, more than 16,600 customers in Europe have ordered a Ford Mustang, which went on sale there last summer. Shipments from Flat Rock Assembly Plant, exclusive production home to Mustang, began in the latter half of 2015. Of the 13,000 sold last year, 4,700 are now in customer hands.

Several significant markets, including United Kingdom, began selling Mustang in the fourth quarter. Total sales there top 3,500 cars, with the first 1,000 pony cars delivered

to customers in March. In Germany, Mustang was the best-selling sports coupe in March, according to data published by German Federal Motor Transport Authority, KBA. Despite relatively high gas prices, the 5.0-liter V8 is the No. 1 engine choice in Germany. The country also has the highest international take-rate for the convertible model, with one in three sales.

Mustang was the best-selling sports coupe last month in France, according to data from the Association Auxiliaire de l'Automobile. Ford sold 339 Mustangs in France in first-quarter 2016. Incremental sales in South Africa, Cyprus and Malta are helping boost Mustang volume.

### EcoBoost, V8 pony cars are big in Asia

In fourth-quarter 2015, Mustang was the best-selling sports coupe in China as exports made their way to dealerships in volume, according to IHS registration data. Buyers in China favor EcoBoost versions.

In its first three months on sale in Australia, Mustang ranks as the best-selling sports coupe. Demand is so strong, the pony car was initially sold out through 2017, but an additional 2,000 Mustangs are slated to ship Down Under by the end of this year. More than 90 per cent of buyers in Australia and New Zealand are opting for the V8 version.

### Mustang maintains leadership in North America

In March, Mustang sales of 12,563 cars in the United States outperformed sales of 12,248 for the new Chevrolet Camaro and Dodge Challenger combined, according to published figures. Mustang was the best-selling sports coupe in the U.S. for all of 2015 and through the first quarter of 2016, according to industry-reported numbers.

In Canada, Mustang sales leadership is nothing new; it has outsold Camaro every year since 1985, according to data from the Canadian Vehicle Manufacturers Association. Ford has the best-selling sports coupe in Canada. And in Mexico, Mustang was the best-selling sports coupe last year, according to IHS registration data. Mustang sales were up 176 per cent in Mexico in 2015 versus 2014.



## A FIRST FOR SUDAN: ZAIN LAUNCHES 4G-LTE, HIGH-SPEED TECHNOLOGY

ZAIN SUDAN BECOMES 6TH OPERATION OF ZAIN GROUP TO LAUNCH 4G SERVICES

**KHARTOUM/KUWAIT:** Zain Group announces that its operation in Sudan, where it is the country's leading telecom operator, has officially launched high-speed 4G LTE, marking the first time the mobile broadband technology has been available in the country and the sixth Zain operation to do so.

The launch of the 4G network was announced at a press conference last week in Khartoum in the presence of the Minister of Telecommunications and Information Technology, Dr. Tahini Attia, together with the National Telecommunication Corporation (NTC) General Manager, Dr. Yahya Abdalla. Zain Sudan's Managing Director and CEO, Elfatih Erwa, was also present, along with representatives from local and international media.

In the first stage 4G coverage will be extending to the capital Khartoum; Medani; Port Sudan and El Obeid with these central and populated areas being launched in cooperation with leading global technology solutions provider Ericsson. 4G services will be extended to other regional centers across the country gradually with the additional cooperation of Huawei, also a preeminent global technology solutions provider. Zain Sudan initially launched 4G services with nearly 300 sites that are on air now, with 21 other cities in the regions set to gain coverage by the end of 2016, with 15 of them by the end of June. The population coverage of the 4G network will reach over 20 percent in the first stage of roll out, with Zain aiming to put in place the strongest infrastructure possible to facilitate wider ICT and B2B services beyond the consumer market.

Managing Director and CEO, Elfatih Erwa affirmed that the introduction of 4G places Sudan at the forefront of countries providing mobile data services on the continent, and features Sudan in an advanced position technologically. Zain is keen to transport its customers on a journey towards the cutting edge digital world, with 4G also set to bolster the mobile experience of 2G and 3G services by adding additional network capacity.

"Zain remains committed to delivering the highest quality of service to its customers in all the mar-



**KHARTOUM:** Zain Sudan MD Elfatih Erwa speaks during the 4G launch.

kets in which it operates, and highly appreciates the opportunity to introduce 4G into Sudan. The authorities in Sudan showed wisdom and foresight in granting a 4G licence to Zain at a sensible fee amount, as it allowed Zain to invest more in technology and infrastructure, as well as to offer competitive pricing for 4G services. The Sudanese people are ultimately the beneficiaries of this wisdom." He continued, "I am extremely grateful to the Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Technology as well as the National Telecommunications Corporation (NTC) for their bold efforts and professionalism shown throughout the negotiations for the award of the 4G licence. Launching the service is set to advance national projects such as e-Government; facilitating a higher level of communication between citizens and providing a higher standard of living generally," Erwa said.

The further development of internet technology through 4G services is set to contribute to the upgrading of all aspects of life, particularly its application in areas including health, where diagnosis, medical treatment, and the remote conduct of surgeries may be facilitated. High-speed mobile broadband also has the potential to contribute to education by providing a transfer of knowledge and access to the latest developments in research from international academic institutes.

Zain is a leading telecommunications operator across the Middle East and Africa providing mobile voice and data services to over 45.5 million active customers as of 31 March, 2016. With a commercial presence in 8 countries, Zain operates in: Kuwait, Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and South Sudan. In Lebanon, the Group manages 'touch' on behalf of the government.

## INSTALLMENTS CAMPAIGN BY NISSAN AL-BABTAIN ON SELECTIVE VEHICLES

**KUWAIT:** Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al-Babtain's Company, is the exclusive authorized agent of Nissan in the state of Kuwait, has launched its Installment Campaign on selective vehicles. Nissan Al Babtain grants the opportunity for its customers to purchase Nissan Sunny with monthly premium fees starting from KD57 without a down payment, Nissan Sentra with monthly premium starting from KD76 without down payment, and "Nissan Juke" with monthly premium fees starting from KD81 also without down payment.

Nissan Al-Babtain welcomes its customers to its exhibitions in Al-Rai and Al-Ahmedi throughout the campaign period, and wants to present a gift to its fans with the arrival of the summer season, by granting them the chance to sit behind the wheel of one of its cars, which always shone in looks, options, power, reliability, safety and security.

This offer is part of a long series of offers, that Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al-Babtain has provided over the years in order to reach customer's satisfaction, which represents its first and foremost goal. Nissan Sunny is powered by 4-cylinder engine with 1.5 liters capacity, with either a 5-speed manual transmission or 4-speed automatic gear transmission. In addition, Nissan Sunny comes with an audio entertainment system that includes AM / FM radio and CD player. Let's not forget about the SRS airbags for the driver and front passenger, as well as the anti-lock braking system (ABS) for the four wheels with Electronic Brake force Distribution system (EBD) and Brake Advancement (BA).

In addition, Nissan Sentra is powered by 4-cylinder engine with 1.5 liters capacity and 16 valves, and the automatic 5-speed transmission. It comes with SRS airbags for the driver and front passenger, as well as anti-lock braking system (ABS) and EBD system and BA system. As for the Nissan Juke, it is powered by 1.6-liter engine with 118 horsepower, it is available with Steptronic transmission and multiple systems putting it in the forefront of the multi-purpose sport utility vehicle category.

Nissan Al-Babtain takes advantage of these promotions to ensure ongoing communication with clients, and this is evident in their after sale services. The company believes that the relationship with its customers should not be limited to sales only, but extended to what comes after it; while providing all means of utmost comfort.

## KFH POST NET PROFITS OF KD 34.1M FOR Q1 OF 2016

KFH STRATEGY ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE INCOME: AL-NAHEDH

**KUWAIT:** Group Chief Executive Officer at Kuwait Finance House (KFH), Mazin Saad Al-Nahedh said that the indicators of profitability, asset quality and liquidity are testimony to KFH's strong financial position, indicating that KFH posted net profits of KD 34.1 million for the Q1 of 2016, an increase of 14.1 percent over the same period last year. He added that KFH's capital adequacy ratio (CAR) reached 17.04 percent, higher than the required limit.

Al-Nahedh added in an interview with CNBC Arabia conducted at KFH headquarters that the nonperforming finance ratio at KFH dipped from 1.98 percent in 2015 to 1.9 percent in Q1 2016. The provisions coverage for the group reached roughly 116 percent as of end Q1 2016.

He explained that the net financing income increased by 7 percent after stopping the consolidation of ALAFCO. This increase is very positive and in line with KFH's strategy.

Al-Nahedh explained that KFH-Turkey comprises the largest share of the external profits, noting that the revenues generated from KFH businesses outside Kuwait represent 40 percent, which is healthy percentage. KFH-Turkey is working on strengthening its capital position to further expand in financing operations.

Al-Nahedh continued "KFH's investment strategy is based on focusing on the core banking business while exiting assets that consume the capital, affirming the keenness of constantly improving asset quality, diversifying income and achieving sustainable income depending on the core banking business at the bank."

With regards to the Clean Fuels Project, Al-Nahedh said that this project is viewed among the most strategic projects, adding that Islamic and conventional banks participated in the KD-denominated local tranches with a value of KD 900 mln. This value has been increased to KD 1.2 billion as a result of the huge participation turnout to fund this project. He revealed that KFH

is about to close the contract with the Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC).

Moreover, Al-Nahedh said that placing Kuwait's rating on review for downgrade might take a toll on the ratings of some local banks due to the indirect support of the government to those banks. He affirmed that Kuwait enjoys several cushions to encounter the drop in oil prices such as the General Reserve Fund, the Kuwait Future Generations Fund and others. In comparison to the GCC countries, Kuwait has the ability to withstand the drop in oil prices for relatively



Mazin Saad Al-Nahedh

medium periods of time. However, there should be a clear plan to be implemented to bridge the budget deficit while rationalizing cost and diversifying income to avoid the risk of depending on only one income resource. He added "when rating agencies solicit an impaired budget structure in the country without any clear reforms plan, they might downgrade the sovereign rating which is not expected to happen, however if it happened, it might consecutively affect the ratings of the banks as they are part of the country."

He reiterated that the Kuwaiti banks have strong position and good reputation thanks to their prudent management and the compliance to the CBK's regulations of strengthening the capital and improving liquidity and asset quality.



## WIFI, LIVE TV, A NEW LOOK FOR FLYDUBAI'S INFLIGHT SYSTEM

**KUWAIT:** Dubai-based flydubai yesterday announced its latest onboard services as part of its ongoing commitment to providing an enjoyable overall travel experience. WiFi connectivity, live television streaming and a new seatback inflight entertainment interface mark another milestone in the carrier's cabin product enhancement series.

Ghaith Al Ghaith, Chief Executive Officer of flydubai, commenting on the launch: "flydubai has been committed to investing in product innovations and technologies that enhance the travel experience for our passengers from day one. We want to offer customers more choice, a greater experience and affordable access to the technologies we are all coming to expect in the air, just as we do on the ground. Adding WiFi connectivity, live television along with our enhanced ground-breaking inflight entertainment system will allow us to continue to deliver that personalized flying experience our customers expect and appreciate."

From 24 April 2016 WiFi connectivity and Live TV will be available through the Inflight portal for the first time on selected flights as flydubai continues to roll out the service across the rest of its fleet. The wireless satellite-based network will allow passengers to buy a package from as low as USD 04 to get connected during a flight using their personal devices and from USD 08 to tune in to catch up with the news on BBC World News, Al Jazeera or Al Arabiya, enjoy Arabic shows on MBC1 or fascinating documentaries on Discovery. flydubai partnered with Global Eagle Entertainment (GEE) to launch the fully-



CEOs of flydubai and GEE, Ghaith Al Ghaith and Dave Davis

integrated Inflight Entertainment & Connectivity (IFEC) System. flydubai already receives inflight media content through GEE and the installation of connectivity systems expands the partnership to include integrated IFEC solutions offering WiFi-enabled internet connectivity, an extensive library of

more than 2,000 hours of on-demand content and the capability to stream live TV. "GEE has enabled flydubai to take control of the total inflight passenger experience like never before, starting with integrated inflight entertainment, connectivity, digital media solutions and rounding it out with real-time data

operations solutions," said Dave Davis, Chief Executive Officer at GEE. "We're looking forward to tailoring additional solutions that will continue to enhance the flydubai passenger experience in the months and years ahead."

flydubai became the launch customer for the award-winning Lumexis Fiber-to-the-Screen (FTTS) inflight entertainment system in November of 2010 and is available across most of its fleet. The carrier relaunched its inflight entertainment system in 2012 introducing more content and a friendlier user interface. The product enhancements continued as the carrier became in 2013 the first airline in the world to offer daily, printed format digital newspapers in flight through the eReader platform. 2016 sees flydubai reinvent its seatback inflight entertainment system introducing a more vibrant, user friendly interface with more content than ever before from Hollywood, Bollywood, Arabic and Russian cinema.

Daniel Kerrison, Vice President of Inflight Product at flydubai, who has been driving the innovation of its cabin appearance and services since the launch of the airline in 2008, said: "We are excited to be offering as many creative and innovative product choices as we can to our passengers and giving them the option to decide which products and services they wish to include in their travel experience. We are very happy with our partnership with GEE and we are determined to provide our passengers with an experience similar to what they have come to expect from consumer electronics like tablets and smartphones."

## TIME WARNER CABLE DEAL 'OK', WITH ONLINE VIDEO CONDITIONS

**NEW YORK:** Federal regulators will impose several conditions meant to protect online video services as they back Charter's bid to buy Time Warner Cable and create the country's second-largest home Internet provider. The Justice Department approved the deal Monday, subject to court approval on the conditions, while Federal Communications Commission Chairman Tom Wheeler circulated a draft order to OK the combination. That leaves California's utility regulator, whose approval is expected in May.

Buying Time Warner Cable and Bright House Networks will turn Charter Communications, a mid-size cable company, into the country's No 2 home Internet provider, after Comcast. The new Charter will be No 3 in video, trailing Comcast and AT&T, which bought DirecTV last year. To preserve competition from online video services, the Justice Department is forbidding Charter from restricting what media companies make available online. The government says Time Warner has been aggressive at imposing such restrictions in contracts, and without a ban, a bigger company could make online services less competitive.

Meanwhile, the FCC is expected to prohibit Charter from charging consumers more for using more data, the way wireless and some home services are priced. Video is one of the biggest consumers of data, and caps or usage-based prices could make consumers reluctant to watch online video.

Public-interest groups have protested industry consolidation, saying it has led to high prices and will give big companies the power to undermine online video rivals. But opposition to Charter's deal was muted compared with the backlash in recent years to Comcast's failed bid for Time Warner Cable.

That's because a bigger Charter would still be smaller than Comcast. And Charter, learning from Comcast's failures, has made several promises to address concerns. What does this \$67 billion cable deal mean for consumers?

### What's the change?

The conditions being imposed by the government don't necessarily make it easier for a company like Apple to launch a streaming TV service. "The real limiter of online video hasn't been restrictions from distributors. It's been the self-interest of the programmer," MoffettNathanson analyst Craig Moffett said. The traditional big bundle has lined the pockets of entertainment companies like Disney. A skinny bundle of channels online isn't as lucrative and could steal viewers away from the fat TV packages supporting hundreds of channels. But Moffett says the Internet video market is going to develop, and the government "wants to ensure that the distributors don't stand in the way when the time comes."

To that end, Wheeler's draft order would impose additional conditions: If online video companies like Netflix have to pay a cable company a lot of money to connect to its network, that could keep the video business from taking off. So Charter won't be able to charge companies to connect to its network for seven years. That's how the deal got Netflix's blessing. (Netflix had opposed the Comcast deal.)

Charter also won't use data caps or charge customers based on how much data they use, like Comcast and AT&T do. But Charter could, for instance, raise prices on broadband sold by itself to make its cable video-and-Internet bundle look more financially appealing than buying Internet from it and a separate online video service. — AP



WUHAN: Photo shows the US auto giant General Motors' Buick cars being assembled at Wuhan auto plant in Wuhan, central China's Hubei province. — AFP

## CHINESE-MADE, US-BOUND: AUTOMAKERS EYE EXPORTS

### THE US AUTOMAKER'S SECRET WEAPON

**SHANGHAI:** A gigantic robotic arm capable of lifting an entire chassis at a General Motors plant in Shanghai is the US automaker's secret weapon as it seeks to sell "Made in China" cars to America. The yellow machine-dubbed "Fanuc" by workers after its maker-can lift a one-ton object and is being used to transport large parts in the body shop of the Cadillac plant.

GM hopes its high-tech approach will persuade American consumers to put aside quality concerns and safety worries over Chinese-made products, and other manufacturers hope to follow in its tracks-including Chinese firms themselves-as the auto industry globalizes further. GM and its Chinese partner SAIC earlier this year opened the \$1.2 billion Cadillac factory to produce luxury vehicles, including the plug-in hybrid version of its CT6 sedan, which will be sold in both China and the United States.

The US automaker has also announced plans to export to its home market a mid-size SUV, the Buick Envision, made in the eastern Chinese province of Shandong-prompting condemnation from US unions. GM China's president Matt Tsien said the Shanghai plant is as cutting-edge as any of its facilities in the United States. "It has, I would say, some of the most advanced manufacturing technologies and capabilities in the auto industry today. The whole purpose of putting all the advanced technology into manufacturing is to build great cars," he said.

Analysts say GM's size and strength might just convince potential customers. "The 'Made in China' is not that much of a stumbling block. It's who is making it in China," Namrita Chow, principal analyst for IHS Automotive in London said. Some major global companies are already manufacturing products or components in China, notably Apple's iPhone and several parts for Boeing's Next Generation 737. Doing so allows them to take advantage of China's much lower labour costs but even so, Chow said transport costs and import tariffs have to be taken into account before it makes financial sense for companies-both foreign-invested and domestic-to manufacture in China and sell elsewhere.

GM is looking to Cadillac to challenge German dominance in the Chinese luxury segment, while Beijing is seeking to develop the electric car industry with incentives and other government support, creating potential economies of scale for manufacturers. "The overall (plug-in hybrid electric vehicle) market, the predominant volume is going to be here in China," said GM's Tsien. "From a standpoint of logic, it would make sense to manufacture in one location and export small quantities into other parts of the world."

### National champion

GM is not the only company producing in China and hoping to sell into developed markets: Chinese auto makers have long held such dreams themselves. China built its auto sector with the help of foreign companies, who must enter into joint ventures with domestic firms to produce vehicles in what is now the world's largest auto market.



WUHAN: The US auto giant General Motors' Buick cars are being assembled at Wuhan auto plant in Wuhan, central China's Hubei province. — AFP

The government wants its companies to move up the value chain to develop their own brands that can gain traction overseas. But sales so far have largely been in developing countries, rather than the coveted US market and Europe, where vehicles must both pass government muster and appeal to sophisticated consumers.

Chinese manufacturers going abroad tend to downplay their roots and stress their international credentials instead. Geely, owner of Swedish carmaker Volvo, sells cars in Russia and Turkey and the company said last month that it was considering producing in western Europe. Buyers in the Middle East "were not worried that this was a Chinese brand," said spokesman Ash Sutcliffe. "They looked past the Chinese heritage of the company," focusing on "value for the money." "In China we really push it on the Chinese-ness of the car," he added. "In international markets... it's affordable premium."

State-owned Guangzhou Automobile Group Co. has a sales presence in the Middle East and is also considering setting up production in Russia and

Iran, according to state media. Chery Automobile Co has just relaunched cars assembled in Egypt with a local partner and is eyeing the African market. "We see Africa as a market with huge potential," Chery International president He Xiaoping told state media. China exported 755,500 vehicles of all types last year, according to the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers-down 20 percent from 2014 and little more than three percent of total domestic production.

But the largely state-owned firms are competing for a bigger prize than just sales, analysts say-the chance to be picked by Beijing as a future national champion to lead the Chinese fight in a global market. "Chinese actors are making a point of exporting and have bought some companies to mark themselves out from the pack to the government and show that they deserve to be the consolidator," said Laurent Petizon, automotive expert at consultancy AlixPartners. "To do that it's important to show you have an impact abroad," he added. "But it's still symbolic for now." — AFP



CHERBOURG: A worker passes by the nuclear submarine 'SNA Barracuda' - under construction in a plant of French industrial group specialized in naval defense and energy, DCNS, in Cherbourg-Octeville, northwestern France. — AFP

## FACTS ABOUT AUSTRALIA NEXT GENERATION OF SUBMARINES

**SYDNEY:** Australia yesterday announced French naval shipbuilder DCNS as the winning bidder to design and build its next generation of submarines. Here are facts about the Aus\$50 million (US\$39 million) project:

### Why new subs?

The country's current fleet of Collins class diesel and electric-powered submarines, which date from the 1990s, are ageing and expensive to maintain. They are scheduled to leave service from 2026, by which time they will be up to 30 years old.

### Who was in the running?

A proposal to replace the subs was first floated in 2009 but the tender was eventually narrowed down in February 2015 to three contenders who were invited to enter a competitive evaluation process. They were French defense shipbuilder DCNS, a Japanese government-backed consortium led by Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, and German group ThyssenKrupp Marine Systems.

### The key requirements

Australian submarines operate across

huge areas, from the cold Southern Ocean to the tropics, and so require range and endurance to cope with the wide geographic and oceanographic conditions they encounter. The new subs needed to have similar capabilities, along with superior sensor performance and stealth, and a cutting-edge combat system. Canberra's preferred combat system and main armament is the heavyweight torpedo developed between the United States and Australia.

### What did bidders propose?

DCNS plans to build a 4,500-tonne conventionally-powered version of its 4,700 ton Barracuda, to be named Shortfin Barracuda Block 1A. It uses pump-jet propulsion instead of conventional propellers, making it very quiet. The Japanese consortium planned a version of its Soryu Class submarines, while ThyssenKrupp Marine Systems had proposed a submarine known as the Type 216. Were politics involved? Yes, there had been concerns the domestic shipbuilding industry would be fatally hurt by Canberra choosing off-the-shelf submarines from an international supplier. As such, it insisted most of the build was in Australia. — AFP

## INDIA MAKES PANIC KEY A MUST FOR ALL MOBILES

**NEW DELHI:** All mobile phones sold in India will have to have a panic button from the start of next year, an official said yesterday, as the country grapples with large numbers of sex crimes against women. The button would allow users to call emergency services by pressing a single key on their phone, a telecommunications ministry official said. "No cell phones can be sold without the provision for panic button from January 1, 2017," he said, requesting anonymity. The ministry said it was also making inbuilt GPS compulsory from January 1, 2018. "Technology is solely meant to make human life better and what better than using it for the security of women," telecom minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said late Monday.

India has struggled to curb high levels of sexual

violence, a problem that shot to global prominence with the fatal gang rape of a student in Delhi in December 2012 as she returned home from the cinema.

That incident led to an overhaul of India's rape laws including speeding up of trials and tougher penalties for offenders, but high numbers of assaults persist.

The latest official figures show 36,735 rapes were reported across the country in 2014, although activists say the actual number is likely much higher with many crimes going unreported due to the social stigma they attract. India is the world's second-largest mobile market and notched up its billionth mobile phone subscriber in October, according to the country's telecoms regulator. — AFP



## MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY DRUG FALLS SHORT AT HIGH-STAKES MEETING

**WASHINGTON:** Federal health advisers voted against an experimental treatment for muscular dystrophy on Monday, the latest in a series of setbacks for the Sarepta Therapeutics' drug, which has become a rallying point for patients and families affected by the deadly disease.

The panel of Food and Drug Administration experts voted 7-3 that the drug, eteplirsen, was not shown to be effective for treating the debilitating degenerative disease. Three panelists abstained from voting. While not binding, the panel's view carries weight in FDA's final decision whether to approve a drug.

The vote followed a decidedly negative FDA review posted online last week that concluded that "there does not appear to be any evidence of efficacy for eteplirsen."

"I was not convinced the data was there

to prove something based on one, poorly controlled study," said Professor Richard Kryscio of the University of Kentucky, who voted against the drug.

Families and patients affected by muscular dystrophy packed the FDA committee meeting, often applauding comments from Sarepta scientists while openly rebuking FDA regulators. More than 50 speakers addressed the FDA during a public comment period that stretched on for hours and included patients, physicians, politicians and even several parents from the United Kingdom who said they would relocate their families to the US if Sarepta's drug is approved here.

Panelists acknowledged the anecdotes, including several teenage boys who said the drug helped them maintain their strength, though a majority of experts said those

results were not reflected in Sarepta's data. "Unfortunately, what I would consider meaningful evidence from the testimony of the families is not properly measured in the study," said Dr. Chiadi Onyike of Johns Hopkins University. Eteplirsen is an injectable drug intended to treat a subset of patients with Duchenne muscular dystrophy, a fatal genetic disease that causes increasing muscle weakness and eventually the loss of basic movement. The disease affects one of every 3,600 boys worldwide and usually causes death by age 25, according to the National Institutes of Health. There are no drugs that treat the underlying disease, though steroid drugs can slow the loss of muscle strength. Sarepta's drug is thought to produce a functional protein called dystrophin, which plays a role in muscle fibers. However, the FDA found numerous prob-

lems with the company's study that made it difficult to determine how much dystrophin the drug actually produces, and what, if any, benefit that gives to patients. The company's primary study included just 12 patients and appeared to show an increase in dystrophin of less than 1 percent.

But because of how the trial was structured, the FDA said, comparing study participants to typical muscular dystrophy patients would be an "apples to oranges" comparison. Moreover, regulators said the study showed no significant improvement on its primary goal: performance on a six-minute walking test. FDA officials showed an unusual degree of candor and emotion over the course of the nearly 12-hour meeting, even addressing the audience directly - something extremely rare within the confines of federal meetings.

At one point, FDA Deputy Division Director Eric Bastings told audience members that he understood their fight, noting that his own family sought out experimental treatments for a sister who was stricken with a rare illness. But he said that experience could not cloud his judgment as a medical reviewer. "My role, regardless of the pressure that has been placed on my division, is to present scientific conclusions," Bastings said. "We are a science-based organization."

FDA staff emphasized that the agency "strongly encouraged" Sarepta to conduct a larger, more comprehensive study of its drug with a randomly selected control group of patients receiving a placebo - considered the gold-standard of study design. The FDA is scheduled to make a decision on whether to approve Sarepta's drug by May 26. — AP



**LONDON:** Demonstrators and Junior doctors hold placards as they protest outside the Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospital, in Basingstoke, west of London yesterday during a strike by junior doctors. — AFP

## ENGLISH JUNIOR DOCTORS STRIKE IN FURIOUS GOVERNMENT ROW

**LONDON:** Junior doctors in England started their first ever all-out strike yesterday in a bitter, deadlocked row with Prime Minister David Cameron's government over pay and conditions. The strike will have a major impact on the National Health Service (NHS), which employs more than 50,000 junior doctors-graduates with years of experience who have not yet completed their professional qualifications.

While there have been several recent walk-outs, this one will affect hospital emergency care such as accident and emergency (A&E) and maternity units for the first time, although senior doctors and nurses will still be on duty. Nearly 13,000 operations and 113,000 appointments have been postponed around the period of the strike, which runs from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm (0700 GMT to 1600 GMT) yesterday and today. "Anything unprecedented like this places a significant pressure on the NHS," Anne Rainsberry, national incident director for NHS England, told BBC radio.

"The NHS has done everything it possibly can to mitigate that, but you can never say that it has mitigated it completely," she added. The British Medical Association (BMA), the doctors' trade union, has not ruled out a permanent strike or mass resignations as a way of trying to force the government's hand over the new staff contract on offer. A key sticking point has been on how much financial compensation junior doctors should get for working on Saturdays. "This is the saddest day of my professional life," said registrar Fiona Martin, 36, one of tens of protesters outside St Thomas' Hospital in central London, in the shadow of parliament.

"I never thought as a doctor I would be forced to put down my stethoscope but we have been forced into it by a government that refuses to listen," she said. But Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt said the new contract was a "very fair deal" that rewarded junior doctors better than paramedics, police officers and fire officers for working unsociable

weekend hours.

"Given that, is it proportionate or appropriate to be withdrawing from patients who depend on them so much?" Hunt told BBC radio, accusing the BMA of "blackmailing" the government. "We have too many heartbreaking stories, parents who have lost children, people who have lost loved ones, because we are not delivering high-quality care at the weekend."

### 'Unprecedented' impact

The taxpayer-funded NHS, established in 1948, is one of Britain's most respected institutions, providing largely free medical care. While it has been protected from austerity cuts to public services under Cameron, experts warn it still faces increasing financial strain due to factors like rising treatment costs and an ageing population.

Cameron's government argues that reforms to junior doctors' contracts are necessary to ensure that the quality of care for patients is as high at weekends as it is during the week.

The prime minister has quoted research claiming mortality rates for patients admitted to hospital on a Sunday can be 16 percent higher than on a Wednesday, though doctors question this. An Ipsos Mori poll for BBC News found that 57 percent of the general public supported the doctors while a quarter opposed their actions.

Hunt announced in February that he intended to impose the new contract on junior doctors after they rejected his "best and final offer". He launched a last-ditch appeal to them to stop the strike in the House of Commons on Monday, saying: "The impact of the next two days will be unprecedented." But there are signs the dispute is getting more entrenched. The health spokeswoman for the main opposition Labour party, Heidi Alexander, said there was "no trust left" between Hunt and junior doctors. She compared his handling of the strike to "pouring oil on a blazing fire". —AFP

## WHO ISSUES YELLOW FEVER WARNING AS OUTBREAK GROWS

**LONDON/GENEVA:** Amid rising concern over a deadly outbreak of yellow fever spreading from Angola, the World Health Organization yesterday urged travellers to the African country to heed its warnings and get vaccinated.

At least 258 people have been killed and there have been around 1,975 suspected cases of the mosquito-borne disease since an epidemic erupted in December 2015. It has already grown to become the worst outbreak in decades. Yellow fever is transmitted by the same mosquitoes that spread the Zika and dengue viruses, although it is a far more serious disease with death rates as high as 75 percent in severe cases requiring admission to hospital.

Angola's outbreak has already spread to other countries in Africa, including the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and at least 11 cases of yellow fever have been imported into China in

people travelling from Angola. "Cases of yellow fever linked to this outbreak have been detected in other countries of Africa and Asia," WHO director-general Margaret Chan said in a statement.

"We are particularly concerned that large urban areas are at risk and we strongly urge all travellers to Angola to ensure they are vaccinated against yellow fever and carry a valid certificate." The WHO's regional office for Africa said last week that yellow fever in people who travelled from Angola has been reported in China (11 cases), DRC (10 cases with 1 in Kinshasa) and Kenya (2 cases).

It said three further cases have been reported in Uganda, but these patients had no history of travel to Angola. The WHO "is working with neighboring countries such as the DRC, Namibia and Zambia to bolster cross-border surveillance with Angola and information sharing to prevent

and reduce the spread of infection", it said.

Jack Woodall, a yellow fever expert who formerly worked for the WHO and the US Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, said he is worried the outbreak could spread rapidly along a major trucking route from DRC to Uganda's capital Kampala.

"Surveillance of this trade route should be intensified and vaccination of people living along it should be top priority," he said.

A spokesman for the WHO in Geneva said a nationwide vaccination program that began in Angola in February has reached 7 million people. But experts are warning the world's stocks of yellow fever vaccines are under severe pressure from the outbreak, with some calling for a radical switch in strategy to use a tenth of the normal dose and aim to cover more people. — Reuters



**BANGKOK:** Spaniard Manuel Valero talks to the press as he leaves the Juvenile and Family Court after the verdict hearing granting him and his US husband Gordon Lake full custody of their daughter Carmen in Bangkok yesterday. — AFP

## THAI COURT SIDES WITH FOREIGN GAY COUPLE IN SURROGACY ROW

**BANGKOK:** A Thai court yesterday granted a foreign same-sex couple full custody of their surrogate baby daughter following a legal battle with the mother who refused to hand her over after giving birth.

Manuel Valero, from Spain, and his American husband Gordon Lake were blocked from leaving Thailand with their daughter Carmen after the surrogate declined to sign necessary paperwork following the birth in January 2015.

They accused the mother, Patidta Kusonsrang, of reneging on the surrogacy once she discovered the couple were gay. The Bangkok court said in a statement that it granted custody to the couple, who live in Spain but have been caring for the 15-month-old in Bangkok, in order to "protect the well-being of the baby". "Based on evidence and witness testimonies the judge was convinced that the girl's custodians took care of her with love," it said. "Their homosexuality is not an obstacle to raising the girl and to making

her happy like any other child," the statement added.

A tearful Valero told reporters outside the court that the family would soon return to Spain, where their other child, a son, has spent the past year living with an aunt. "We are really happy that this nightmare is going to end soon," he said.

The lengthy custody battle was complicated by recent changes to Thailand's surrogacy laws and the fact that the kingdom does not legally recognize same-sex marriage. The surrogate mother Patidta denied in local press interviews when the row surfaced that she refused permission because the couple were gay. She has since shied away from the media and has yet to explain what motivated her decision. Thailand for years hosted a thriving yet largely unregulated international surrogacy industry popular with same-sex couples. But a string of scandals in 2014 spurred the military government to ban foreigners from using Thai surrogates. — AFP



**CAIRO:** Egyptian farmers use a plow developed by Atef Swelam, not pictured, the scientist who developed the plow on behalf of the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), on a land in Kafr Hamouda village, in Zagazig, 63 miles (100 kilometers) northeast of Cairo, Egypt. — AP

## EGYPT LOOKS TO AVERT WATER CRISIS DRIVEN BY DEMAND, WASTE

**KAFR HAMOUDA, Egypt:** "For a thousand years," Abdullah Sheikh's family has been working the land the same way - flooding fields in Egypt's Nile Delta and planting seeds by hand.

But now a small, relatively cheap plow has changed all that, allowing him to nearly double the yields of his two acres of wheat, arranging it in neat, raised beds with smaller furrows that require a third less water. "It saves us much labor, seeds and effort," Sheikh said, calling it a "blessing" for his family, eight of whom help work the plot. The plow could one day help Egypt alleviate water shortages that threaten to cripple the Arab world's most populous country in the next decade. Several groups are offering technologies and techniques to conserve the precious resource - only a quarter of which is absorbed by crops - but time is running out.

Egypt has relied on the Nile, Africa's largest river, since the time of the pharaohs. For thousands of years, annual floods dumped rich silt on the banks, allowing the country to serve as a Mediterranean grain reserve. But the annual flood ended with the completion of the Aswan High Dam in 1970, and surging population growth has transformed Egypt - with over 90 million citizens - into the world's largest wheat importer. Water is already considered "scarce" in Egypt, and it expects its per capita annual supply to fall below the 500-cubic-meter threshold that denotes "absolute scarcity" under international norms by 2025, from some 600 cubic meters today. Salinization caused by

rising sea levels could also one day reduce supply. President Abdel-Fattah Al-Sisi said in a speech earlier this year that water was being provided too cheaply. Since then, household water costs have doubled or even tripled, according to bills Egyptian have been posting on social media. Meanwhile, Ethiopia is building a dam and hydroelectric plant upstream that Egypt is worried will cut its share of the Nile. The two nations are discussing ways to fill the planned water reserve slowly so as to diminish the impact, but so far Ethiopia is pressing ahead with construction without a detailed agreement.

"It's like watching a slow-moving train wreck. Everyone knows that population growth is accelerating, and then you have that dam, which could be a problem if it's filled up too fast," said Richard Tutwiler, a water expert at the American University in Cairo. "There are some intelligent, highly skilled people in the ministries and the water sector, but there's room for better coordination, and taking more of a community approach when it comes to improving crop irrigation."

Successive governments have recognized the need for action, but policies have not kept up with surging demand. Pumping stations and distribution networks are notoriously inefficient, and water cuts in the summer months are common in Cairo. Droughts hit some rural areas in the summer, and new neighborhoods built in the desert often lure residents with promises of infrastructure - including water - that never appear. —AP

## SYRIAN FOOD CRISIS DEEPENS AS WAR RAGES

**ABU DHABI/HASAKA:** Syria's war has destroyed agricultural infrastructure and fractured the state system that provides farmers with seeds and buys their crops, deepening a humanitarian crisis in a country struggling to produce enough grain to feed its people.

The country's shortage of its main staple wheat is worsening. The area of land sown with the cereal - used to make bread - and with barley has fallen again this year, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) told Reuters. The northeast province of Hasaka, which accounts for almost half the country's wheat production has seen heavy fighting between the Kurdish YPG militia, backed by the US-led air strikes, and Islamic State militants.

Farming infrastructure, including irrigation canals and grain depots, has been destroyed, according to the FAO. It said the storage facilities of the state seeds body across the country had also been damaged, so it had distributed just a tenth of the 450,000 tons of seeds that farmers needed to cultivate their land this season. Farmers are also struggling to get their produce to market so it can be sold and distributed to the population.

The conflict has led to the number of state collection centres falling to 22 in 2015, from 31 the year before and about 140 before civil war

broke out between government forces and rebels five years ago, according to the General Organization for Cereal Processing and Trade (Hoboob), the state agency that runs them. Many of those lost have been damaged or destroyed. The breakdown of the agricultural system means Syria could struggle to feed itself for many years after any end to the fighting, and need a significant level of international aid, the FAO says.

It has had a major impact on plantings; the area of land sown with wheat and barley for the 2015-2016 season stood at 2.16 million hectares, down from 2.38 million hectares the previous season and 3.125 million in 2010 before the war, and only around two-thirds of the area targeted by the government, said the FAO.

The UN organization said its planting information came from the Syrian government. The government itself has not made public the figures for 2015/16 plantings. The agriculture ministry could not be reached for comment. A government source told Reuters that information on the 2015/16 crop area was still not ready for publication.

"What concerns us is not the fluctuations from one year to the other, it is the worrying overall downward trend," said Eriko Hibi, the FAO's main representative for Syria.

### DEPENDING ON RAIN

The worsening wheat shortage is another hammer blow to a country where the population numbered around 22 million before the civil war but more than 250,000 have been killed in the fighting and millions have become refugees.

Last year, farmers sold just over 450,000 tons of wheat, a fraction of the 1-1.5 million tons that is needed to provide enough bread to government-held areas of the country alone, government sources and traders said. Before the conflict, by contrast, Syria could produce 4 million tons of wheat in a good year, with around 2.5 million tons going to the state and the surplus exported. The United Nations said in January that some Syrians were starving in besieged areas under the control of rebel forces or Islamic State, which it said were home to at least 400,000 people. Faisal Hejji, a farmer in Ras Al-Ain in Hasaka, said he had devoted 200 donnams (20 hectares) of land to wheat this season, down from 300 donnams before the conflict.

"War has made us lose a lot of the necessary inputs we need and when we do find them they are pricey," Hejji said. "We used to support one donnam of wheat with 50 kg of fertiliser but now this is missing," he added. "Also, we are now depending more on rain rather than other irrigation methods." —Reuters





MAZAR-I-SHARIF: NGO Marie Stopes International (MSI) head Batul Mahadiyar (C) advises women about family planning and contraception at a religious school in Mazar-i-Sharif. — AFP photos



MAZAR-I-SHARIF: A woman walking with snacks as others take part in a class about family planning and contraception at a religious school in Mazar-i-Sharif.

## BATTLE FOR BIRTH CONTROL: AFGHANISTAN'S NEW FIGHT

**MAZAR-I-SHARIF, Afghanistan:** "Four children is enough," says the young Afghan woman as she examines a box of contraceptive pills. Dressed in a burqa and with her husband's permission, she has ventured out to learn more about birth control through an initiative between NGO Marie Stopes International (MSI) and a group of influential Islamic scholars.

The charity's minibus has parked up in a poor neighborhood of Mazar-i-Sharif city, in front of a madrassa (religious school), and offers free advice on family planning. The young mother, along with other women facing similar dilemmas, is shown a basket containing IUDs, pills, contraceptive implants and condoms.

The mechanism for each one is carefully explained. She opts in the end for the pill, paying 20 Afghanis for the box. "I had a discussion with my husband and he agreed. Without his permission it is impossible," she explains. Information about and access to contraception in Afghanistan has been hampered by years of conflict, widespread poverty and a lack of education, as well as active discouragement from some hardline religious figures who claim it is "haram"—forbidden by Allah.

"We definitely have problems in Afghanistan. The biggest one about contraception is that there is no information on family planning," explains Doctor Rahmatudine Bashardost, MSI program manager for Balkh province, of which Mazar is the capital. "Illiteracy is one reason," he adds. "People cannot read books and magazines to get information." And while charities have been able to educate families in some cities, Bashardost explains it is much harder to get information to those in the populous rural regions. Afghanistan has the second highest rate of under-five mortality in the world—thousands of children die every year, while every two hours a woman dies due to complications related to pregnancy and birth, according to recent figures from UNICEF.

Families often have more children than they can care for well, and women may fall pregnant too soon after giving birth to adequately allow their bodies to recover, causing ill health for both mother and child.

In Afghanistan religious figures usually advise families—often via the men—on social issues. So in a bid to better explain their work, MSI has been working with mullahs to help educate the community.

It has not been an easy task, and the battle is far from won, says Bashardost. "We faced mullahs who said that what we do is seriously haram," he recalls. "After many debates with them we asked them to show us the proof that family planning is indeed illegal (in Islam)."

"If it's haram there should be documents

saying so, but those documents do not exist. On the contrary, there are documents that show that it's perfectly legal," he adds.

Mullah Kamalullah Hamid, a prominent local Sunni scholar, says he is not opposed to contraception outright. "If the parents think they will not be able to feed a new child, it is accepted," he concedes, but warns that birth control is not an option if the "the husband and the wife only want to have a good time and they don't want kids. The first aim of the marriage is to create a new generation".

It is not by chance MSI's bus is parked in front of the madrassa. Its head, Batul Mahadiyar, was trained by the organization.

She now advises adult women on how to plan their families and space out pregnancies in accordance with Islam.

"There is a verse in the holy Quran that says that 'Mothers should breastfeed their children for two complete years'," says Mahadiyar, who belongs to the Shiite sect. Breastfeeding can act as a natural form of birth control as the hormones released to produce milk can also suppress reproductive hormones, potentially delaying the return to fertility for women.

A 2011 study by America's Centre for Disease Control found women who fell pregnant less than 18 months after giving birth were at higher risk of complications—both with

their own health and that of their child. In Afghanistan, the financial strain of having too many mouths to feed can also have a big impact. "Having too many children may create problems in a life. Nowadays too many people are thieves," says Mahadiyar, who has two children, adding that proper family planning enables parents to focus on bringing up each child well. According to the World Bank, the fertility rate is an average of 5.1 births per woman in Afghanistan. In France that figure is 2, while in Pakistan it is 3.6. MSI has many branches across the country but has thus far dodged Taleban ire.

"Medicine has nothing to do with politics. If

a doctor wants to give service to people, he has no enemy," Bashardost says. Despite many advances in the rights of women since the fall of the Taleban regime in 2001, Afghanistan remains a deeply patriarchal country, where men dictate how the family is run.

For the young mother of four, it would have been inconceivable to buy contraceptive pills without her husband's consent.

But Bashardost has stumbled on the perfect way to help persuade these gentlemen—addressing their mothers as well as the mullahs. "We have programs for mothers-in-law to explain to them the benefits of contraception," he says. — AFP

## POLLUTED WATER LEAVES RURAL MEXICANS 'LIVING IN HELL'

**TULA, Mexico:** Helping with the harvest on his family's lakeside farm, Sotero Jimenez was just five years old when he saw his first dead body. Bloating and rotten, the cadaver had travelled from Mexico City, 70 miles (110 km) to the south, carried along by raw sewage and industrial waste.

That was in 1982, when Mexico's capital city recently completed the pipelines that carry the contents of its sewers, only a tenth of which is treated, past the Jimenez family's property on Lake Endho, a reservoir in Hidalgo State. Decades later, the filthy water is blamed for contaminated produce, polluted air and illness among the estimated 800 people living close to the lakeshore.

Now, recently released statistics from the local hospital estimate that one in three children from the Endho community is born with developmental deficiencies.

But repeated calls to federal authorities to clean up what has become known as "Mexico's toilet bowl" remain unanswered. Dismissed as a "lost cause" by one state official, the region remains home to many locals such as Jimenez, now 38, who have grown accustomed to such sights as decomposing corpses. "Nowadays we get them along here at least once a week," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "Most of them are murder victims. You can tell by their bullet wounds and missing limbs."

His 14-year-old son Andres shrugs his shoulders. "It's not the worst aspect of living here," he mutters. Mexico City's sewers handle more than 34,000 litres of sewage per second

from its nine million residents, all of which is sent north via two pipelines into the rivers of Hidalgo.

The sewage resurfaces in the Tula Valley, where 70 percent of the water was classified as "highly contaminated" in a 2012 Inter-American Development Bank study. The air around the 85,000-hectare reservoir, where the River Salto widens and slows, is thick with the stench of sulphur and raw sewage.

### "LIVING IN HELL"

Houses are coated in a light-brown dust from the water's murky surface and mosquitoes, their numbers boosted by the fetid atmosphere, keep residents indoors after sunset. "We're living in hell," said Juana Guerrero, a school teacher in waterside Xijay who said students regularly have red eyes and weeping tear glands symptomatic of conjunctivitis.

"We get conjunctivitis, headaches, stomach cramps, diarrhea, skin problems, kidney failure, dengue fever," she said. "The Red Cross only just managed to control a bout of cholera we had last year." Mayra Paredes, a consultant at Tula General Hospital, said there had been a large increase in the past decade of birth defects in infants whose mothers stay beside Lake Endho during pregnancy. Antonio Aguilar, 5, was born blind. His mother told the Thomson Reuters Foundation that she spent her pregnancy living 150 metres from the reservoir. It has taken five operations to give him 20 percent sight in one eye. It's a similar story with Hector Fivela, 8, who was born blind in one eye and has severe learning diffi-

culties. Abimael Falcon, 10, was born deaf-mute. His mother said she blames his disabilities on the summer she spent beside the reservoir during a difficult pregnancy.

"The environmental issues in the region are certainly linked to this problem, yet there has been no medical investigation into the trend," Paredes said. "It's not simply the fecal matter in the air, but also the vast quantities of industrial waste, heavy metals in the water and swarms of mosquitoes spreading diseases, that affects everyone who lives close by."

### POLITICAL PROMISES

Along with Mexico City's discharge pouring into Lake Endho, two nearby industrial sites, an oil refinery and a cement factory, also pump waste unchecked and untreated into the water. In 2012, an estimated 7.3 tons of lead were pumped into Hidalgo state rivers by regional industry, according to a report by the National Institute of Statistics and Geography, an autonomous government agency. The residents have found little recourse as the pipelines flow into the rivers under federal government jurisdiction. Despite some protests by residents in the capital, there are no plans afoot at federal level to address the situation.

The Hidalgo regional department of CONAGUA, Mexico's federal water regulation body, declined to comment. "It has destroyed my life," said Genaro Garcia, 72, a farmer whose waterfront land was expropriated for a sewage outlet. "The outlet is regularly blocked and overflows on my crops." "We only

ever see politicians around here when elections are coming up," said Leopoldo Rodriguez, 70. "They come here and make their false promises, but when it's over, they couldn't care less."

Powerless to halt the flow of sewage, the Hidalgo state government is frustrated. "The area is one of the most contaminated places on the planet, and it's certainly a health risk zone," said Hans Islas, a spokesman for the administration in state capital Pachuca. While there was talk of building a water treatment plant, it could not come close to handling the volume of sewage produced by Mexico City, he said. "Quite frankly, it must be viewed as a lost cause," he said. "The best thing for the people would be to move away from the area, but the residents have deep roots. They're attached to their land and won't give up on their homes."

The dark sludge has proven to be a natural fertilizer, said Jimenez, who grows alfalfa along the lakefront with good yields.

Shepherd Miguel Rosario, 68, said the best pasture for grazing his flock lies by the water's edge but takes care not to let his animals get too close to the shoreline. "The water is so thick with sludge that nothing can swim in it," said Rosario, who sells his meat in Tula. A large system of irrigation channels has been built on Lake Endho's eastern banks for large-scale farming that produces corn, wheat, lettuce and alfalfa for markets in Mexico City. "It all goes back to the capital," said Jimenez. "You flush your toilet in Mexico City, and it comes back around in your salad." — Reuters

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Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem  
فهد علي المخيزيم

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ABK staff and Al-Wafaa School officials with the students.



ABK's Head Office Building before and after turning off the lights.



# ABK CELEBRATES EARTH DAY

**A**l-Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) marked the anniversary of Earth Day, one of the most significant environmental causes worldwide, by turning off the lights at the Bank's Head Office in Kuwait City, Ahmad Al-Jaber Street, on 22 April, 2016. The Bank demonstrated its support for Earth Day by

conserving energy through minimizing electricity use, and hence emphasizing the message behind this internationally celebrated day. ABK also participated by raising awareness of this important day among students with special needs, when a group of staff members visited the Al Wafaa School for

Special Needs in Hawally, on Thursday 21 April 2016. The aim of the visit was to raise awareness of the importance of preserving and cultivating areas, and to engage the students in an educational activity.

The Bank supplied the school with plants, where 30 students participated in planting the

school garden with the help of teachers and staff, and spent a fun-filled and informative day. ABK's initiative to raise awareness of Earth Day within the special needs community falls in line with its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) strategy for 2016, which focuses on supporting individuals with special

needs through integration into the community and promoting a sense of equality amongst the general public. For more information on Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait please visit [www.eahli.com](http://www.eahli.com) or contact a customer service agent via 'Ahlan Ahli' at 18998999.



ABK staff with the students at Al-Wafaa School planting the school garden.



## AIP KUWAIT TO HOLD FANCY DRESS COMPETITION

**A**sociation of Indian Professionals (AIP), Kuwait will hold a colorful function of fancy dress competition for Indian school studying in Kuwait on April 30, 2016 (Saturday) at the Indian Community School (Senior), auditorium, Salmiya. Program will start at 6.30 pm. Indian Ambassador Sunil Jain will be the chief guest.

Regarding fancy dress competition, the theme shall cover various aspects (cleanliness and hygiene) of 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' (Clean India Mission) in residential areas commercial areas, public places (eg parks, river banks, sea beaches, worship places), government offices, etc.

### Rules and regulations

Assembly/registration time for all participants: 5.30 pm  
Participants

1. Students studying in Indian schools in Kuwait are eligible for participation. Only regular registered students will be allowed to participate in this event. All participants will be required to produce their school identity cards to ensure their bona-fide. There is no age and gender bar.
2. Fancy dress can be solo or a group. A group will have maximum six participants.
3. One participant will participate only in one activity either solo or group.
4. Total (solo + group) fancy dress entries from one school will not be more than six.
5. Time for one fancy dress show (solo or group) will be approximately one minute only.
6. Dialogues are not allowed. However a line or two may be spoken in Hindi / English.
7. Theme of fancy dress shall cover various aspects of 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' (Clean India Mission) in residential areas, Commercial areas, public places (e.g. parks, river banks, sea beaches, worship places), government offices, etc.
8. Violation of any of the above rules will lead to the disqualification of the participant.

### General

1. All concerned school authorities are requested to finalize the names of all participants as early as possible and send them to The Chairman / General Secretary of AIP at the earliest.
  2. All decisions by the panel of judges shall be final.
- AIP is a non-profit, non-political and non-governmental organization in Kuwait engaged in service of the Indian community through many ways. We wish to send out a message on 'the importance of cleanliness in our daily life' to the students and the community through this competition.
- We request the wholehearted cooperation and participation of the community in the event to make this a memorable event. Parents of the participants and the community members are welcome to the event. Entry is free.



Kuwait University's College of Engineering and Petroleum held a ceremony to celebrate Dr Jalal Al-Shemmari's promotion to Assistant Professor at the petroleum engineering sector.



## South African

### SOUTH AFRICAN EMBASSY CLOSURE

**O**n the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of South Africa, the South African Embassy will be closed on Wednesday, April 27, 2016. The Embassy will resume its normal working hours on Thursday, April 28, 2016. Please note the working hours of the Embassy is from Sunday to Thursday, 8:00 to 16:00 and the Consular Section operation hours will be from 8:30 to 12:30. For Emergency calls please contact: 94924895.

## FREE MEDITATION SESSION

**A**mma Kuwait, an organization dedicated to humanitarian activities, is conducting a free Training Session of "Integrated Amrita Meditation Technique" (IAM20) on May 5th, 6th and 7th for the benefit of public in Kuwait.

Integrated Amrita Meditation Technique (IAM) is a unique blend of yogic stretches for relaxation, breathing exercises

and visualization. Knowing very well the challenges that the modern day man faces, IAM20 technique has been designed as an excellent stress buster, which takes only 20 minutes per day to practice.

IAM training is being conducted FREE in Kuwait by certified teacher, from Mata Amritandamayi Math, India.

Dates: 5th, 6th and 7th May 2016,  
Time: 6.30am - 11.00 am, Venue: American International School (Main Gym), Hawally  
Seats are limited to 50 per session, Prior Registration a MUST for entry (Please Register for only one convenient date for the 1-Day Training Session).

For online registration, please click on <https://goo.gl/5aX1NN>

For more details, contact : 66871528, 66144190, 66460164, email: [ammakuwait@yahoo.com](mailto:ammakuwait@yahoo.com)

AMMA Kuwait warmly welcomes people from all nationalities, and please consider this as a personal invitation to attend and benefit from this community service.





The art piece presented by Alghanim Industries businesses.



A general view from the expo.



One of the art pieces presented at the expo.

## ALGHANIM INDUSTRIES CONTRIBUTE ARTISTIC PIECE MADE FROM RECYCLED MATERIALS FOR AGAIN UPCYCLING INITIATIVE

Alghanim Industries, one of the largest private companies in the region, announced its Platinum sponsorship of the AGAIN Upcycling Initiative, which took place in the Avenues Mall on 14-17 April and featured pieces from several international artists built from used materials of all kinds. The exhibition also featured a photo competition asking participants to take pictures themed around recycling, and a competition where young students competed to create their own art pieces from recycled materials.

With a view to actively participate in and support this educational and artistic cause, Alghanim Industries invited artist Michelle Reader from the UK and had her design a unique

shadow sculpture. The art piece was built using materials collected from various businesses that are a part of Alghanim Industries, including Automotive, Engineering, Costa Kuwait and Safat Home. Items used included cups, straws, car parts, table legs and much more. The piece made its debut at the event within a custom-built, flashlight-equipped display box that highlighted the intricate details within the sculpture, which together formed a shadow behind it in the shape of a tree housing multiple birds among its branches. The piece was meant to signify Alghanim Industries' deep roots in Kuwaiti society and history, and the branches represented the different businesses of the company.

### Environment protection

Speaking about the company's participation in the event, Nasreen Al-Mutawa, AGAIN Upcycling Initiative organizer, said: "We would like to thank Alghanim Industries for sponsoring AGAIN Upcycling initiative. This reflects the company's firm beliefs in the importance of recycling and protecting the environment, as well as the company's commitment to social responsibility and creating a positive impact. Having the shadow sculpture as part of the exhibition has encouraged the visitors to start thinking about waste in a different way. It has sent an important message to the public, which is to start recycling and reusing waste for other useful purposes."

Head of the Corporate Communications Department at Alghanim Industries, Abdullateef Abdulaziz Al-Sharikh commented on the event, saying: "We at Alghanim Industries strive to support educational initiatives such as the AGAIN Upcycling Expo, which provided a stimulating platform for visitors of all ages at the Avenues Mall to view the art pieces that were created by using recycled materials. That is why we felt it was imperative for us to contribute our own piece to the exhibition, which was created by using materials from different businesses owned by our company. We were very delighted to have been able to sponsor and participate in this unique endeavor, and we wish to see more of these

kinds of events in Kuwait in the future."

The support of Alghanim Industries to AGAIN falls under the company's corporate social responsibilities initiatives. The company has goals towards youth empowerment, supporting education, and helping entrepreneurs grow. Alghanim Industries supports AGAIN's goal of raising awareness on the benefits of upcycling through the workshops it holds as part of the art gallery. Alghanim Industries had also sponsored a number of educational initiatives like Start-up Weekend Kuwait, and has the highest number of employee volunteers in the country for the INJAZ-Kuwait organization.



## TALENTS' DEVELOPMENT CONTINUES UNDER MARKAZ, LOYAC PARTNERSHIP

As part of its strategy to build human capacity in order to enable and maintain a sustainable future, Kuwait Financial Centre KPSC 'Markaz' renewed its annual partnership with Loyac. This partnership affirms Markaz's continuous commitment to supporting Loyac's initiatives pertaining to developing the skills of Kuwaiti youths.

Alrazi Y Al-Budaiwi, Head of Media and Communications at 'Markaz' said: "We are proud of our partnership with Loyac due to their significant role in engaging the youth, refining their abilities and enforcing their sense of responsibility. As we believe in the importance of effective social initiatives to drive economic growth and social sustainability, and in the achievements accomplished by Loyac in this field, we are honored to continue supporting this successful Kuwaiti organization. We would also like to thank its dedicated team for their efforts invested in developing our youth's skills and in building their capabilities."

Budaiwi added: "This partnership comes as part of 'Markaz' corporate citizenship strategy that aims at fulfilling the corporate social and economic responsibilities through three main pillars, which are a) building human capabilities, b) aligning our business environment with the principles of sustainable development, c) and promoting good governance in the business environment. Our activities within this

strategy include several variety of topics aimed at sustainability, including the development of the capacities of young people and enabling them to utilize their abilities towards achieving a sustainable future."

Rabaa Al-Hajri, Head of Communications at Loyac stated: "Loyac programs target the youth between the ages of 6 to 30 years old and aim at growing and developing their abilities to benefit the society. Markaz's renewed partnership and its direct and indirect support will enable us to refine Kuwait's youth capabilities, empower them and increase their knowledge, professionalism and sense of giving through our training programs and volunteering initiatives. With the support we receive from our partners, we managed to train more than 22,000 students annually." Hajri extended her gratitude to Markaz for their ongoing support to Loyac through sponsorships targeting the youth. She added that the partnership between the two entities is strong and founded on a mutual belief in the importance of developing a very important segment of the Kuwaiti society, the youth. It is worth mentioning that Loyac was founded 10 years ago, and is currently managing many innovative programs targeting the youth to help them develop their professional skills and become efficient individuals in the society.

## AL-MULLA EXCHANGE COMPANY BRINGS 'LAUGHTER THERAPY' TO KUWAIT

Al-Mulla Exchange, the leading exchange company in Kuwait, organized an English play written and directed by Meherzad Patel titled 'Laughter Therapy' on Saturday, 23rd April at the American International School. The play drew a full crowd from all sections of the expatriate community, who were treated to a laughter spree. This is part of Al-Mulla Exchange's continu-

ous efforts to bring valuable entertainment to the various communities that patronize their services. Laughter Therapy was the 128th such event to be organized by the Exchange Company.

The play offered two hours of pure comedy. While there were heartfelt moments, especially in the second half, it is primarily a roller-coaster ride of laughter. Though the play

starred only 5 actors, it featured a total of 35 characters.

Al-Mulla Exchange is committed in providing beyond just remittance experiences to their customers by offering loyalty points; free insurance coverage and organizing such world class events.



## THE SULTAN CENTER OPENS NEW CONVENIENCE STORE IN SALMIYA

Out of its commitment to reach customer across all areas of Kuwait, The Sultan Center opened its 20th convenience store located in Salmiya on Al-Balajat Street, providing area residents and those on the go with an easy and quick shopping experience.

The 'TSC Express Center' store located in Salmiya opposite the gulf is easily accessible fully equipped and designed to provide a selected range of supermarket, fresh food, snacks and beverages. This location offers additional products and services including an Ooredoo kiosk, Second Cup Coffee station and Dunkin Donuts. With 24 hours operations, customer can drop in any time of the day or night for quick pick-ups or just to enjoy a cup of coffee or donut.

Today, TSC has 20 convenience stores spread across Kuwait catering to neighborhoods and on the go customers for an easy and quick shopping experience.

TSC Express is another milestone to be added to TSC achievements in providing

unparalleled services and reaching customers across Kuwait making TSC the preferred shopping destination. TSC is adapting to the modern way of living by providing smaller stores positioned in convenient locations, which will continue to evolve to match the community's needs.







- 00:25 Cursed
- 02:05 LA Bamba
- 03:55 Piranha
- 05:30 Apache
- 07:00 Big Screen
- 07:15 Saved!
- 08:45 The Beautiful Country
- 10:45 Inspector Clouseau
- 12:20 Big Screen
- 12:35 Nobody's Fool
- 14:20 The Night They Raided Minsky's
- 16:00 The Magnificent Seven
- 18:05 Saved!
- 19:40 Troll (Epic)
- 21:00 Troll 2
- 22:35 LA Bamba

- 12:30 Culture Express
- 13:00 Africa Live
- 14:00 News Update
- 14:30 Dialogue
- 15:00 News Update
- 15:15 China 24
- 16:00 News Update
- 16:15 Global Business
- 17:00 News Update
- 17:15 World InSight
- 18:00 Asia Today
- 18:30 Culture Express
- 19:00 News Update
- 19:30 The Heat
- 20:00 Africa Live
- 21:00 Global Business
- 21:30 Dialogue
- 22:00 News Update
- 22:15 China 24
- 23:00 News Update
- 23:15 World InSight

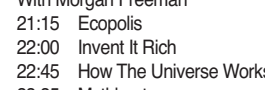
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- 08:53 Mega Builders
- 09:38 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
- 10:23 Food Factory
- 10:45 Food Factory
- 11:08 How The Universe Works
- 11:53 Mega Builders
- 12:38 Mythbusters
- 13:23 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
- 14:10 Ecopolis
- 14:57 You Have Been Warned
- 15:44 How The Universe Works
- 16:31 Mega Builders
- 17:18 Ecopolis
- 18:05 Mythbusters
- 18:50 Invent It Rich
- 19:40 How The Universe Works
- 20:25 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
- 21:15 Ecopolis
- 22:00 Invent It Rich
- 22:45 How The Universe Works
- 23:35 Mythbusters



- 00:45 Beast Lands
- 01:40 Gator Boys
- 02:35 Tanked
- 03:25 Queens Of The Savannah
- 04:15 Gator Boys
- 05:02 Treehouse Masters
- 05:49 Gator Boys
- 06:36 Swamp Brothers
- 07:00 Swamp Brothers
- 07:25 My Cat From Hell
- 08:15 Gator Boys
- 09:10 Treehouse Masters
- 10:05 Tanked
- 11:00 My Cat From Hell
- 11:55 Bondi Vet
- 12:25 Bondi Vet
- 12:50 Gator Boys
- 13:45 Gator Boys
- 14:40 Treehouse Masters
- 15:35 Tanked
- 16:30 Queens Of The Savannah
- 17:25 River Monsters
- 18:20 In Search Of The King
- 19:15 Tanked
- 20:10 Queens Of The Savannah
- 21:05 Treehouse Masters
- 22:00 In Search Of The King
- 22:55 Cobra
- 23:50 Gator Boys
- River Monsters



- 00:00 Global Opportunities: Sri Lanka
- 00:30 Access: Middle East
- 01:00 U.S. Squawk Alley
- 02:00 Asia Squawk Box
- 05:00 Asia Street Signs
- 07:00 Capital Connection
- 08:00 Squawk Box Europe
- 11:00 Europe Street Signs
- 12:00 Worldwide Exchange
- 13:00 U.S. Squawk Box
- 16:00 Squawk On The Street
- 18:00 U.S. Squawk Alley
- 19:00 Fast Money: Half Time Report
- 20:00 U.S. Power Lunch
- 22:00 U.S. Closing Bell



- 00:00 Violetta
- 00:45 The Hive
- 00:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 01:40 Hank Zipzer
- 02:05 Binny And The Ghost
- 02:30 Violetta
- 03:15 The Hive
- 03:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 03:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 04:10 Hank Zipzer
- 04:35 Binny And The Ghost
- 05:00 Violetta
- 05:45 The Hive
- 05:50 Mouk
- 06:00 Lolirock
- 06:25 Sofia The First
- 06:50 Gravily Falls
- 07:15 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
- 07:40 The Lion Guard: Return Of The Roar
- 08:30 Sofia The First
- 08:55 Hannah Montana
- 09:20 Hannah Montana
- 09:45 Girl Meets World
- 10:10 Girl Meets World
- 10:35 High School Musical
- 12:15 Descendants Wicked World
- 12:20 Disney's Descendants
- 14:00 Liv And Maddie
- 14:25 Cars Toons
- 14:30 Radio Rebel
- 16:10 Violetta
- 17:00 The Next Step
- 17:25 Alex And Co
- 17:50 Dog With A Blog
- 18:15 Best Friends Whenever
- 18:40 Liv And Maddie
- 19:05 Evermoor Chronicles
- 19:30 Violetta
- 20:20 The Next Step
- 20:45 Good Luck Charlie
- 21:10 Good Luck Charlie
- 21:35 H2O
- 22:00 Binny And The Ghost
- 22:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 22:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 23:10 Hank Zipzer
- 23:35 Binny And The Ghost



- 00:20 Doctors
- 00:55 Ripper Street
- 01:55 Ripper Street
- 02:50 Silent Witness
- 03:45 Waking The Dead
- 04:40 Doctors
- 05:15 Doctor Who
- 06:00 Doctors
- 06:30 Doctors
- 07:00 Doctors
- 07:50 The Paradise
- 08:45 Doctor Who
- 09:35 Doctors
- 10:10 Doctors
- 10:40 Death In Paradise
- 11:35 Stella
- 12:25 The Paradise
- 13:20 Doctor Who
- 14:10 Doctors
- 14:45 Doctors
- 15:15 Death In Paradise
- 16:10 The Paradise
- 17:10 Doctor Who
- 18:00 Doctors
- 18:30 Eastenders
- 19:05 Death In Paradise
- 20:00 New Tricks
- 21:00 New Tricks
- 21:55 Silent Witness
- 22:50 Waking The Dead
- 23:50 Doctors



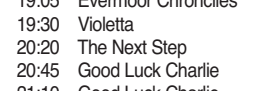
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- 01:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook
- 02:00 The First 48
- 03:00 Martina Cole's Lady Killers
- 04:00 My Crazy Ex
- 05:00 Killers
- 06:00 I Didn't Do It
- 07:00 Gangs Of Britain...
- 08:00 Crime Stories
- 09:00 Frenemies
- 09:30 Frenemies
- 10:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook
- 11:00 The First 48
- 12:00 The FBI Files
- 13:00 I Didn't Do It
- 14:00 Crime Stories
- 15:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook
- 16:00 Gangs Of Britain...
- 17:00 The First 48
- 18:00 The FBI Files
- 19:00 I Didn't Do It
- 20:00 Crime Stories
- 21:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook
- 22:00 The Haunting Of...
- 23:00 Cursed: The Bell Witch



- 00:00 Violetta
- 00:45 The Hive
- 05:50 Mouk
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- 23:10 Hank Zipzer
- 23:35 Binny And The Ghost



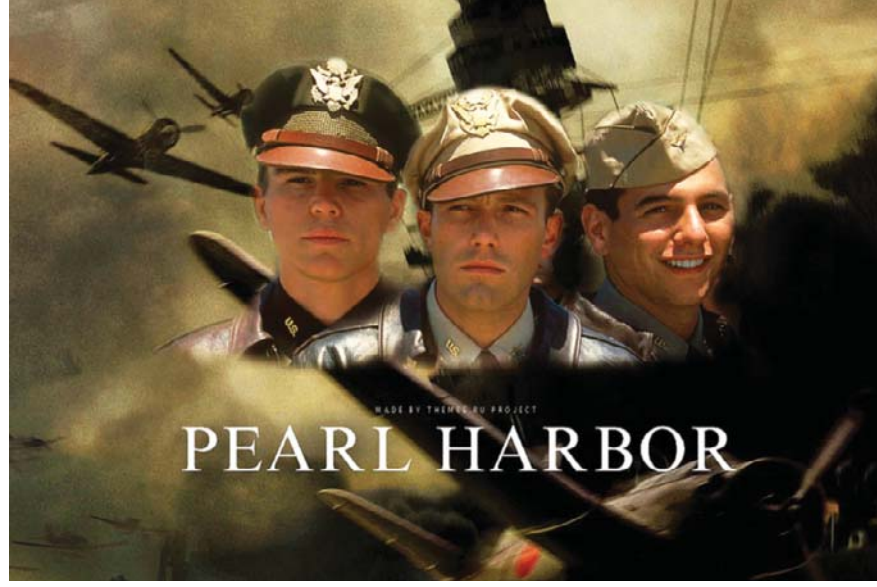
- 00:20 Fast N' Loud
- 01:10 The Island With Bear Grylls: Women
- 02:00 Bear Grylls: Mission Survive
- 02:50 Life After: Chernobyl
- 03:40 Thrift Hunters
- 04:05 Storage Wars Canada
- 04:30 Auction Hunters
- 05:00 How Do They Do It?
- 05:30 Fifth Gear
- 06:00 Outback Truckers
- 06:50 Wheeler Dealers
- 07:40 Fast N' Loud
- 08:30 Thrift Hunters
- 08:55 Storage Wars Canada
- 09:20 Auction Hunters
- 09:45 How Do They Do It?
- 10:10 Fifth Gear
- 10:35 The Island With Bear Grylls: Women



- 00:05 Art Attack
- 00:30 Henry Hugglemonster
- 00:45 Calimero
- 01:00 Zou
- 01:10 Loopidoo
- 01:30 Art Attack
- 01:55 Henry Hugglemonster



- 00:00 Charlie Rose
- 01:00 Bloomberg West
- 02:00 First Up With Angle Lau
- 03:00 First Up With Angle Lau
- 04:00 Trending Business



PEARL HARBOR ON OSN MOVIES HD ACTION

- 05:00 Trending Business
- 06:00 Asia Edge
- 07:00 Bloomberg West
- 08:00 Countdown
- 09:00 Countdown
- 09:30 On The Move
- 10:00 On The Move
- 11:00 The Pulse
- 12:00 Bloomberg Surveillance
- 13:00 Bloomberg Surveillance
- 14:00 Bloomberg Go
- 15:00 Bloomberg Go
- 16:00 Bloomberg Go
- 17:00 Bloomberg Markets
- 18:00 Bloomberg Markets: European Close
- 19:00 Bloomberg Markets
- 20:00 Bloomberg Markets
- 21:00 Bloomberg Markets
- 22:00 Bloomberg Markets
- 23:00 What'd You Miss?

- 11:25 Bear Grylls: Mission Survive
- 12:15 Life After: Chernobyl
- 13:05 GI Dough
- 13:30 Storage Wars Canada
- 13:50 Auction Hunters
- 14:20 Outback Truckers
- 15:10 Wheeler Dealers
- 16:00 Fast N' Loud
- 16:50 Fifth Gear
- 17:15 How Do They Do It?
- 17:40 You Have Been Warned
- 18:30 Troy
- 19:20 What On Earth?
- 20:10 Storage Wars Canada
- 20:35 Auction Hunters
- 21:00 You Have Been Warned
- 21:50 Troy
- 22:40 Superhuman Science
- 23:05 Superhuman Science
- 23:30 Wheeler Dealers

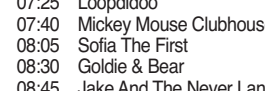
- 02:05 Calimero
- 02:20 Zou
- 02:30 Loopidoo
- 02:45 Art Attack
- 03:10 Henry Hugglemonster
- 03:20 Calimero
- 03:35 Zou
- 03:45 Loopidoo
- 04:00 Art Attack
- 04:25 Henry Hugglemonster
- 04:35 Calimero
- 04:50 Zou
- 05:00 Loopidoo
- 05:15 Art Attack
- 05:35 Henry Hugglemonster
- 05:50 Calimero
- 06:00 Zou
- 06:20 Loopidoo
- 06:35 Art Attack
- 07:00 The Hive
- 07:10 Zou
- 07:25 Loopidoo
- 08:05 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 08:30 Sofia The First
- 08:45 Goldie & Bear
- 08:45 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 09:10 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
- 09:20 Doc McStuffins
- 09:35 Doc McStuffins
- 10:00 Sofia The First
- 10:30 Goldie & Bear
- 10:55 Minnie's Bow-Toons
- 11:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 11:25 The Lion Guard
- 11:50 Handy Manny
- 12:15 Jungle Junction
- 12:30 Special Agent Oso
- 12:45 The Hive
- 13:00 Sofia The First
- 13:25 Miles From Tomorrow



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



- 00:20 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
- 01:08 Food Factory
- 01:31 Food Factory
- 01:55 How The Universe Works
- 02:42 Ecopolis
- 03:29 Mythbusters
- 04:16 Food Factory
- 04:39 Food Factory
- 05:03 How The Universe Works
- 05:50 Mega Builders
- 06:37 How Do They Do It?
- 07:00 How Do They Do It?
- 07:23 Mythbusters



- 00:00 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
- 00:55 The Grace Helbig Show
- 01:25 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 02:20 Giuliana & Bill
- 03:15 Giuliana & Bill
- 04:10 Giuliana & Bill
- 05:05 Giuliana & Bill
- 06:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 06:55 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 07:50 Style Star
- 08:20 New Money
- 08:45 New Money
- 09:15 Giuliana & Bill
- 10:15 Giuliana & Bill
- 11:10 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
- 11:35 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
- 12:05 Botched
- 13:05 Botched Presents: Perfect Crime
- 14:05 Botched
- 15:00 Botched
- 16:00 Botched
- 17:00 Botched
- 18:00 E! News
- 19:00 Botched
- 20:00 Botched



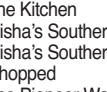
LAY THE FAVOURITE ON OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

- 13:50 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 14:15 The Lion Guard
- 14:40 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 15:10 Miles From Tomorrow
- 15:35 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 16:00 Sofia The First
- 16:25 Jungle Cubs
- 16:50 Aladdin
- 17:15 The Lion Guard
- 17:40 Goldie & Bear
- 18:05 Miles From Tomorrow
- 18:30 Sofia The First
- 19:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 19:30 The Lion Guard
- 20:00 Goldie & Bear
- 20:30 Sofia The First
- 21:00 Jungle Cubs
- 21:25 Aladdin
- 21:50 Gummi Bears
- 22:20 Lilo And Stitch
- 22:50 Zou
- 23:05 Henry Hugglemonster
- 23:20 Calimero
- 23:35 Zou
- 23:50 Loopidoo

- 21:00 Botched
- 22:00 E! News
- 23:00 Fashion Police



- 00:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 00:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 01:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 01:30 Man v Food
- 02:00 Man v Food
- 02:30 Man Fire Food
- 03:00 Man Fire Food
- 03:30 Man Fire Food
- 04:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 04:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 05:00 Guy's Grocery Games
- 06:00 Chopped
- 07:00 Man Fire Food
- 07:30 Man Fire Food
- 08:00 Chopped
- 09:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
- 09:30 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
- 10:00 The Kitchen
- 11:00 Trisha's Southern Kitchen
- 11:30 Trisha's Southern Kitchen
- 12:00 Chopped
- 13:00 The Pioneer Woman
- 13:30 The Pioneer Woman
- 14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 14:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 15:00 Man Fire Food
- 15:30 Man Fire Food
- 16:00 Chopped
- 17:00 The Kitchen
- 18:00 Trisha's Southern Kitchen
- 18:30 Trisha's Southern Kitchen
- 19:00 Chopped
- 20:00 Guy's Grocery Games
- 21:00 Chopped
- 22:00 Cutfthroat Kitchen
- 23:00 Iron Chef America



- 00:20 Swamp People
- 01:10 Appalachian Outlaws
- 02:00 Ice Road Truckers
- 02:50 Ax Men
- 03:40 American Restoration
- 04:05 American Restoration
- 04:30 Pawn Stars
- 05:00 Mankind The Story Of All Of Us
- 06:00 Mountain Men
- 06:50 Swamp People
- 07:40 Ax Men
- 08:30 Shipping Wars
- 08:55 American Restoration
- 09:20 American Restoration
- 09:45 Fift Gear
- 10:35 Counting Cars
- 11:00 Counting Cars
- 11:25 Mankind The Story Of All Of Us
- 12:15 American Pickers
- 13:05 Storage Wars
- 13:30 Storage Wars
- 13:55 Duck Dynasty
- 14:20 Duck Dynasty
- 14:45 Swamp People
- 15:35 Shipping Wars
- 16:00 Mountain Men
- 16:50 Swamp People
- 17:40 Ice Road Truckers
- 18:30 Mankind The Story Of All Of Us
- 19:20 American Pickers
- 20:10 Pawn Stars
- 20:35 Pawn Stars
- 21:00 Fift Gear
- 21:50 Shipping Wars
- 22:15 Shipping Wars
- 22:40 Lost Worlds
- 23:30 Fift Gear



- 00:10 Desperate Hours
- 00:35 Desperate Hours
- 01:00 Underworld, Inc.
- 02:00 Explorer
- 02:55 Inside Maritime Singapore
- 03:50 Desperate Hours
- 04:15 Desperate Hours
- 04:45 The Known Universe
- 05:40 The Fabric Of The Cosmos
- 06:35 Wild India
- 07:30 Winged Seduction: Birds Of Paradise
- 08:25 Ultimate Survival Alaska
- 09:20 The Known Universe
- 10:15 Brain Games
- 11:10 Cesar To The Rescue
- 12:05 Supercar Megabuild
- 13:00 Cameramen Who Dare
- 14:00 Secrets Of The King Cobra
- 16:00 Brain Games
- 17:00 Cesar To The Rescue
- 18:00 Supercar Megabuild
- 19:00 Secrets Of The King Cobra
- 20:00 Brain Games
- 21:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 22:00 Breaking In
- 23:00 The Big C
- 23:30 Louie
- 23:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers



- 00:35 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
- 01:00 Chasing Time
- 01:25 Miguel's Feasts



- 01:50 The Food Files
- 02:15 Dream Cruises
- 03:05 Wineroads
- 03:30 East Bites West
- 03:55 Grandma's Boy
- 04:20 Fearless Chef
- 05:10 Street Food Around The World
- 05:35 Street Food Around The World
- 06:00 Cesar To The Rescue
- 06:50 Chasing Time
- 07:15 Miguel's Feasts
- 07:40 The Food Files
- 08:05 Dream Cruises
- 08:55 Wineroads
- 09:20 East Bites West
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- 11:25 Street Food Around The World
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- 12:40 Chasing Time
- 13:05 Miguel's Feasts
- 13:35 The Food Files
- 14:00 Dream Cruises
- 14:55 Wineroads
- 15:25 East Bites West
- 16:50 Hotel India
- 16:45 Miguel's Feasts
- 17:10 Street Food Around The World
- 17:35 Street Food Around The World
- 18:00 Cesar To The Rescue
- 19:00 Wineroads
- 19:30 East Bites West
- 20:00 Hotel India
- 20:50 Miguel's Feasts
- 21:15 Street Food Around The World
- 21:40 Street Food Around The World
- 22:05 Cesar To The Rescue
- 22:55 Chasing Time
- 23:20 Miguel's Feasts
- 23:45 The Food Files



- 00:00 Tyrant
- 01:00 Castle
- 02:00 Lucifer
- 03:00 Better Call Saul
- 04:00 Good Morning America
- 06:00 Castle
- 07:00 24
- 08:00 Prison Break
- 09:00 The Voice
- 11:00 24
- 12:00 Prison Break
- 13:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 14:00 Live Good Morning America
- 16:00 Lucifer
- 17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 18:00 Prison Break
- 19:00 The Voice
- 20:00 Once Upon A Time
- 21:00 Marvel's Agents Of S.H.I.E.L.D.
- 22:00 The Flash
- 23:00 DC's Legends Of Tomorrow



- 00:00 Hard Target
- 02:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 04:00 Forget And Forgive
- 06:00 Hercules
- 08:00 Betrayed
- 10:00 The River Wild
- 12:00 The Malay Chronicles: Bloodlines
- 14:00 Hercules
- 15:45 Metro
- 17:45 Betrayed
- 19:30 Pearl Harbor
- 22:45 The 13th Warrior



- 00:00 Lay The Favorite
- 02:00 500 Days Of Summer
- 04:00 Garfield's Pet Force
- 06:00 Sweet Home Alabama
- 08:00 Grudge Match
- 10:00 500 Days Of Summer
- 12:00 Rush Hour
- 13:45 The Preacher's Wife
- 16:00 Grudge Match
- 18:00 Rush Hour 2
- 20:00 Idiocracy
- 22:00 Behaving Badly



- 01:00 Half Of A Yellow Sun
- 03:00 Romeo & Juliet
- 05:00 Shanghai Calling
- 07:00 The Dependables
- 09:00 1911
- 11:00 Shanghai Calling
- 13:00 Romeo & Juliet
- 15:00 Foreverland
- 17:00 1911
- 19:00 Short Term 12
- 21:00 Frank
- 23:00 The Bronx Bull



- 01:00 The Lizzie McGuire Movie
- 03:00 Homework Bound: The Incredible Journey
- 05:00 Beverly Hills Chihuahua
- 07:00 The Hunchback Of Notre Dame
- 09:00 Toy Story 3
- 11:15 The Mighty Ducks
- 13:00 Mulan
- 15:00 Oz The Great And Powerful
- 17:15 Ice Princess
- 19:00 Eight Below
- 21:00 Ernest Goes To Camp
- 23:00 The Mighty Ducks



- 01:30 Where Angels Fear To Tread
- 03:30 What Maisie Knew
- 05:30 The Apostle
- 07:30 Ochoi O Dia Dos Namorados
- 09:15 Belle
- 11:00 Black Nativity
- 12:45 The Apostle
- 15:00 A Beautiful Mind
- 17:15 Belle
- 19:00 Boyhood
- 21:45 Wall Street



- 01:00 Slow West
- 03:00 Love, Rosie
- 05:00 Boychoir
- 07:00 Edge Of Tomorrow
- 09:00 Love, Rosie
- 11:00 Some Girls
- 13:00 Metallica: Through The Never
- 15:00 So Undercover
- 16:45 Godzilla
- 19:00 The Rewrite
- 21:00 My Old Lady
- 23:00 Home Sweet Hell



- 01:30 Ploddy Police Car On The Case
- 03:00 Justice League vs. Bizarro League



# CLASSIFIEDS



**SHARQIA-1**  
 THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR 12:30 PM  
 CRISTIANO RONALDO: WORLD AT HIS FEET 2:45 PM  
 THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR 4:15 PM  
 THE ONES BELOW 6:30 PM  
 CRISTIANO RONALDO: WORLD AT HIS FEET 8:30 PM  
 THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR 10:00 PM  
 THE ONES BELOW 12:15 AM

**SHARQIA-2**  
 THE JUNGLE BOOK 12:45 PM  
 SARRAINODU - Telugu 2:00 PM  
 THE JUNGLE BOOK 3:00 PM  
 THE JUNGLE BOOK 5:15 PM  
 THE JUNGLE BOOK 7:30 PM  
 THE JUNGLE BOOK 10:00 PM  
 THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR 12:15 AM

**SHARQIA-3**  
 CRISTIANO RONALDO: WORLD AT HIS FEET 12:00 PM  
 CRISTIANO RONALDO: WORLD AT HIS FEET 1:30 PM  
 CRIMINAL 3:00 PM  
 CRISTIANO RONALDO: WORLD AT HIS FEET 5:15 PM  
 FAN- Hindi 6:45 PM  
 FAN- Hindi 9:45 PM  
 SARRAINODU - Telugu 3:30 PM  
 SARRAINODU - Telugu 6:45 PM  
 SARRAINODU - Telugu 9:45 PM  
 CRIMINAL 12:45 AM

**MUHALAB-1**  
 THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR 12:30 PM  
 THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR 2:45 PM  
 THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR 5:00 PM  
 CRISTIANO RONALDO: WORLD AT HIS FEET 7:15 PM  
 CRISTIANO RONALDO: WORLD AT HIS FEET 8:45 PM  
 THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR 10:30 PM  
 NO FRI-MON  
 SARRAINODU - Telugu 10:30 PM

**MUHALAB-2**  
 FAN- Hindi 12:30 PM  
 KUNG FU PANDA 3 1:30 PM  
 FAN- Hindi 3:30 PM  
 FAN- Hindi 6:30 PM  
 FAN- Hindi 9:30 PM  
 SARRAINODU - Telugu 3:30 PM  
 SARRAINODU - Telugu 6:30 PM  
 SARRAINODU - Telugu 9:30 PM  
 FAN- Hindi 12:30 AM

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

**MUHALAB-3**  
 THE JUNGLE BOOK 1:00 PM  
 SARRAINODU - Telugu 1:30 PM  
 THE JUNGLE BOOK 3:30 PM  
 THE JUNGLE BOOK 5:45 PM  
 THE JUNGLE BOOK 8:00 PM  
 THE JUNGLE BOOK 10:15 PM  
 THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR 12:30 AM

**FANAR-1**  
 THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR 12:30 PM  
 THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR 2:45 PM  
 CRISTIANO RONALDO: WORLD AT HIS FEET 5:00 PM  
 THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR 6:45 PM  
 CRISTIANO RONALDO: WORLD AT HIS FEET 9:00 PM  
 THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR 10:30 PM  
 THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR 12:45 AM

**FANAR-2**  
 FAN- Hindi 12:30 PM  
 FAN- Hindi 3:30 PM  
 FAN- Hindi 6:30 PM  
 FAN- Hindi 9:30 PM  
 SARRAINODU - Telugu 3:30 PM  
 SARRAINODU - Telugu 6:30 PM  
 SARRAINODU - Telugu 9:30 PM  
 CRIMINAL 12:30 AM

**FANAR-3**  
 DEMOLITION 12:00 PM  
 THE ONES BELOW 2:15 PM  
 DEMOLITION 4:00 PM  
 THE ONES BELOW 6:15 PM  
 DEMOLITION 8:00 PM  
 THE ONES BELOW 10:15 PM  
 DEMOLITION 12:15 AM

**FANAR-4**  
 THE JUNGLE BOOK 12:15 PM  
 THE JUNGLE BOOK 2:30 PM  
 THE JUNGLE BOOK 4:45 PM  
 THE JUNGLE BOOK -3D 7:00 PM  
 THE JUNGLE BOOK 9:15 PM  
 THE JUNGLE BOOK 11:30 PM

**FANAR-5**  
 THE JUNGLE BOOK 1:30 PM  
 THE JUNGLE BOOK 3:45 PM  
 CRIMINAL 6:00 PM  
 FAN- Hindi 8:15 PM  
 FAN- Hindi 11:15 PM

### CHANGE OF NAME

**Kanagamani** Packirisamy son of Packirisamy and Saroja bearing an Indian Passport No. Z2443141 and having address A2K Vilavanapadugai, Kalam Pulivalam, Thiruvavur 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

## For Rent

**Basement in Maidan Hawally**  
 Haroon Al Rashid St. 562 m<sup>2</sup>  
**99666522 - 99658206**

**Flat in Salwa - Block 1**  
 St. A - Beside British School  
**66248421 - 99666522**

**Flat in Jabriya - Block 1**  
 St. 105 - Beside Building 194  
**97916548 - 99666522**

## EMERGENCY 112

**Automated enquiry about the Civil ID card is**  
**1889988**



### PRAYER TIMINGS

**Fajr: 03:45**  
**Shorook 05:10**  
**Duhr: 11:46**  
**Asr: 15:21**  
**Maghrib: 18:21**  
**Isha: 19:44**

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**

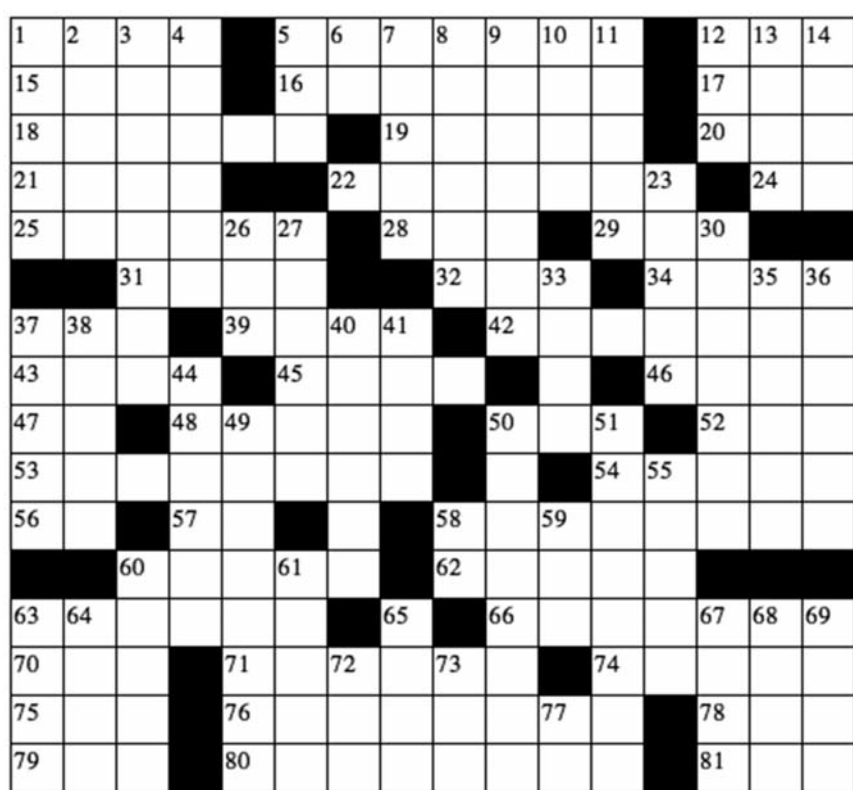


Arrival Flights on Wednesday 27/4/2016				Departure Flights on Wednesday 27/4/2016				
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	CLX	792	Hanoi	14:30	
MSC	415	Sohag	00:10	IVE	827	Mukalla/Sanaa	14:30	
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55	KNE	382	Taif	14:55	
KKK	6506	Istanbul	00:55	KAC	773	Riyadh	15:00	
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	MSR	576	Sharm el-Sheikh	15:00	
QTR	1086	Doha	01:15	KAC	673	Dubai	15:05	
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:05	
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:25	FDB	058	Dubai	15:05	
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:45	KAC	617	Doha	15:15	
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	QTR	1079	Doha	15:15	
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	IRC	6512	ABD	15:20	
CEB	018	Manila	02:20	KAC	741	Dammam	15:30	
UAE	853	Dubai	02:25	SVA	503	Madinah/Jeddah	15:45	
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	JZR	188	Dubai	15:50	
FDB	067	Dubai	03:15	KNE	530	Jeddah	15:55	
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	KAC	613	Bahrain	16:00	
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:15	KNE	684	Madinah	16:00	
QTR	1076	Doha	03:25	OMA	646	Muscat	16:10	
KAC	544	Cairo	03:40	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15	
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20	
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	KAC	563	Amman	16:30	
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	06:30	QTR	1077	Doha	16:55	
BAW	157	London	06:40	CEB	019	Manila	17:00	
FDB	5061	Dubai	07:15	JZR	560	Sohag	17:00	
KAC	382	Delhi	07:30	RJA	643	Amman	17:10	
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	07:35	QTR	1087	Doha	17:25	
KAC	206	Islamabad	07:40	THY	771	Istanbul	17:40	
KAC	204	Lahore	07:40	GFA	212	Bahrain	17:45	
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	FDB	070	Dubai	17:50	
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50	JZR	164	Dubai	18:15	
KAC	156	Istanbul	08:00	18:55	FDB	5062	Dubai	18:20
KAC	354	BLR	08:00	BAW	156	London	18:20	
KAC	344	Chennai	08:15	FDB	054	Dubai	18:30	
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:15	KAC	511	Mashhad	18:30	
KAC	362	Colombo	08:20	KAC	539	Sharm el-Sheikh	18:50	
KAC	352	Kochi	08:20	KAC	791	Madinah	19:15	
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	KAC	787	Jeddah	19:20	
MSR	500	Cairo	09:00	KAC	671	Dubai	19:30	
KAC	284	Dhaka	09:00	JZR	482	Istanbul	19:50	
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	ABY	126	Sharjah	19:50	
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:05	UAE	856	Dubai	19:55	
IRC	6511	ABD	09:15	KAC	117	New York	20:00	
IRA	665	Shiraz	09:25	MSR	501	Cairo	20:00	
QTR	1070	Doha	09:30	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	20:30	
IRM	1188	Mashhad	09:40	IRC	6522	Lamerd	20:30	
FDB	055	Dubai	09:50	IRA	664	Shiraz	20:35	
UAE	873	Dubai	10:40	FDB	056	Dubai	20:35	
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	QTR	1071	Doha	20:45	
AXB	890	Mangalore/Bahrain	10:55	IRM	1189	Mashhad	20:55	
MEA	404	Beirut	11:00	KAC	501	Beirut	20:55	
JZR	561	Sohag	11:25	KAC	153	Istanbul	21:00	
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50	KAC	175	Frankfurt/Geneva	21:00	
IAW	157	Al Najaf	11:55	KAC	561	Amman	21:10	
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25	GFA	214	Bahrain	21:15	
SAW	701	Damascus	12:35	JZR	356	Mashhad	21:15	
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	AXB	890	Mangalore	21:45	
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	MEA	405	Beirut	21:50	
CLX	792	Luxembourg	13:15	KAC	541	Cairo	21:55	
IYE	826	Sanaa/Mukalla	13:30	KAC	103	London	21:55	
KAC	792	Madinah	13:45	UAE	874	Dubai	22:20	
IRC	6521	Lamerd	13:55	JZR	776	Jeddah	22:25	
KNE	231	Riyadh	14:00	IAW	158	Al Najaf	22:25	
QTR	1078	Doha	14:05	JZR	785	Jeddah	22:30	
KAC	672	Dubai	14:15	JZR	176	Dubai	22:30	
MSR	575	Sharm el-Sheikh	14:20	FDB	076	Dubai	23:00	
FDB	057	Dubai	14:20	JZR	786	Riyadh	23:00	
GFA	221	Bahrain	14:20	SAW	702	Damascus	23:05	
				MSR	611	Cairo	23:15	
				UAE	872	Dubai	23:20	

**DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION**



CROSSWORD 1239



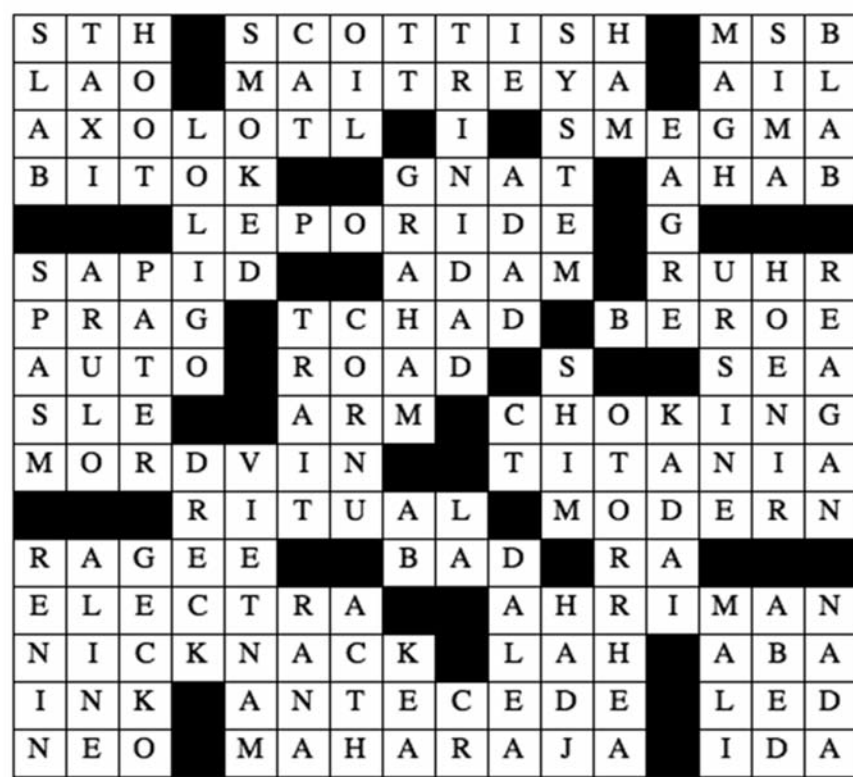
ACROSS

- Open-heart surgery in which the rib cage is opened and a section of a blood vessel is grafted from the aorta to the coronary artery to bypass the blocked section of the coronary artery and improve the blood supply to the heart.
- A raised doughnut filled with jelly or jam.
- The compass point that is one point south of due east.
- A particular geographical region of indefinite boundary (usually serving some special purpose or distinguished by its people or culture or geography).
- A disorder of the vocal organs that results in the loss of voice.
- (British) A waterproof raincoat made of rubberized fabric.
- Turn red, as if in embarrassment or shame.
- Wild sheep of semidesert regions in central Asia.
- A reptile genus of Iguanidae.
- A ruler of the Inca Empire (or a member of his family).
- Hormone secreted by the isles of Langerhans in the pancreas.
- The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
- African tree having an exceedingly thick trunk and fruit that resembles a gourd and has an edible pulp called monkey bread.
- A colloid in a more solid form than a sol.
- The United Nations agency concerned with the international organization of food and agriculture.
- A long depression in the surface of the land that usually contains a river.
- Resinlike substance secreted by certain lac insects.
- United States composer noted for his innovative use of polytonality (1874-1954).
- A sweetened beverage of diluted fruit juice.
- In or of the present month.
- (military) Withdrawal to a more favorable position.
- A commercial leavening agent containing yeast cells.
- A large genus of dicotyledonous trees and shrubs of the family Aquifoliaceae that have small flowers and berries (including hollies).
- Type genus of the family Arcidae.
- A state in northwestern United States on the Pacific.
- A strong emotion.
- Any high mountain.
- A large estate in Spanish-speaking countries.
- 100 ngwee equal 1 kwacha.
- 300 to 3000 kilohertz.
- A blow that renders the opponent unconscious.
- Sorghums of dry regions of Asia and North Africa.
- A small island republic on the Tuvalu islands.
- An artist of consummate skill.
- Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
- Relating to the Andes and their inhabitants.
- Having the leading position or higher score in a contest.
- A master's degree in library science.
- A headlong rush of people on a common impulse.
- Black tropical American cuckoo.
- (prefix) Bad or erroneous or lack of.

DOWN

- A member of an American Indian peoples of NE South America and the Lesser Antilles.
- A particular environment or walk of life.
- Decorative cover for a bed.
- A member of an agricultural people in southeastern India.
- A decree that prohibits something.
- The sciences concerned with gathering and manipulating and storing and retrieving and classifying recorded information.
- The imperial dynasty ruling China from about the 18th to the 12th centuries BC.
- A small quantity of anything.
- Measured by an angle or by the rate of change of an angle.
- The basic unit of money in Iran.
- The civil and religious leader of a Muslim state.
- Any of various systems of units for measuring electricity and magnetism.
- A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
- Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
- The basic unit of money in Nigeria.
- American prizefighter who won the world heavyweight championship three times (born in 1942).
- Pleasant and beneficial in nature or influence.
- Subdue, restrain, or overcome by affecting with a feeling of awe.
- The basic unit of money in Ghana.
- Imperial moths.
- The stirrup-shaped ossicle that transmits sound from the incus to the cochlea.
- A unit of elastance equal to the reciprocal of a farad.
- A vehicle mounted on runners and pulled by horses or dogs.
- A three-tone Chadic language.
- South American plant cultivated for its large fragrant trumpet-shaped flowers.
- An abnormal new mass of tissue that serves no purpose.
- Tropical plant having thick hairy somewhat toothed leaves and solitary or clustered yellow to scarlet flowers.
- Brown or blackish Alpine mosses having a dehiscent capsule with 4 longitudinal slits.
- Grind together, of teeth.
- A ductile silvery-white ductile ferromagnetic trivalent metallic element of the rare earth group.
- A constellation in the southern hemisphere near Telescopium and Norma.
- (Russian) Fermented beverage resembling beer but made from rye or barley.
- A clique that seeks power usually through intrigue.
- Large sweet juicy hybrid between tangerine and grapefruit having a thick wrinkled skin.
- Area around the altar of a church for the clergy and choir.
- A bluish shade of green.
- Type genus of the Ranidae.
- (Norse mythology) Ruler of the Aesir.
- The longer of the two telegraphic signals used in Morse code.
- The month following March and preceding May.
- A person who announces and plays popular recorded music.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

A stubborn streak, yours or someone else's, could interfere with your life's purpose. There is perhaps a sense of challenge just now. You have many ideas but pushing your thoughts on others may not be productive. You may find yourself ahead of the usual thinking and with no technical or scientific person around to listen to your thoughts, it may be difficult to continue to create. Look for ways to get into groups that network and enjoy scientific conversations—patience, your ideas will be heard. Also, write down some of your ideas for a later time. Selling some item you no longer use may cover the fee for belonging to a group for a year—consider it. You may find yourself enjoying the company of a loved one this evening.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You may receive an exciting offer in the workplace today. You could think that you are not qualified but you may want to stretch your wings anyway. Listen carefully, take notes and make it an adventure as well as a positive move forward. You will need to stay on your toes and pay attention. Write down the names of people that could give you advice, if you find it necessary. You may have entered a noticeable lucky era in your personal life as well. You are able to lend a helping hand to the young people that enjoy your company. This afternoon, sports or games with children can be a wonderful change of pace. Know when to quit or you will end up more exhausted than the kids; after all, there is a celebration this evening.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Communication is easy for you. When you are not communicating at work you are probably looking for ways to get your voice or your ideas out to the public. Writing a letter to the editor of a newspaper, creating poetry about some political situation or teaching others are great ways to get involved in the cycle of teaching and learning. Through new studies, you can make great leaps forward in your career. You are just beginning to realize how much you can do to make a positive difference in the life of others. This afternoon you may want to take some timeout and listen to others—family. It is good that you give plenty of hugs and your sense of humor helps and encourages young people to tackle challenges. This evening is for music.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Winning the hearts of others can be a challenge you are eager to accept this today—and the thrill of the chase might be most of the fun. Do not work a project into oblivion. Make it perfect, then let go and trust that all your good work will be appreciated. Then, move on to the next subject of interest. This afternoon is a good time to read a romantic book or take in a movie. Ideas and thoughts will have greater meaning and form. You may be very eloquent or forceful in speaking or communicating. People will understand just what you mean. Romance may be on your mind most of this evening. Marriage may be in the forecast. Think before you leap because if your love is real, it will last. Choose someone who mirrors your ideas on living.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Your management abilities and your intuitive insights are strong. You are good at getting speedy results in the workplace. Business circumstances call for your close attention this morning. Let others know you will not want to be interrupted for a period of time and show appreciation when they have complied. Welcome the trials and oppositions that occur with your finances at this time and consider getting rid of some of those credit cards. If your money investments work now, they will continue to prosper in the future. A new hobby or leisure-time pursuit offers intellectual stimulation and personal relaxation. A social event allows you to connect with exciting new people. View life positively and good results are what you will get.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You could be promoted because of outside influences. Perhaps there is much praise from customers or the results from your previous efforts are recognized. You seem able to multiply other people's money quite well. Be very careful what you try to bring into your life; watch out, you may be stuck with what you get for some time. Ambitious schemes and the pursuit of success take on a high priority. This brings a focus on the practical, the successful, the pragmatic—whatever it takes to get you ahead in the end. The meek may inherit the earth, but the shrewd will collect the rent. A young person may need your attention this afternoon—you are wise to set aside some time for them. This is a great time for love and money—enjoy.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Hard work is the order of the day. Sustained effort helps you make headway with a project that seems as though it will never end. You gain insight today into just how powerful each of us can be or can become. You have a lot of faith that you can create whatever you visualize; occasionally, you need to give this plenty of time. A difficult situation tries your patience, but when you realize that it takes time, concentration and a good attitude, you can make everything all work out in positive ways. Do not take shortcuts. Again... You need patience to see things through to the end. A young person may ask for your help this evening. Take some time to do some relaxation exercises before you fall asleep and you will rest better through the night.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

As you take on more responsibility in your profession, you will tend to choose partners and associates who share some of your goals and objectives. You tend to make beneficial contacts with older, more experienced people and those in positions of authority. Your sense of justice intensifies as you become more sensitive to the needs and rights of others. You will give serious consideration to all legally binding contracts and agreements in order to assure yourself that requirements are met. Learn how to sell your ideas. Gradually you will learn how to negotiate and reach an acceptable compromise on important issues. Tonight you may decide to take a turn at cooking the evening meal. You have a natural flair for such things and enjoy pleasing others.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Fluency in communication sharpens your intellect. You will be curious and talkative. Eating lunch with friends brings out the best in you. You are observant and quick to form impressions. Be wise in what you say. You could be urged to help make a decision that will affect your living situation or life circumstances. Others may challenge your authority or the direction you are taking. However, once you have made your decision—stick with it. You rise above the challenges facing you now. Your taste in art and appreciation is heightened. Perhaps this evening is a good time to be entertained by selecting a movie or attending an art show. It could even be the best time to sit back and enjoy what you have, to live life.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Don't be surprised if you are not in top mental gear just now. You could find yourself trying to be understood. Give yourself a little time to get into the groove of the day by listing a few things that are most important or need to take priority. You will soon gain a focus and become determined to accomplish much. There is an opportunity to soften and heal from a misunderstanding. There is the key to the greater psychic and spiritual sensitivity you may feel. You could find yourself in the library this afternoon. Law, philosophy or religion have much potential to impact your lifestyle. You could be in touch with your most personal emotions, filling you with a sense of contentment and peace. Let music soothe your spirit.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Head up! Shoulders back! You are able to combat the most difficult challenges today. You will feel victorious with your plans. Letting someone else take the glory in the workplace today may be a gift to yourself as well as others. Your mind is clear and ideas are flowing easily. You can talk, talk, talk. Education, advertising and travels are certainly subjects that hold your attention. Travel plans will firm up soon—patience. Until that time, you may want to send off to the chamber of commerce at each place you want to visit. You will get some facts and fun information. If you have access to a computer, the world could open up for you in lots of fun ways—use a search tool and start searching. You will enjoy contact between friends this evening.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Personal and romantic feelings may interfere with your concentration—careful. This period will bring about good communication and good morale among co-workers. You could be most persuasive with others and charismatic in your communication. A boss or some other influential person judges your efforts. This may lead to a bit of nervousness. A calm state of mind will be the key to your success. You have lots of passion to tackle any problem or project that you may want to accomplish. You want to manage your finances efficiently and you are generally very good at that. You may enjoy being a mentor to someone that certainly needs help in the finance department. Much time is spent on the phone this evening.

WORD SEARCH

More 70's Songs

Find and circle all of these songs from the 1970's that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters will spell the names of ten music groups from the 70's.



- |                   |               |                |                 |
|-------------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|
| AFTERNOON DELIGHT | DREAM ON      | MAGIC MAN      | SHE'S GONE      |
| AMERICAN PIE      | DREAM WEAVER  | MAIN STREET    | SIGNS           |
| AMERICAN WOMAN    | DRIFT AWAY    | MARGARITAVILLE | SOUTHERN NIGHTS |
| ANNIE'S SONG      | EBONY EYES    | MY LOVE        | SUMMER NIGHTS   |
| BAD GIRLS         | FIRE AND RAIN | MY SHARONA     | SUNDOWN         |
| BARRACUDA         | HELP ME       | NIGHT FEVER    | SUPERSTAR       |
| BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY | IMAGINE       | PHOTOGRAPH     | THE GAMBLER     |
| BROTHER LOUIE     | LAST DANCE    | PIANO MAN      | WITHOUT YOU     |
| CRAZY ON YOU      | LET IT BE     | REUNITED       | WOODSTOCK       |
| DELTA DAWN        | LOVE HURTS    | ROSE GARDEN    | Y.M.C.A.        |
| DON'T STOP        | LOW RIDER     | SHADOW DANCING | YOU'RE SIXTEEN  |

Yesterday Solution

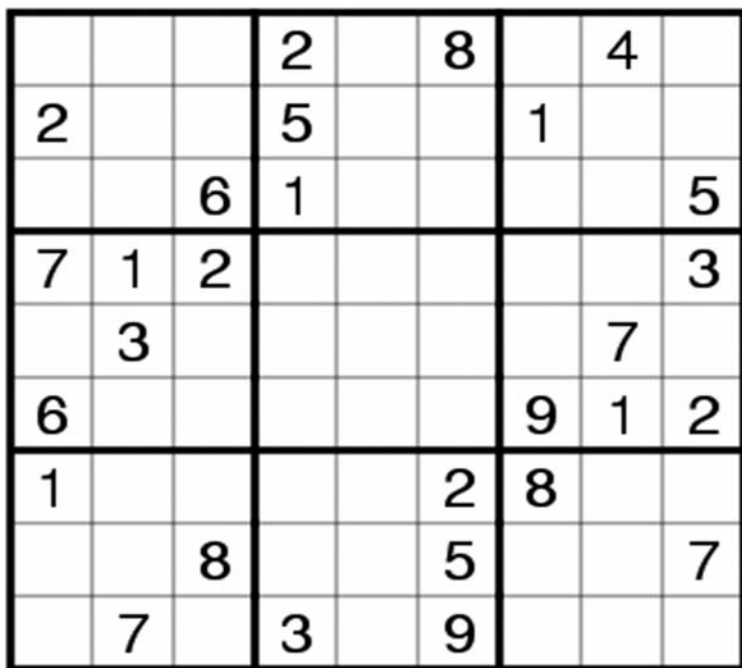
More 70's Songs

Find and circle all of these songs from the 1970's that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters will spell the names of ten music groups from the 70's.

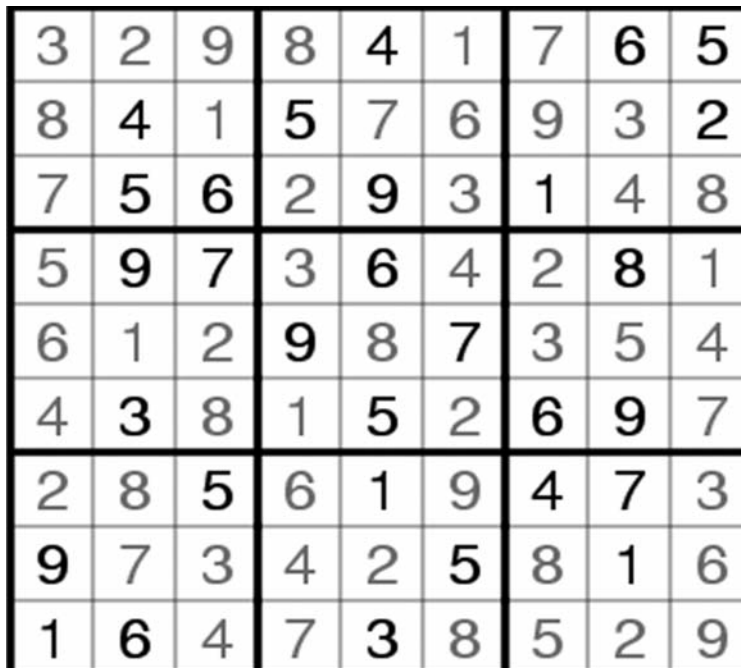


- |                   |               |                |                 |
|-------------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|
| AFTERNOON DELIGHT | DREAM ON      | MAGIC MAN      | SHE'S GONE      |
| AMERICAN PIE      | DREAM WEAVER  | MAIN STREET    | SIGNS           |
| AMERICAN WOMAN    | DRIFT AWAY    | MARGARITAVILLE | SOUTHERN NIGHTS |
| ANNIE'S SONG      | EBONY EYES    | MY LOVE        | SUMMER NIGHTS   |
| BAD GIRLS         | FIRE AND RAIN | MY SHARONA     | SUNDOWN         |
| BARRACUDA         | HELP ME       | NIGHT FEVER    | SUPERSTAR       |
| BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY | IMAGINE       | PHOTOGRAPH     | THE GAMBLER     |
| BROTHER LOUIE     | LAST DANCE    | PIANO MAN      | WITHOUT YOU     |
| CRAZY ON YOU      | LET IT BE     | REUNITED       | WOODSTOCK       |
| DELTA DAWN        | LOVE HURTS    | ROSE GARDEN    | Y.M.C.A.        |
| DON'T STOP        | LOW RIDER     | SHADOW DANCING | YOU'RE SIXTEEN  |

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution





For labor-related inquiries and complaints:  
Call MSAL hotline 128

Hospitals

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

Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khaldiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401
Jabriya	25316254
Maidan Hawally	25623444
Bayan	25388462
Mishref	25381200
W Hawally	22630786
Sabah	24810221
Jahra	24770319
New Jahra	24575755
West Jahra	24772608
South Jahra	24775066
North Jahra	24775992
North Jleeb	24311795
Ardhiya	24884079
Firdous	24892674
Omariya	24719048
N Khaitan	24710044
Fintas	23900322



PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

GOVERNORATE	PHARMACY	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ahmadi	Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan	Fahaeel Makka St Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd	23915883 23715414 23726558
Jahra	Modern Jahra Madina Munawara	Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1 Jahra-Block 92	24575518 24566622
Capital	Ahlam Khaldiya Coop	Fahad Al-Salem St Khaldiya Coop	22436184 24833967
Farwaniya	New Shifa Ferdous Coop Modern Safwan	Farwaniya Block 40 Ferdous Coop Old Kheitan Block 11	24734000 24881201 24726638
Hawally	Tariq Hana Ikhlas Hawally & Rawdha Ghadeer Kindy Ibn Al-Nafis Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Salmiya-Amman St Hawally-Beirut St Hawally & Rawdha Coop Jabriya-Block 1A Jabriya-Block 3B Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	25726265 25647075 22625999 22564549 25340559 25326554 25721264 25380581 25628241

INTERNATIONAL CALLS



Afghanistan	0093	Lithuania	00370
Albania	00355	Luxembourg	00352
Algeria	00213	Macau	00853
Andorra	00376	Macedonia	00389
Angola	00244	Madagascar	00261
Anguilla	001264	Majorca	0034
Antigua	001268	Malawi	00265
Argentina	0054	Malaysia	0060
Armenia	00374	Maldives	00960
Australia	0061	Mali	00223
Austria	0043	Malta	00356
Azerbaijan	00994	Marshall Islands	00692
Bahamas	001242	Martinique	00596
Bahrain	00973	Mauritania	00222
Bangladesh	00880	Mauritius	00230
Barbados	001246	Mayotte	00269
Belarus	00375	Mexico	0052
Belgium	0032	Micronesia	00691
Belize	00501	Moldova	00373
Benin	00229	Monaco	00377
Bermuda	001441	Mongolia	00976
Bhutan	00975	Montserrat	001664
Bolivia	00591	Morocco	00212
Bosnia	00387	Mozambique	00258
Botswana	00267	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Brazil	0055	Namibia	00264
Brunei	00673	Nepal	00977
Bulgaria	00359	Netherlands	0031
Burkina	00226	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Burundi	00257	New Caledonia	00687
Cambodia	00855	New Zealand	0064
Cameroon	00237	Nicaragua	00505
Canada	001	Niger	00227
Cape Verde	00238	Nigeria	00234
Cayman Islands	001345	Niue	00683
Central African	00236	Norfolk Island	00672
Chad	00235	N. Ireland (UK)	0044
Chile	0056	North Korea	00850
China	0086	Norway	0047
Colombia	0057	Oman	00968
Comoros	00269	Pakistan	0092
Congo	00242	Palau	00680
Cook Islands	00682	Panama	00507
Costa Rica	00506	Papua New Guinea	00675
Croatia	00385	Paraguay	00595
Cuba	0053	Peru	0051
Cyprus	00357	Philippines	0063
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Poland	0048
Czech Republic	00420	Portugal	00351
Denmark	0045	Puerto Rico	001787
Diego Garcia	00246	Qatar	00974
Djibouti	00253	Romania	0040
Dominica	001767	Russian Federation	007
Dominican Republic	001809	Rwanda	00250
Ecuador	00593	Saint Helena	00290
Egypt	0020	Saint Kitts	001869
El Salvador	00503	Saint Lucia	001758
England (UK)	0044	Saint Pierre	00508
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Saint Vincent	001784
Eritrea	00291	Samoa US	00684
Estonia	00372	Samoa West	00685
Ethiopia	00251	San Marino	00378
Falkland Islands	00500	Sao Tome	00239
Faroe Islands	00298	Saudi Arabia	00966
Fiji	00679	Scotland (UK)	0044
Finland	00358	Senegal	00221
France	0033	Seychelles	00284
French Guiana	00594	Sierra Leone	00232
French Polynesia	00689	Singapore	0065
Gabon	00241	Slovakia	00421
Gambia	00220	Slovenia	00386
Georgia	00995	Solomon Islands	00677
Germany	0049	Somalia	00252
Ghana	00233	South Africa	0027
Gibraltar	00350	South Korea	0082
Greece	0030	Spain	0034
Greenland	00299	Sri Lanka	0094
Grenada	001473	Sudan	00249
Guadeloupe	00590	Suriname	00597
Guam	001671	Swaziland	00268
Guatemala	00502	Sweden	0046
Guinea	00224	Switzerland	0041
Guyana	00592	Syria	00963
Haiti	00509	Serbia	00381
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Taiwan	00886
Honduras	00504	Tanzania	00255
Hong Kong	00852	Thailand	0066
Hungary	0036	Togo	00228
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Tonga	00676
Iceland	00354	Tokelau	00690
India	0091	Trinidad	001868
Indian Ocean	00873	Tunisia	00216
Indonesia	0062	Turkey	0090
Iran	0098	Tuvalu	00688
Iraq	00964	Uganda	00256
Ireland	00353	Ukraine	00380
Italy	0039	United Arab Emirates	00976
Ivory Coast	00225	United Kingdom	0044
Jamaica	001876	Uruguay	00598
Japan	0081	USA	001
Jordan	00962	Uzbekistan	00998
Kazakhstan	007	Vanuatu	00678
Kenya	00254	Venezuela	00582
Kiribati	00686	Vietnam	0084
Kuwait	00965	Virgin Islands UK	001284
Kyrgyzstan	00996	Virgin Islands US	001340
Laos	00856	Wales (UK)	0044
Latvia	00371	Yemen	00967
Lebanon	00961	Yugoslavia	00381
Liberia	00231	Zambia	00260
Libya	00218	Zimbabwe	00263
Lesotho	00266		

STATE OF KUWAIT DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630  
Fax: (+965) 24348714  
www.met.gov.kw

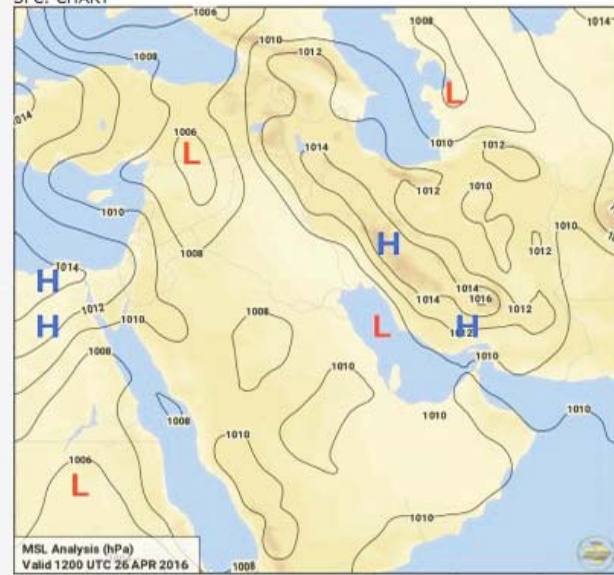
Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

Issued 26/04/2016-19:00 LT UTC +3hr

MIN Temperature 24 °C

By Night : Fair with light to moderate south easterly to southerly wind, with speed of 08 - 30 km/h  
By Day : Hot with light to moderate southerly to south easterly wind, with speed of 12 - 35 km/h and some high clouds will appear

SFC. CHART



Four-Day Forecast

	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Expected Weather	hot + high clouds	partly cloudy + scattered rain	partly cloudy + scattered rain	partly cloudy + scattered rain
Min Temp °C	24	23	25	25
Max Temp °C	42	39	38	37
Wind Direction	southerly to south easterly	south easterly	south easterly changing to north westerly	north easterly becoming south easterly
Wind Speed km/h	12 - 35	15 - 40	15 - 40	10 - 30

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

Warnings & Weather Watches

no warnings or weather watches

Kuwait Forecast

Station	MIN °C EXP	Max °C REC
KUWAIT CITY	28	42
KUWAIT AIRPORT	24	43
ABDALY	24	43
BUBYAN	25	37
JAHRA	27	44
FAILAKA ISLAND	25	40
SALMIYAH	25	36
AHMADI	28	40
JAL ALIYAH	24	43
QAROH ISLAND	25	32
UMM AL-MARADEM	25	33
NUWAISIB	23	44
WAFRA	25	43
MANAGISH	25	43
SALMY	24	41
MUTRIBA	26	44

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	39
Min Temp (°C)	22
Max Rel Hum (%)	31
Min Rel Hum (%)	10
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	32 SE
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm

Sunrise	05:10
Sunset	18:21

Prayer Times

Fajr	03:45
Sunrise	05:10
Zuhr	11:46
Asr	15:21
Sunset	18:21
Isha	19:43

PRIVATE CLINICS



Ophthalmologists	Plastic Surgeons
Dr. Abdallah Al-Mansoor	25622444
Dr. Samy Al-Rabea	25752222
Dr. Masoma Habeeb	25321171
Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy	25739999
Dr. Mohsen Abel	25757700
Dr. Adnan Hasan Alwayl	25732223
Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly	25732223
Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT)	
Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner	24555050 Ext 510
Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali	25644660
Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel	25646478
Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah	25311996
Dr. Mohammad Al-Daory	25731988
Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary	22620166
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz	25651426
General Practitioners	
Dr. Mohammed Y Majidi	24555050 Ext 123
Dr. Yousef Al-Omar	24719312
Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhaizeem	23926920
Dr. Kathem Maarafi	25730465
Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah	25655528
Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi	24577781
Dr. Dina Abdallah Al-Rafea	25333501
Urologists	
Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy	22641534
Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul	22639955
Dr. Khaleel Abdallah Al-Awadi	22616660
Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C)	25313120
Dr. Leons Joseph	66703427

Paediatricians	Endocrinologist
Dr. Khaled Hamadi	25665898
Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed	25340300
Dr. Zahra Qabazard	25710444
Dr. Sohail Qamar	22621099
Dr. Snaa Maarouf	25713514
Dr. Pradip Gupje	23713100
Dr. Zacharias Mathew	24334282
Dermatology	
Dr. Mohammed Salam Bern University	23845955
Dentists	
Dr. Anil Thomas	3729596/3729581
Dr. Shamah Al-Matar	22641071/2
Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed	22562226
Dr. Abdallah Al-Amer	22561444
Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan	22619557
Dr. Abdallateef Al-Katrash	22525888
Dr. Abdallah Al-Duweisan	25653755
Dr. Bader Al-Ansari	25620111
Neurologists	
Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri	25633324
Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan	25345875
Gastrologists	
Dr. Sami Aman	22636464
Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly	25322030
Dr. Foad Abdallah Al-Ali	22633135

Family Doctor	Psychiatrists	Gynaecologists & Obstetricians
Dr Divya Damodar	23729596/23729581	
Dr. Esam Al-Ansari	22635047	
Dr. Eisa M. Al-Balhan	22613623/0	
Dr. Adrian arbe	23729596/23729581	
Dr. Verginia s. Marin	2572-6666 ext 8321	
Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan	22655539	
Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliyami	25343406	
Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly	25739272	
Dr. Salem soso	22618787	
General Surgeons		
Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer	22610044	
Dr. Mohammad Yousef Basher	25327148	
Internists, Chest & Heart		
Dr. Adnan Ebil	22639939	
Dr. Mousa Khadada	22666300	
Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisan	25728004	
Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra	25355515	
Dr. Mobarak Aldoub	24726446	
Dr. Nasser Behbehani	25654300/3	

Physiotherapists & VD	Rheumatologists:	Internist, Chest & Heart
Dr. Deyaa Shehab	25722291	
Dr. Mused Faraj Khamees	22666288	
Dr. Adel Al-Awadi	25330060	
Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah	25722290	
DR. Mohammed Akkad	24555050 Ext 210	
Dr. Mohammad Zubaid MB, ChB, FRCP, PACC		
Assistant Professor Of Medicine Head, Division of Cardiology Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital	25339667	
Consultant Cardiologist		
Dr. Farida Al-Habib MD, PH.D, FACC	2611555-2622555	
Inaya German Medical Center		
Te: 2575077		
Fax: 25723123		





Members of the Ehud Ettun Trio, Ettun on the bass (center), Daniel Schwarzwald on the piano (center) and Nathan Blankett (right) on the drums play during a jazz concert at the Hamarakia soup restaurant in the center of Jerusalem. — AFP photos



The "Olden You Quartet" plays at the Beit Haamudim bar and jazz club during a concert in Tel Aviv.



The "Olden You Quartet" plays at the Beit Haamudim bar and jazz club during a concert.



Foreign musicians (center) and (left) play with the Ehud Ettun Trio during a jazz concert at the Hamarakia soup restaurant.



Yael Hadany (center), who initiated the "Pannonica Jazz" association aimed at encouraging and documenting Israeli jazz sits during a jazz concert.



Members of the Ehud Ettun Trio, Ettun on the bass (center) and Daniel Schwarzwald on the piano (right) play during a jazz concert.

# Israeli jazz taking giant steps as talent returns home

When saxophonist Eli Degibri left Israel at the age of 18 to study jazz at the prestigious Berklee College of Music in Boston, he knew he'd come back home one day. It took 15 years, which included playing with jazz greats like Herbie Hancock and Al Foster in New York, where he also led combos and recorded albums, before the time was right. "I was only waiting for the opportunity to return, and knew that once I could without sacrificing my music-I would," Degibri, who relocated to Israel five years ago, told AFP. Degibri is one several Israeli musicians who are now helping to nurture a burgeoning local scene after years abroad where they trained and played with the best jazz performers.

There has long been a jazz presence in Israel, but never such a wealth of formal training centers alongside returning musicians, according to Ben Shalev, music reporter and critic for Haaretz newspaper. "You've got 15-year-old musicians being inspired by the Avishai Cohens and their likes," he said referring to the prominent Israeli trumpeter and bassist who share the same name. "There used to not really be such role models." Shalev said there is an "unheard of" profusion of new Israeli jazz albums being released. "This would have sounded like science fiction once," he said.

### Yael's Dream

One of the forces behind the abundant recordings is Yael Hadany, who in late 2011 suggested to the owner of Beit Haamudim to turn his faltering bar in Tel Aviv's Carmel Market into a venue for live jazz. "I was learning contrabass at the time and my teacher didn't have a place to play at," she told AFP from Beit Haamudim, where the Olden You Quartet was about to play its first set with the standard tune "On A Slow Boat to China".

"It started from one evening, and an audience grew around it; another evening, another one, another one. Now there are six a week, without a cover charge," she said. Beit Haamudim's unanticipated success led Hadany to initiate "Pannonica jazz," an association named after the legendary jazz patron Pannonica de Koenigswarter aimed at encouraging and documenting Israeli jazz. It also provides free studio time for artists recording albums. Hadany believes that free performances and easily available albums can help draw jazz fans in Israel.

It was a strategy used by Mizrahi music-the popular Israeli genre combining Mediterranean and Arab influences, whose stars began by performing in small clubs and selling cassettes for next to nothing. "An audience is something that can grow in direct relation to exposure and repetition," she said.

### Falafel jazz no more

Israeli jazz is also played at festivals across the country, most notably the Red Sea Jazz Festival in the southern resort city of Eilat. Under Degibri's artistic direction, the festival will be marking its 30th anniversary this August in an event themed around celebrating Israeli jazz. In the past Israeli musicians at times gravitated towards so-called "falafel jazz"-the semi-derogatory nickname for jazz with heavy Middle Eastern themes and flavours, but more recently Israelis are distancing themselves from that genre, said Shalev.

While the style still exists, to an extent "it has been exhausted," said Shalev, who follows the jazz scene closely. "Young musicians don't feel a need to express their Israeli identity that way." But even without a distinct sound, there are characteristics and traits that give Israeli musicians an edge in jazz and could help explain their prominence in the field worldwide. "Jazz is individualism within dynamics," Hadany said. "In Israel,



the individualism is very strong, and in many places you need to adapt yourself to fit in the framework."

Another central aspect of jazz is improvisation, which is "very present in the Israeli mentality" and life, where a volatile security situation and challenging economy "necessitate very quick decisions and adaptations." Degibri, who will be playing with some of the world's finest musicians at the White House on the United Nations' International Jazz Day on April 30, attributes the rise of Israeli jazz to a combination of good musical education and loads of ambition.

"Any Israeli, in any field, has a kind of drive," he said. "Israelis always want to prove themselves. That's our nature." On a recent chilly Jerusalem night, Ehud Ettun prepared to lead his trio in a performance at Hamarakia, a restaurant that for years has hosted jazz music. Ettun, who was raised in Jerusalem and returned to it after studying and playing in the United States, said the city-torn between Israeli and Palestinian, Jewish and Muslim, religious and secular-bears potential to become a "jazz capital." "Jerusalem is such a diverse city, and New York is too," said the 28-year-old. "Only in New York people say 'it's so cool, it's diverse,' while in Jerusalem people say 'oh no, we've got such problems'," he said. "I want to connect people with music," he said. "Jazz is a very accepting music, and there's no reason it shouldn't touch everyone. It just needs to learn to be relevant to the communities in which it exists." — AFP

Foreign musicians (right) and (left) play with the Ehud Ettun trio during a jazz concert at the Hamarakia soup restaurant in center of Jerusalem.

## Indians take to Buddhist chanting to alleviate urban stress

The bank executive, the book publisher and the social worker had one thing in common: Their hectic lives in the crowded Indian capital had become so chaotic and stressful, they've turned to chanting Buddhist mantras in search of calm. The practice is catching on among India's well-off urban professionals, growing by word of mouth as a way to relieve stress. Most of those picking up the practice are Hindu, but they say see no conflict between their religious beliefs and the chanting. Some say it is soothing, others invigorating.

"I feel it just makes me a better human being, more humane," says Gaurav Saboo, 34, a devout Hindu working at an international bank in New Delhi. "It enables me to understand the suffering of others and reach out to others." Buddhism, he says, "is a philosophy, a way of life," and the chanting has brought a positive energy into his life. While Buddhism began on the Indian subcontinent around the 5th century BC, it has waned in both India and Nepal while flourishing in different forms in Japan, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Cambodia and other countries. With its easy rituals and lack of dogma, Buddhism has long drawn supporters from afar.

### Ailing relative

Hollywood celebrities, agnostics, Christians and Jews alike attend Buddhist spiritual retreats. Archi Sharma, a housewife who took up chanting a year ago, says she was "searching for some

meaning" in her life when she heard about Buddhist chanting from friends. "I felt there was a vacuum in my life," Sharma said. "The chanting has helped. It stops you thinking about me, myself. It makes one think of others first." Sharma, who chants twice a day between household chores and taking care of an ailing relative, said she saw no conflict between her family's traditional Hindu beliefs and her chanting. "The chanting is not invasive and runs parallel to what we practice as Hindus," she said. "It opens a doorway to another stream of happiness into one's life."

The practice of repeating a mantra is not exclusive to Buddhism. Many across Hindu-dominated India also include chanting as part of their yoga, and some Christian groups repeat chants. While Hindu chanting is often associated with religious rituals, Buddhist chanting is seen as less dogmatic, aimed at calming the nerves or feeling a sense of wellbeing, said New Delhi-based sociologist Abhilasha Kumari. "Hindu chanting is linked to religious ritual," she said. "Buddhist chanting is a free space where you chant and are not tied down to other aspects of religiosity."

### Wooden altar

Many Indians who have picked up chanting have been drawn to sessions organized by Soka Gakkai International, the lay organization of a major Nichiren Buddhist sect whose stronghold is in Japan. The group traces its roots to the chants and teachings of a

13th century Japanese monk named Nichiren. The group has not been engaged in an active campaign to promote chanting in India, although it claims to have introduced the practice to around 100,000 Indians since setting up in the country in 1986, according to the group's office in New Delhi.

Practitioners chant individually but many meet monthly. Many say that apart from easing their own stress, the chanting also makes them understand people around them and working for the happiness of others. At a recent gathering in a middle class New Delhi neighborhood, participants shucked off their shoes and quietly sat down on thin mattresses in the basement of an apartment building. They faced an ornate wooden altar holding a scroll on which the words they will chant for the next hour are written: "Nam-Myoho-Renge-Kyo," which refers to the law of cause and effect.

### Word of mouth

Latecomers seamlessly joined in, blending their chant with the ongoing rhythm. Soon the incantation picked up speed, building to a crescendo and then slowing again while the chanters recovered their breath. Faintly, there was the clicking of wooden beads that the chanters used to help focus their thoughts on the mantra. Every now and then, one of them struck a gong. "You feel invigorated. It's a great feeling," said Ruma Roka,

54, at the end of the chanting session as she and the others moved to another room for discussions over tea. Roka started chanting about 10 years ago as a housewife, and has found it helps her cope with the stress of her job teaching the hearing impaired at the special clinic she runs.

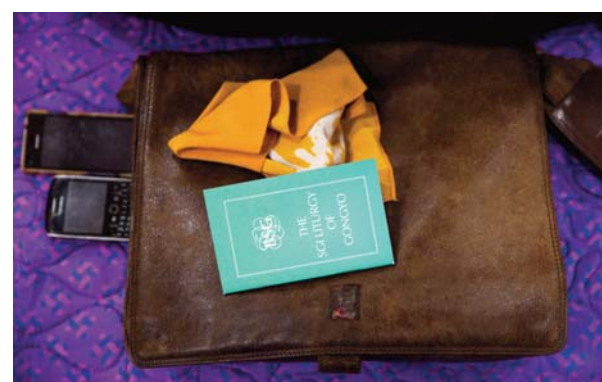
"If I did not chant, if I went back home with all the heaviness of this very challenging work... I would not be able to survive," Roka said. "I would have a compassion deficit." Getting numbers on the recent growth of chanters is difficult, but Indian media has reported on the trend. Many individuals hear about the chanting sessions by word of mouth, and are often simply looking for new ways of stress-busting after trying other traditional methods. Namrta Bangia, a 32-year-old publishing executive, said she had tried Pranayama, an ancient Indian breathing practice, and the silent Hindu meditation of Vipassana before settling on Buddhist chants. Her family and friends tell her they have noted a change in her. "I've become more positive, more confident, more cheerful," she said after a recent group session. "I'm a different person. I am not going to get defeated." — AP



Ruma Roka, second from right, who runs an institute for young people with hearing impairment, joins a Buddhist chanting session in New Delhi, India. — AP photos



An Indian man holds prayer beads as he chants Buddhist prayers.



A prayer book and a scarf are left on a bag as people chant Buddhist prayers.



Ruma Roka, center, who runs an institute for young people with hearing disabilities, gestures as she speaks to students in Noida, a suburb.



# With Elton John's co-sign, Gallant strides toward stardom

When Elton John said last year that R&B singer Gallant was "going to be huge," the 24-year-old felt unworthy of the praise. "It was very strange," Gallant said. "It was so undeserving of me getting that type of attention. I was surprised that he was even listening to my music. He's a legend. To hear him speak with so much enthusiasm about me, it was surreal." John's endorsement of Gallant's single "Weight of Gold" affirmed Gallant's inclination to stay true to himself musically.

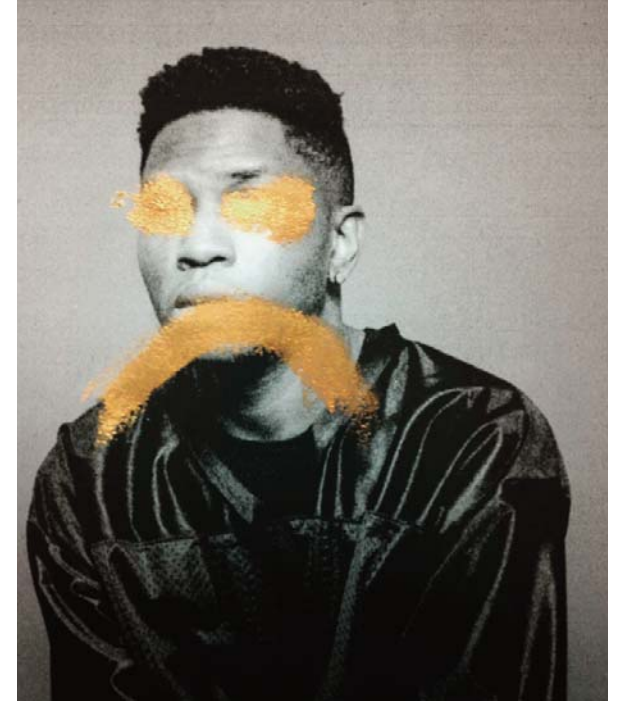
The extra vote of confidence seems to be working for Gallant, who released his debut studio album "Ology" this month. In the past several months, Gallant has garnered fans from Moby and DJ Zane Lowe. Earlier this month, he shared the stage with Seal at Coachella. "It made me ask myself more questions," he said. "It makes me want to open up even more. ('Ology') is purely just me not letting my inner voice get away

with avoiding any answers to whatever questions I might have. Why am I acting this way? Why do I feel this way? Where am I going? I really want to just grow and evolve as a human being. It motivates me in that respect."

The album details the depth of his insecurities and his pursuit of optimism, showcasing the soul singer's booming falsetto voice. He was initially nervous about how the album would be received. "It's right on the line of me not wanting people to hear this," he said. "Even the delivery on some songs, I wondered if this would be too much. ... I was hoping that it counts for something and people can connect with it." Gallant said his uncertainty about his music came from a place of depression. After high school, he moved from a Maryland suburb to New York to study music at NYU with expectations of launching his singing career, but the self-proclaimed "introvert" said he often felt musically stifled and was never comfortable.

About three years ago, he moved to Los Angeles and self-released his EP "Zebra," which detailed the aftermath of his somber state of living in New York. He was ultimately discovered by music manager Jake Udell, who helped launch the careers of EDM group Krewella and Grammy-nominated musician ZHU. "I was just putting something out that was raw," he said. "The industry in New York initially thought I shouldn't be doing it. I didn't understand it. But that was the beginning for me. It allowed me to move and meet genuine people. It eventually propelled me to have more confidence, dig even deeper and be free. That's all I've ever wanted to be." — AP

This CD cover image released by Warner Bros. Records shows 'Ology,' a debut release by Gallant. — AP



This combo of screen grabs taken from handout video released yesterday from the National Film and Sound Archive of Australia shows the four members of the Beatles (clockwise from top left), John Lennon, Paul McCartney, Ringo Starr and George Harrison, whilst back stage before an appearance in the British city of Manchester in 1965. — AFP photos

## Unseen Beatles footage released

Never-before-seen footage of The Beatles "mucking around" in a make-up studio ahead of a television performance, shot more than half a century ago, was released by Australia's national film and sound archive yesterday. The 49-second black-and-white silent film clip—which the national archive described as "really rare"—was shot with an 8mm camera belonging to Australian dancer and make-up artist Dawn Swane, who was working at Granada TV in Manchester, Britain, at that time.

The previously unreleased footage, from November 1, 1965, shows the four members of the legendary band having

fun in front of the camera as their make-up is applied. "I was in the make-up room. And so we were having some champagne," Swane, now 83, said in a statement released by the National Film and Sound Archive of Australia (NFSA). "And anyway, I don't know if it was John (Lennon) or if it was Ringo (Starr) but they took the camera off me and said, 'This is no way to use a camera, and they sort of jiggled it upside down and inside out a bit, and everybody was just mucking around.'"

"But that was great. I mean they were a nice group of people. They really were." The clip, along with other home movies, including British actor Michael Caine in the make-up chair, was donated by Swane's daughter Melinda Doring to the national archive. "We don't have anything as significantly rare in the collection in terms of a home movie," NFSA assistant film curator Tara Marynowsky told AFP. "(To have) something so high-profile is just quite incredible to have, especially when our client Dawn Swane held on to it for quite some time. Years and years later, we get to uncover this and make that available to audiences... it's really, really rare actually."

Doring said she first saw the footage as a teenager, but came across it again four years ago and realized it was starting to have "vinegar syndrome," a chemical process which causes film to deteriorate. "I knew there was stuff there that needed to be preserved, so I knew it was the right time to ring up the archive and get it stabilized and preserved before it would have been lost forever," Doring told AFP. Swane has also kept the original call sheet for the television program the performers were preparing for, "The Music of Lennon & McCartney," which has on it autographs from all four Beatles as well as legendary American composer Henry Mancini. — AFP

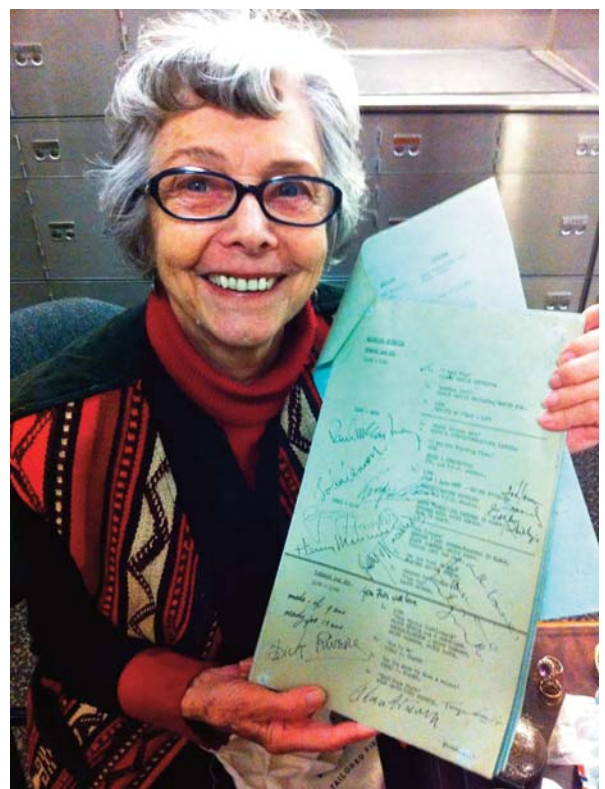


Photo released yesterday from Melinda Doring/National Film and Sound Archive of Australia shows former Australian dancer and make-up artist Dawn Swane, 83, holding a call sheet autographed for her by the Beatles in 1965.

## Cosby sex assault prosecution can move ahead - Pennsylvania court

A Pennsylvania appeals court on Monday cleared the way for the first and only criminal case against Bill Cosby to proceed, rejecting the comedian's attempt to have the charges thrown out due to a deal he contends was reached with prosecutors a decade ago. The state Superior Court had put the case on hold while it considered whether to take up Cosby's unusual pretrial appeal. The 78-year-old actor and comic is charged with drugging and assaulting Andrea Constand, a former basketball coach at his alma mater Temple University, at his home in 2004.

Constand, now 44, is one of more than 50 women who have come forward to accuse Cosby of sexually assaulting them in a series of attacks dating to the 1960s. The allegations have toppled Cosby, who built a long career on family-friendly comedy, from his position as one of the United States' best-loved entertainers. Constand's case is the only one that has led to criminal charges, partly due to statutes of limitations. Cosby faces a number of civil lawsuits from his many alleged victims.

Monday's ruling clears the way for a preliminary hearing, where prosecutors are expected to outline some of the evi-

dence against Cosby. "We did not believe that the defense had a right to appeal at this stage, and we are gratified that the court came to the same conclusion," Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin Steele said in a statement. Representatives for Cosby did not immediately comment. Lawyers for Cosby, who has denied any wrongdoing, had argued that former Montgomery County District Attorney Bruce Castor had promised not to prosecute Cosby in the Constand case in exchange for Cosby's agreement to give a deposition in her civil lawsuit.

But current prosecutors countered that no written deal existed to back up that contention and said Castor was not legally authorized to bind his successors from pursuing criminal charges. In February, Pennsylvania Common Pleas Court Judge Steven O'Neill rejected Cosby's bid following a two-day hearing at which Castor testified that he agreed not to prosecute Cosby if he sat for the deposition. Cosby has portrayed the encounter with Constand as consensual and said he gave her an anti-allergy medication. — Reuters

## Irish writer O'Connor and the strange music of unhappy families

When the Irish novelist Joseph O'Connor reads his books aloud he almost sings them. Like his sister, the singer Sinead O'Connor, he is forever searching for "musicality". In the famously tumultuous O'Connor household, art was a family affair. Joseph, the eldest, began writing at 14 and published his first book at 27. His youngest sister Sinead was a pop sensation at 21, while his other sister Eimear is a well-known painter and art historian. But there was price to pay. "I hate to say it, but when you're raised in a turbulent home, it teaches you to look at the world (differently)... you're looking down into the bare bones of life very quickly."

The family fell apart when Joseph was 11. Divorce was still outlawed in Ireland and despite his mother's alcoholism, fathers were almost never given custody of their children. His parents married young and "they were very unhappy", O'Connor said. "It was a very destructive place... a powerful mix if you want your kids to be creative." But despite all the shouting and tears, his parents did manage to pass on their profound love of literature and the arts.

### Sinead's early success

"We were lucky to have this cultural inheritance," said O'Connor, who made his breakthrough internationally with the historical bestseller "Star of the Sea" in 2002. "The house was full of books, they loved the theatre, they loved music, and they opened the door to that world as a source of pleasure." Literature was not O'Connor's only consolation. He and Sinead "unconsciously encouraged each other," he told AFP at a books festival in the French city of Toulouse. Her early success helped him persevere with his writing, he said. "You realize that these sort of things are possible, so (you think) why don't you give a shot, don't be scared."

"I think it is also a cultural thing," he argued. Whatever pressure Irish parents apply to their offsprings to get good steady jobs, "they would be secretly quite pleased at a child wanting to be a writer. It's a nice thing about Ireland, people do value the arts, and see it as something we do quite well." O'Connor—who has recently been made a literary ambassador for Ireland by its poet president, Michael D Higgins—also rejoices in the fact that neither writers nor artists pay tax there.

### Patti Smith soundtrack

With his friend and fellow Dubliner Colum McCann, O'Connor, a former journalist who wrote a hugely popular



This photo shows Irish novelist Joseph O'Connor posing in Toulouse, southern France. — AFP

weekly radio essay, is regarded as one of the leading male Irish writers of his generation. But music is still very much the metronome of his existence. He has a vast musical collection and hardly goes a day without listening to a Patti Smith song. And every time he sits down to write he does so as if he was trying to make music.

"If you put yourself in a position of an alien from Mars arriving here, of all the strange things we do, the weirdest is this thing they do with our voices: making noise," he said. "It's the most strange, the most familiar, the most beautiful and the most commonplace of all the art forms," the jovial wr "Everything (in writing) should aspire to the purity of music, which has no borders, which doesn't need language... the laws of physics change, it's very powerful. I like it when words begin to function at that level, like a piece of music."

"I struggle to get that into my own work, I try to really charge every sentence with musicality," he declared. But there is some music he would rather not listen to—his sister's. "I don't listen to it much because I find it painful. I understand the place of pain that it comes from. I don't want to be reminded." — AFP

Review

## Adaptation examines dysfunction of 'The Family Fang'

Family dysfunction takes on new meaning in "The Family Fang," a film about a pair of performance artists for whom everything in life is part of the act, and the effects this existence has on their two children. The elegantly structured adaptation of Kevin Wilson's best-selling novel opens in a scene from the past. In the family car, parents Caleb (Jason Butler Harner) and Camille (Kathryn Hahn) are preparing their adolescent children Annie (Mackenzie Brooke Smith) and Baxter (Jack McCarthy) for something. Caleb is dressed as a police officer and Baxter, at probably five, is asking if he can taste the fake blood again.

Suddenly we're in a bank, where Baxter is staging a hold up for the teller's lollipop jar with a gun. There's a shooting, there are tears, and then there's laughter as the family breaks the ruse. Surrounding pedestrians look on in horror at the bizarre, terrifying scene. The Fangs are just in their own world enjoying themselves and relishing in the chaos that they've created. As is to be expected, the future is not as carefree. Now grown, Annie (Nicole Kidman) is a famous actress with a wild reputation who has gotten less interesting with sobriety. The once indie darling is now best known for a string of lousy rom coms and is trying to stage a comeback. Baxter (Jason Bateman, who also directed), is a novelist who had one great breakout, a middling follow-up and is now two years late on his next.

### Authenticity and family

An accident and a hospital stint brings the siblings back together again, and back with their parents (Christopher Walken and Maryann Plunkett), who they escaped long ago. The accidental reunion is at turns fraught and comforting, but things turn sour and volatile when the adult kids refuse to participate in another stunt with their too-eager parents. The stunt goes bad, Caleb freaks out and soon after, Caleb and Camille go missing. A distressing meeting with the police forces the kids to sincerely wonder whether their parents' disappearance is serious or just another stunt.

While Baxter resigns himself to the idea that perhaps his parents are actually dead, Annie becomes obsessed with the idea that they're not and the two damaged kids mine past traumas and present complications to try to figure out the truth. The film is brimming with big ideas about art, expression, authenticity and family, which Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright David Lindsay-Abaire weaves seamlessly into a briskly paced plot, where even flashbacks feel not like diversions, but perfect reveals. Bateman, back in the director's seat after his 2013 feature debut "Bad Words," may not be an especially cinematic director yet, but he sure knows how to capture performances, even if he's just letting his actors do their own thing.



This image released by Starz Digital shows Nicole Kidman, left, and Jason Bateman in a scene from 'The Family Fang.' — AP

### Artistic endeavors

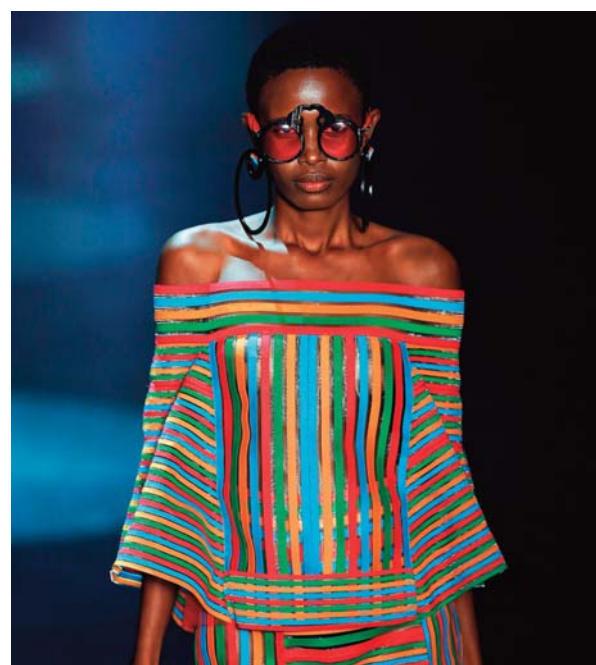
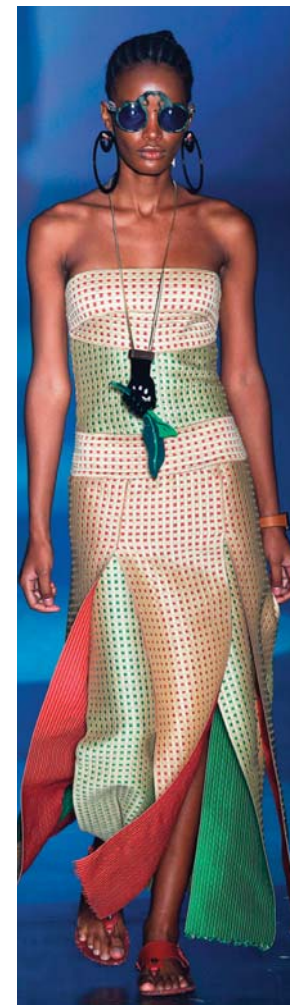
Walken is a standout as the art obsessed patriarch, mercilessly indifferent to his family but still somewhat empathetic in his lofty artistic endeavors. Bateman, too, is in top form in a rare, emotionally resonant performance. The one real false note is Kidman, also a producer. Her Annie is terrific on her own — especially in some early scenes on the set of a film and then in conversation with a journalist — but seems woefully out of place with the Fangs, and not just because Kidman struggles to conceal her Aussie accent. She and Bateman are fine together, but her detachment detracts from the emotional core of this relationship.

For a story bursting with ideas about radical art, the film is ultimately rather conventional. But that's just as well. Smart modern literary adaptations can too often get bogged down in whimsy. "The Family Fang" plays it straight, knowing that the story is peculiar enough on its own. "The Family Fang," a Starz Digital release, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association of America for "some language." Running time: 107 minutes. Three stars out of four. — AP





# SAO PAULO FASHION WEEK



Models wear creations from the Ronaldo Fraga collection during the Sao Paulo Fashion Week in Sao Paulo, Brazil, Monday. — AP/AFP photos



Fashion



Models wear creations from the UMA Raquel Davidowicz collection during the Sao Paulo Fashion Week in Sao Paulo.

Models wear creations from the Lilly Sarti collection during the Sao Paulo Fashion Week in Sao Paulo.

## Kylie Jenner 'always' wears sunscreen

The 'Keeping Up with the Kardashians' star applies sun protection to her youthful skin every day to protect herself from the harmful rays coming from the hot sun in Los Angeles and has vowed to "never" change her skincare routine so she doesn't suffer from premature ageing. Speaking to Cosmopolitan magazine about her beauty regime, the 18-year-old brunette beauty said: "I always wear sunscreen and wash my face before I go to sleep, that's a rule that never changes. I mean, necessities, I need chapstick and sunscreen ... I love face moisturizer, too." Although Kylie has a regime that works for her she is open to experiment with other products and is open to trial makeup tips offered to her.

She said: "I'm always learning new things and getting advice from people. I do switch my regime up a lot; I don't stick with one product. Right now, I'm always exploring." Meanwhile, the TV personality-come-business-woman, who last week teased she will be restocking Kylie's Cosmetics lipstick range, has admitted she finds it hard to balance working on so many projects, although she enjoys the challenge. Speaking about balancing time management, she said: "I don't know, I mean it's hard. I do a lot but it's all fun and I love what I do, so it's cool. I feel like I've done a lot and achieved a lot already somehow." — Bang Showbiz



Olivia Palermo

## Olivia Palermo matches her nail color with her mood

The 30-year-old fashion muse - who joined forces with the nail brand Ciate London in January 2015 - chooses her varnish based on how she is feeling that day, although she mostly sticks to red fingertips like her mother Lynn Hutchings, who she named the nail shade in her beauty collection after. Speaking to Marie Claire magazine about her favorite lacquer, the brunette beauty said: "Right now I'm into blues, but I choose my nail color based on my mood. I stick to red most the time, as does my mum - Hutch is named after her for that reason. It's perfect mother Hutchings red. It's classic and goes with everything."

The former 'The City' reality star - who married Johannes Huebl in 2014 - has revealed she is a dab hand at painting her finger nails, which resemble the handiwork of a trained expert, although

she rarely does it herself. Speaking about her DIY manicure, she explained: "I very rarely [paint my nails myself] - but if I have to I'm really good at it and nobody can tell! "I go to have a manicure every 4-5 days and have been going to Plaza M in New York for ages. I love it - it's super chic and you see a lot of editors and fashion editors in there. While I'm having my manicure, I switch off my phone and use the time to relax and recharge my batteries. "When I travel, I still go for my manicures - I've hunted out the best places all over the world. "It's the perfect accessory as you need hair and make-up to help tell the story of how you feel that day." — Bang Showbiz

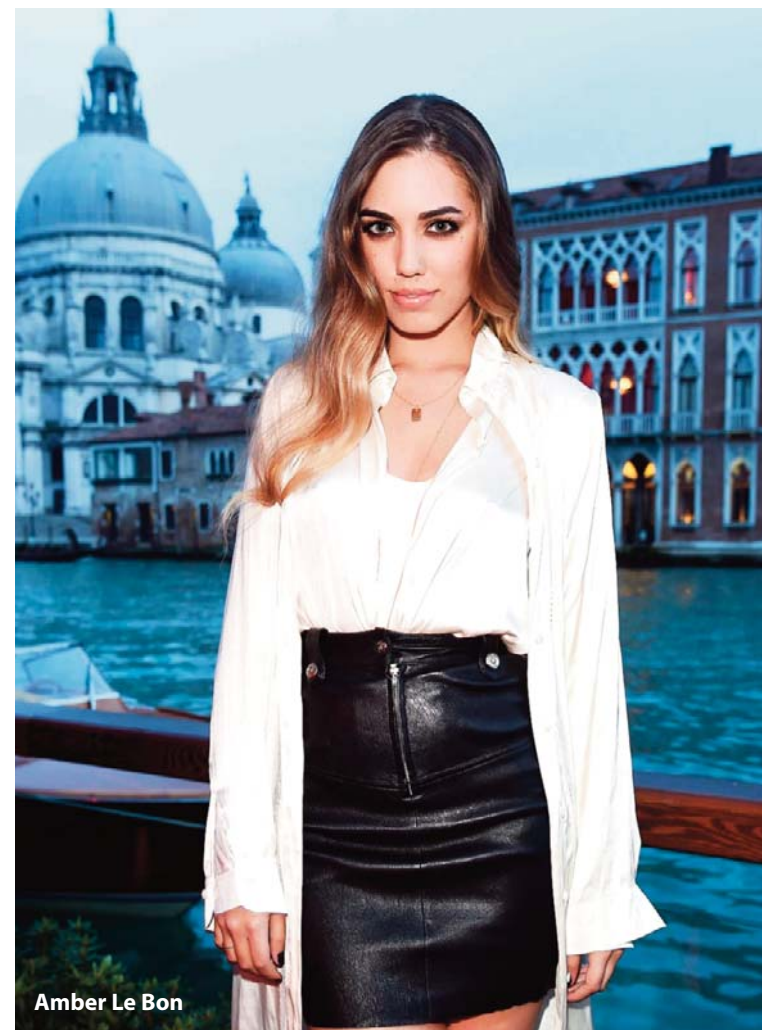
## Amber's favorite meal is 'mashed potato' sandwich

Amber Le Bon's favorite meal is a "mashed potato" sandwich. Unlike most models, the 26-year-old star loves eating lots of carbohydrates, despite their potentially bloating effect, and is obsessed with mashed potato and even dips fries in the buttery side dish. She revealed: "My favorite meal is carbs on carbs. I love chips dipped in mashed potato as well as mashed potato sandwiches. Sugar is like a drug - when I have withdrawal I get really mean and aggressive, so I allow myself a little." Despite her appetite for potatoes and sweet treats, Amber tries to eat as healthy as possible but she is not a fan of super-nutritious vegetable smoothies and has to add citrus fruits and ginger to them in order to make them "tolerable" to her palate.

Speaking to Marie Claire magazine about her diet, the brunette beauty said: "I hate green juices. They're healthy but I've yet to find one that tastes nice. "If I have to have one, I'll opt for kale, spinach, celery, lemon, a bit of lime, and a shot of ginger. The ginger makes it tolerable." Amber - who is the eldest child of Duran Duran's Simon Le Bon and his catwalk queen wife Yasmin Le Bon - is currently the face of Myla swimwear, as well as the high street brand Forever 21 and fronts the campaign for the hair care brand Pantene. — Bang Showbiz



Kylie Jenner



Amber Le Bon





Wearing masks of the 'Bard of Avon', members of the public prepare for the parade marking the 400 years since the death of William Shakespeare, in Stratford-upon-Avon in central England. William Shakespeare's hometown of Stratford-upon-Avon on Saturday leads the global celebrations to mark 400 years since the playwright's death, with enough star-studded plays, concerts and parades to bring the town to a standstill. — AFP

## Trapped! Vegan restaurants struggle with humane pest control

Even the wellbeing of rats, roaches and spiders are a concern for animal activists. But they also pose ethical dilemmas for owners of vegan restaurants who need to keep those pests out of their kitchens while trying to abide by no-kill values. Melanie Cochran, owner of The Wild Cow Vegetarian Restaurant in Nashville, Tennessee, was adamant about not using traditional pest control services when it first opened. For a few years she was able to keep pests at bay, but when the restaurant developed a problem, she called an exterminator even though she said it went against her vegan principles.

"We have to focus on the bigger picture. Vegan restaurants need to stay in business as a way to put a dent in the dominance of the factory farm system. We want to show people that it is possible and easy to reduce one's meat intake, or even eliminate it entirely," she said. "We always have to make tough decisions and remind ourselves of our priorities, even when it comes to things

like using flea killer on a flea-infested dog. Any vegan who claims to not harm animals in any way is either a liar or in denial."

### Restaurant's control

Most restaurant owners agree that closing off small entry spaces, keeping a clean kitchen and other preventive measures are the first line of defense. But that isn't always enough, especially when factoring in weather, neighboring businesses and other things beyond a restaurant's control. The issue is cropping up more frequently as the meat-free, dairy-free trend has proliferated. There are no detailed figures on the number of vegan and vegetarian restaurants in the US, but the market for vegetarian food products grew from \$646 million in 1998 to over \$2 billion in 2009, according to the analyst group Mintel.

The animal rights group PETA even has issued guidelines on humane ways for restaurants to deal with pests: orange peels to

ward off flies, bay leaves to keep roaches away and rags soaked in peppermint oil to deter rodents. Glue traps are a no-no because they can cause an animal a painful death when they break a limb or chew it off to escape. Some measures seem impractical or time-consuming for a busy restaurant. Spiders should be caught in a jar and released somewhere safe, humane rodent traps should be checked hourly. PETA acknowledges that sometimes more aggressive methods are necessary if the circumstances are dire.

"It all depends on the situation, the time of year and what's happening outside. But for the most part natural deterrents rarely work if you have a serious problem," said chef Rich Landau of Vegde restaurant in Philadelphia. Paul Curtis, an entomologist for Memphis-based exterminator Terminix, once visited a restaurant in Florida that seemed to follow everything on the checklist for a pest-free kitchen. Yet it still would occasionally get surges of hundreds of roaches. After carefully documenting the times of the day and year when the surge came, Curtis found his answer.

### Management program

"When there was a lot of rain and the sewer system got full it would push roaches up ... into the facility. So it wasn't a failure on anybody's part," said Curtis, who fixed the problem by closing off a sewer drain. In another case, health officials threatened an Arkansas restaurant with closure because of an infestation of flies that eventually was traced to deliveries from a fruit and vegetable supplier. That kind of investigation is "probably the most overlooked and beneficial element of a considerate pest management program," Curtis said.

Miyoko Schinner, founder of a California-based vegan cheese line, agrees that pest control can sometimes fall into a grey area. "What we call pests might very well be very close to creatures you would otherwise try to rescue as a vegan, for example, rats that have undergone various procedures in labs. But put that very same rat in a restaurant kitchen, and he becomes a pest," said Schinner, who rescues farm animals on her ranch in West Marin. If your business is in the country, "you can release the creature in a field or forest," she said. "But if the business is in an urban setting, your solution simply becomes someone else's problem, and they may or may not be as compassionate." — AP



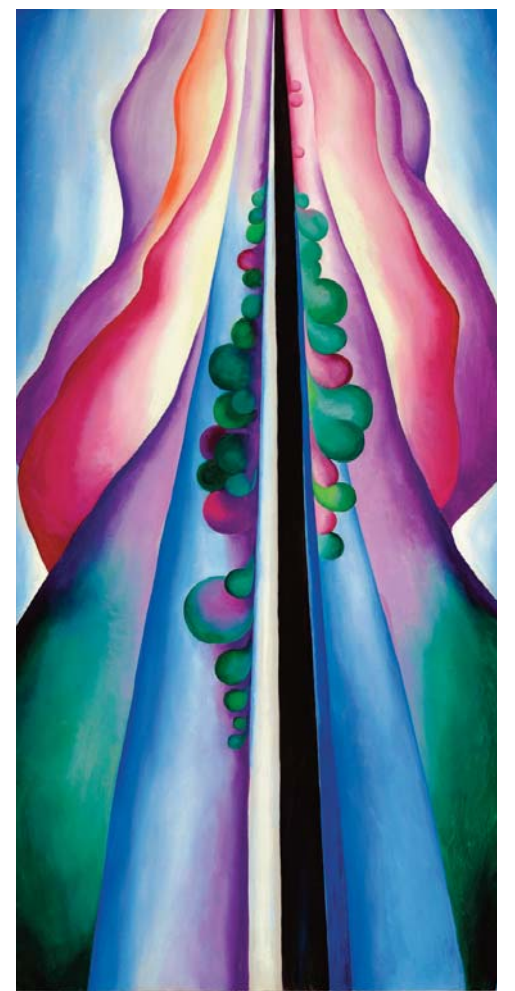
Desserts are displayed on a counter at the The Wild Cow vegetarian restaurant.



Melanie Cochran is shown in her vegetarian restaurant, The Wild Cow, in Nashville, Tenn. — AP photos



Andrew Locke, left, and Matthew McCord, right, prepare orders at The Wild Cow vegetarian restaurant.



This undated photo provided by Christie's shows a painting by Georgia O'Keeffe, 'Lake George Reflection,' that can be viewed horizontally or vertically. — AP

## Unusual Georgia O'Keeffe painting going on auction

A monumental painting by Georgia O'Keeffe that can be viewed horizontally or vertically is coming to auction and it could bring up to \$12 million. "Lake George Reflection," created in 1921-1922, will be offered at Christie's New York on May 19. Measuring 5-feet by 3-feet, it was inspired by O'Keeffe's visits to Alfred Stieglitz's family compound on the upstate New York lake. She married the celebrated photographer in 1924.

Horizontally, it's a landscape of rolling hills reflected in a body of water. Vertically, it becomes abstract, more reminiscent of her iconic flower paintings. O'Keeffe herself hung it vertically when it was first exhibited in a New York gallery in 1923. Apart from its sale at auction in the 1990s, it hasn't been seen publicly since the 1923 exhibition. The current O'Keeffe auction record is \$44.4 million. — AP